

A CLEAN

A CALIFORNIA
COUPLE MAKES
A SPLASH BY
TRANSFORMING
A SUNPORCH
INTO A STYLISH
BATH RETREAT.

WRITTEN BY SAXON HENRY
PHOTOGRAPHED BY REED DAVIS
PRODUCED BY DAVID BENRUD



GETAWAY

Antique footstools slide up to the tub to hold bars of chunky soap. OPPOSITE Janet and John Simonson remodeled a long and lean 25×9-foot sloping sunporch into a serene master bathroom. The classic freestanding tub sparkles in its position below a wall of windows. White wooden shutters easily control light and privacy.





1



2

FOR 15 YEARS, JANET AND JOHN SIMONSON LONGED

(and saved) for a spacious master bathroom in their 1912 Colonial Revival house in Menlo Park, California. Finally they took the plunge, transforming a rundown sunporch near their bedroom on the second floor. ¶ They hired a contractor to bring the space up-to-date, which included removing cracked vinyl flooring and replacing deteriorated Douglas fir floorboards with new ones. Original moldings and baseboards from other parts of the house were replicated to maintain architectural integrity. They kept the original windows for their wavy glass but replated the hardware. Janet stipulated that a pair of pedestal sinks be positioned



3



4

1) John and Janet revel in the light-filled space they created. 2) A closet near the toilet provides storage space and creates a private nook for the toilet. The towel rack was nabbed from a bedroom, where it once held antique quilts. 3) The antique wooden tray, which has a blue wash on the bottom, was purchased on eBay. 4) The makeup vanity—one of Janet's favorite spots—was a suggestion from the contractor in order to save the window.



5) The tub fixture, with its flexible wand, makes bathing a refreshing experience. 6) The shower is lined with white subway tiles. Janet insisted on pale gray grout because she wanted to achieve a subtle bricklike pattern for texture. 7) The cabinet was built to look like a freestanding cupboard. Full-length mirrors on the doors reflect green treetops from the garden. 8) Janet combines timeless accessories to create soothing vignettes throughout the room.



under the windows because she fondly remembers brushing her teeth while looking out windows in her grandmother's bathroom, which was configured in a similar way. Positioning the sinks there meant no surface to hang mirrors, so Janet purchased a pair of freestanding mirrors and placed them on either side of the sinks. ¶ The glass-encased shower also received studied attention. "Size is critical with a glass shower. If it's too large, cold air filters in. If it's too small, the glass doors will be difficult to keep clean," she says of the enclosure. A niche in the shower wall holds shampoos and soaps. ¶ After accessorizing the bath with warm antiques, Janet says, "It's not just about taking a bath anymore. It's about having a delightful experience."





WHAT A PLEASANT WAKE-UP CALL:
SOFT SUNLIGHT STREAMS THROUGH
A WALL OF WINDOWS THAT WRAP
AROUND THE BATHROOM.



John chose the pedestal sinks for the flatness of their tops. The wide edges provide table-like areas for necessities.

OPPOSITE "I linger longer while brushing my teeth, now that I have the windows over the sink," remarks Janet. "Not only did I achieve a dream, I have improved my dental hygiene!"

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND BATHROOM FLOOR PLANS, SEE THE SOURCE BEGINNING ON PAGE 124.