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# Walls, Windows & Floors

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The designer had this custom vanity built by Cranberry Hill Kitchens. With enough storage space to accommodate any beauty routine, the piece merges form with function.

## 2 Gracious Retreat

While this spacious yet intimate master bath housed within an early 20th-century Canadian mansion emanates a modern romanticism, its designer, Ontario-based Tami Grace Van Dyke, found inspiration for its design in the home's past. "The room had one large wall and two prominent windows, so we started with the inherent features and designed from there," she says.

The dominant wall, situated behind a deep tub, was large enough to support an intricate French toile pattern, which bathes the entire room in a delicate femininity. This being a

bathroom, the age-old conundrum of storage space was a factor that Van Dyke resourcefully solved by incorporating a custom vanity, in keeping with the style of the home, on the better part of an adjacent wall. "You're often limited in an old house, so you put storage wherever you can," says Van Dyke.

To enrich the room with a sense of architectural character, Van Dyke had molding reproduced to match the original molding in other parts of the house. "It gave the room a sense of balance with the window trims, baseboards and other details," she says. A sextet of botanical prints finish off the room with a punch of sophisticated color. ■

### Smart and Stylish Walls

When designing a bath, Laslo and Van Dyke suggest starting with wall surfaces and accents that are as practical as they are lovely. Here, a few of their tips:

- Use timeless materials that hold up well in bathrooms. "Stone bathrooms are always elegant," says Laslo.
- Opt for a creamy palette when using ornate wallpaper, so the room doesn't

appear too busy. To her beige-and-ecru scheme, the designer added colorful accents in the form of mauve linens, fresh roses and a crystal chandelier.

- "Give a small bathroom an architectural sense with molding," says Laslo, who embellished the molding on his bathroom's walls with a mosaic design. On the flooring, he added a high-contrast dark stone trim.

- Use artwork to bring dashes of color into otherwise neutral rooms. A set of vibrant botanical prints—salvaged from an old calendar and framed—proves an ideal decorative touch above this luxury bath. But Laslo says to think carefully about which artworks are used in a bathroom. "You always have to consider the steam factor with valuable photography and drawings," he says.

"This room was all about being a girl, and we wanted to carry that throughout," says designer Tami Grace Van Dyke. A flowery toile wallpaper sets the tone, while a scalloped valance made of a fabric in the same pattern and edged with a fanciful trim rounds out the scene.

