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MN DESIGN/BUILD REVIEW

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Fall is just around the corner! As some of you ready families for school and others ready your homes or cabins for the cooler season ahead (such a cozy time of year), we hope that you enjoy this month's e-newsletter articles: children's baths and the 2012 fall Parade of Homes.

DREAM ABOUT IT: KIDS BATH

Battleships and Lipgloss Co-Exist in This Loveable Kids' Bath

Okay - so it may not be on your "back-to-school" shopping list, but it's on most families' wish list - a dedicated bath for the kids - one that they will love no matter their age or bath needs.

A Minnetonka family recently asked us to transform a dark narrow bath for under \$30K by introducing more light, improving function and selecting finishes that would simultaneously please their five-year-old son (loves Legos, Star Wars and battleships) and their 13-year-old daughter (loves pink, her iPod and primping). We answered their request with the following design-build solutions.



Light. A glass panel and tiled half-wall were introduced in place of the original sheetrock wall separating tub and vanity to introduce light from the existing window. This visually enlarged the space and allowed us to improve the room's natural light while retaining original plumbing locations (cost saver).

Function. We designed a custom furniture-style vanity to make this the focal point of the room and to further open the space (while providing more storage than a typical pedestal sink). The vanity top was selected for its offset sink - providing more usable counter (for hair styling and make-up supplies) than a traditional center set bowl.

A 3" quartzite ledge was designed to cap the mosaic half wall creating linear continuity and, more importantly, providing useful space for hair gel or iPod docking stations above the sink and for shampoo bottles (or battleships) above the bath. Into this quartzite ledge we asked our fabricators to grind a shallow recess, with drainage slot, for soap. (Doesn't the bar of soap end up at the bottom of the tub otherwise?) These small details precluded the need for a hanging "shower caddy" that would have visually cluttered the new glass panel.

A widened right window casing, extended floor to ceiling frames the tile and provides an obvious location for two robe hooks - no space is too small to prove functional!

Finishes. A cheerful finish palette was selected to brighten and at the same time, remain gender neutral. The \$20/sq. ft. colorful glass mosaic tile, gives the room its playful character without breaking the budget. Polished chrome hardware from [Restoration Hardware's](#) "Modern" line lends a touch of sophistication. The retro pendant, from [Rejuvenation Lighting's](#) "Mid-Century Modern" collection, was introduced to compliment other fixtures in the home.

We are told battleships and lip-gloss easily co-exist in the new bath: mission accomplished!

Want to see the "before" bath photo or more "after" shots? Visit our [website gallery](#) (We did not exaggerate when describing the original bath as dark and dull!)

EVENT: FALL PARADE OF HOMES

Fall Parade of Homes Begins Soon!

Visit the fall 2012 Parade of Homes (POH) September 8-30. Homes are open Thursday - Sunday, 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm daily. Guidebooks, which list home locations by city, are available at all Holiday Station stores for free. Or, you can search for home listings on the BATC [Parade of Homes website](#) and create a customized tour itinerary using a "Plan Your Tour" tool. Even more fun is the "Your Personal Designer" tool which allows you to play with alternative paint colors, countertops, tiles and cabinetry finishes for many parade homes using an interactive design program on the POH website. Have fun and enjoy the tour!

CONTACT US



DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation, Inc. is an [award-winning](#), husband and wife, [design/build firm](#) that is honored to bring timeless beauty, value and sustainability to neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities. For more than 20 years we have been invited by our clients to remodel existing homes and to build new in beloved neighborhoods such as Tyrol Hills, Linden Hills, Bell Oaks and many others. Our services include site analysis, architectural design, interior design and construction. As always, [contact us](#) with questions or to begin creating the home you want in the neighborhood you love!

Sincerely,

Rocky and Gigi DiGiacomo
612-710-7900

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DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation | 11655 Ridgemount Ave. W. | Minnetonka | MN | 55305