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OCTOBER 2004

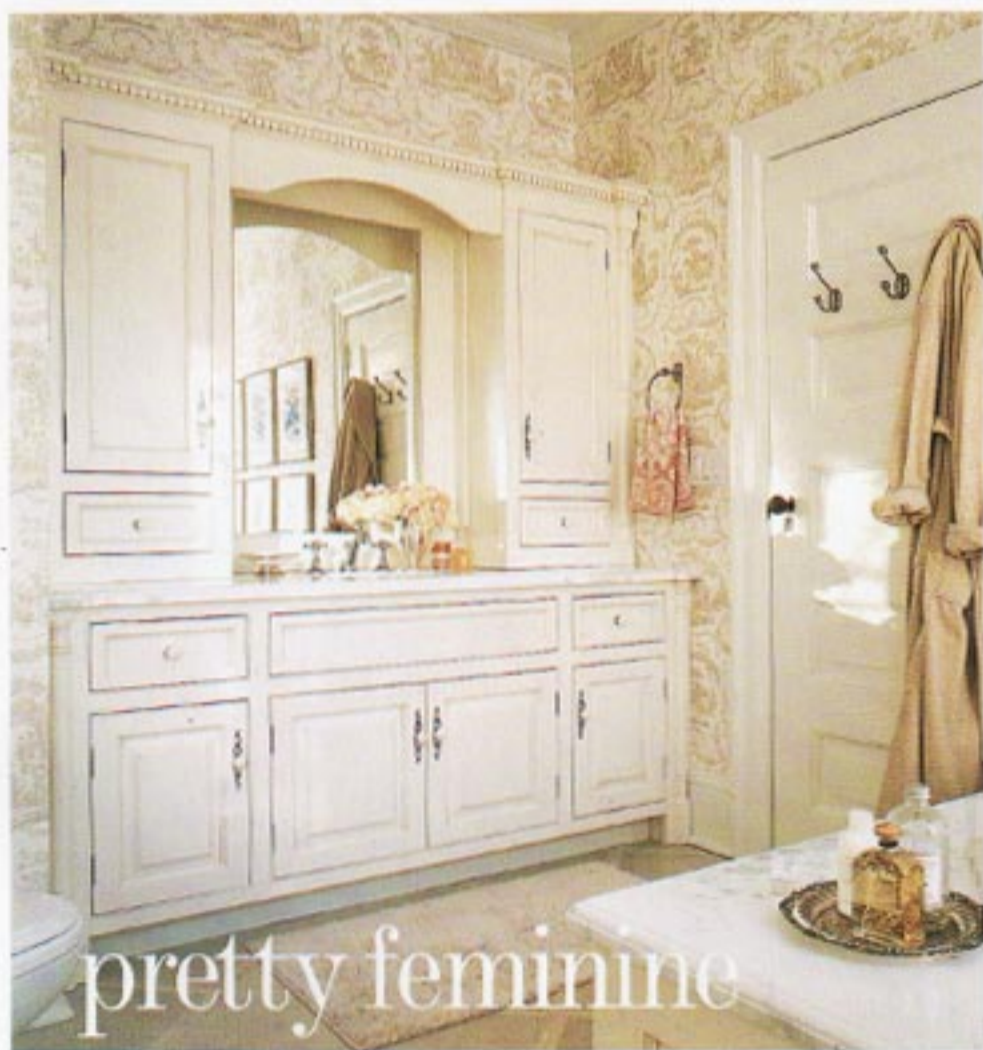
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“For me, it should always be a case of functionality first, then prettiness. Pretty is easy; functionality is what matters.”



Inspired by its gracious setting – an early 20th-century mansion in Cambridge, Ont. – this beautiful ensuite designed by Tami Grace VanDyke is a fanciful escape that’s as romantic as a historical novel. As is the case with many old houses, the original bath was utilitarian, tiny and worn out. Tami combined the bath with an adjacent unused dressing area, nearly tripling the room’s size. She then filled the new room with functional luxury: a deep air-jet tub under

the window; a decadent multispray shower; and an oversize furniture-inspired vanity, its cabinets and drawers customized for items ranging from contact lens solution to makeup and a hair dryer.

Awash in botanical prints and arrangements of fresh roses, the bathroom also features unabashedly pretty wallpaper and window treatments. “This is definitely a woman’s bathroom; it’s highly functional but very soft and feminine at the same time,” says Tami.



From the air-jet **tub**, the owner can gaze out the window, whose flounced valance and café drapery treatment offer privacy without sacrificing natural light or the view. The beautifully framed botanical prints came from an old calendar. Influenced by the graceful lines of traditional furniture, the **vanity** area was custom-designed to accommodate the homeowner's

morning routine. Some of the delicately detailed moulding on the vanity and throughout the room was either recycled or reproduced from originals found elsewhere in the house. Floor-to-ceiling storage **shelves** in one corner were papered to blend in with the soft mood of the room; the laundry hamper is discreetly screened behind a fabric curtain. ▶

