

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Three bathrooms in a Denver home look to the past to design for the future.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSIE BRENNER

How do you create a design that's both timeless and fresh? This was the challenge designer Devon Tobin of Inside Stories faced when renovating three bathrooms in this 1930s Denver home. With lots of design skills and a little farmhouse magic, she was able to achieve the perfect balance.

STYLE BASICS

Because this is a historic home, the homeowners wanted to respect the structure's heritage in the new bathroom designs. "The client wanted to honor the architecture of the home but make it feel fresh and light and updated," Devon says. She did this with the flooring, wall treatments and hardware finishes. "The finishes are timeless, and we infused unexpected flair with the shiplap and tile, and the direction of installing the tile," Devon says. The shiplap gives that classic farmhouse feel, while the patterned and herringbone tiles provide interest. "What catches people's eyes is the urban farm shiplap with the bohemian Moroccan tile," Devon says.

DESIGNING FOR TIME

When it comes to her designs, Devon aims for that sweet spot of timeless and fresh. "The length of the design spans about 10 to 15 years. It doesn't matter if it's timeless; clients' tastes change," Devon says. "So even if they'll be in the house a long time, I tell them they'll probably want to redo the space in another 20 years." With that timeline in mind, the ideal blend contains some classic elements, such as the custom Shaker cabinetry, faucets and bath/shower combos, and new, unexpected items such as the shiplap, patterned tile and color scheme. "You want to make sure the design isn't so trendy that in 3 to 5 years, you're 'over' the tile or hardware," she says. "You want to be 'over' the wall color or soft goods first."

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This bathroom nook is the perfect place for a splash of color. "I like taking spaces that aren't oversized and making them as impactful as possible," Devon says.



above: This bathroom may be small, but the design is mighty. Between the patterned floor tiles, farmhouse shiplap and botanical wall art, the bathroom strikes just the right balance.
right: In the master bathroom, a double vanity, large mirror and bath/shower combo make the most of the space. "It has timelessness, but we gave it a punch of panache," Devon says.



INSIDER SCOOP

LOCATION: Denver, Colorado

COST: \$150,000 (three bathrooms)

ITEM TO SPLURGE: Tiles and custom cabinetry

ITEM TO SAVE: Restoration Hardware vanity in the shiplap bathroom. "Anytime you can do a ready-made vanity, you can save because it's three different elements in one cabinet," Devon says.

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