

Function with Color

BY DIANN NICHOLS

Anne McKee grew up in Indiana but, like many of us, moved to Bowling Green to attend Western Kentucky University. And, like many of us, she stayed for four years after she graduated. But then "I went to get my master's degree and thought I would be coming right back," she said. "Now, 32 years later, I'm back!"

Anne and her husband, Ken Haycraft, decided to return to Bowling Green after she retired. But the housing market was crazy. They finally found a house on Sandwedge Court but it didn't have the bathroom or kitchen she wanted. "My husband promised if we bought the house, that would be the first thing we changed." So, 18 months ago they moved from Phoenix and started the process of remodeling the oddly configured bathroom.

By using a 3-D rendering technique, builder Tim Graham, who owns Design Builders, was able to create a space the homeowners love. "It turned out that there was more room

there than had originally met the eye," recalled Tim. "The client just allowed us to reconfigure the space to get a lot more usable space out of almost the same footprint we had before. We were able to even get a sauna in that same space."

In addition to a sauna, the bathroom contains such great-to-have items like a heated floor, heated towel bar, LED lighting, a Washlet bidet, and separate vanities with sinks.

To pull these items together into a cohesive design, the homeowners relied on Rachel Harris, design project manager at Creative Interiors Design Center. "Rachel is top notch," exclaimed Anne, "and wonderful to work with. Ken and I have pretty funky taste. It was fun working with Rachel and talking her into some of the colors I just love."

As for the homeowners, Rachel said, "They're very artsy. Very creative. They love all colors. And they just really wanted to be able to enjoy the space with the colors that they love."

Those colors, including walls painted in St. John Blue by Benjamin Moore and Galapagos Turquoise cabinets also by



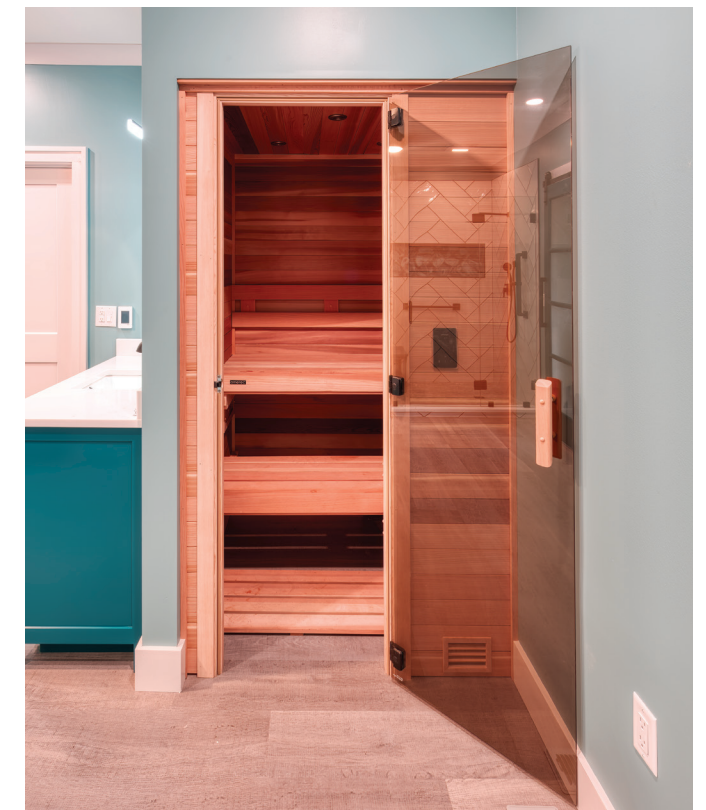
OPPOSITE PAGE: The vibrant remodeled bathroom has tons of space and style. **ABOVE:** A custom niche in the shower complements the bathroom walls and cabinets. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Matching vanities were placed on separate walls to allow for an open floorplan. **RIGHT:** A custom Western cedar sauna was installed in the previous water closet space.

Benjamin Moore, make you feel like you just stepped onto a beautiful tropical beach. The dimmable LED lighting offers a low profile for a clean look while the heated shower floor's smooth pebble mosaic gives the feel of wading in a creek on a hot, summer day.

The heated floor isn't the shower's only unique feature. The diverter that controls the water is conveniently located just inside the shower door, allowing the homeowners to control the water flow and temperature before getting in the shower. A custom niche of glossy porcelain Emser tiles in a beautiful Aqua color is set within the 8"x24" Gris color ceramic tiles fashioned in a herringbone pattern. A heated towel bar on the outside of the shower's half wall has a timer control so the towels are always warm when exiting the shower.

Another great feature in the bathroom is the remote controlled Washlet bidet seat by American Standard.

continued on page 10





ABOVE: Shower features include a heated floor, grab bars, and a heated towel rack on the half wall. **RIGHT:** Shelving was removed from the closet to allow more room for clothes rods.

This heated seat plugs into the wall, fits most elongated toilets, and operates with the touch of a button. A pocket door provides privacy in the water closet while taking up little space. Likewise, the closet's barn door allows for unobstructed floor space and the large, frosted glass panels maintain the open, airy feel of the room. With numerous grab bars, low/no thresholds and wide doorways, this ground-floor bathroom is optimally designed for aging in place gracefully.

But probably the most unique feature of the bathroom is the sauna. With a smoked glass door, the Western cedar sauna by Amerec is fully blue-tooth accessible and can be operated from a smart phone. The smaller footprint allows the sauna to be installed in existing spaces. To accommodate the sauna and other unique features of the bathroom, all wiring and plumbing was reconfigured and redone. But the homeowners ultimately got the bathroom they wanted.

"We really focus on the function of the space," said Rachel. "Our ultimate goal is to give them the bathroom that they want and how we get there, whatever route we take to get there, that's okay. We just want them to be happy with the end product." **BG**

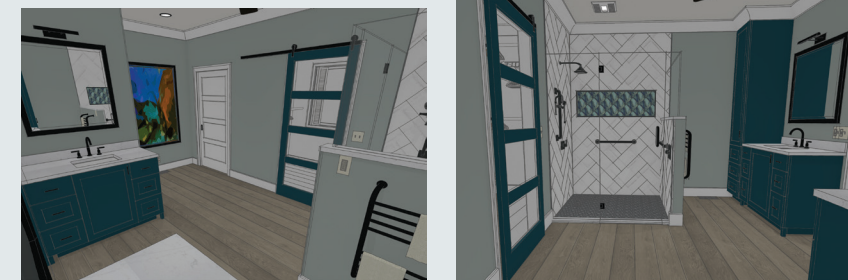


ABOVE: A barn door with frosted glass panes replaces a traditional closet door.

BEFORE



RENDERINGS



BEFORE

1. The original toilet and shower area was cramped with poor lighting.
2. The original closet had a lot of under-utilized shelf space.
3. The original vanity with double sinks did not utilize the space very well.

RENDERINGS