

# BUNGALOW BATHROOM

## Cleans Up In Style

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Photography by THOMAS MCCONNELL

**W**hen you realize how much time the average American spends in the bathroom each year, it's no wonder it also happens to be one of the rooms we spend the most time and money remodeling. Estimates range from 30 minutes per day for most men, to 70 minutes plus for the ladies. Within only a year's time, that's about 8 to 18 days in the bathroom — more time than many of us take for vacation!

So, the goal of creating a secluded retreat where you can escape from the rest of the world is one that many of us share, whether that means a long soak in the tub, or just some peace and quiet during your morning shave.

David Wilkes of David Wilkes Builders explains that the owners of the lovely Austin 1924 bungalow remodel decided to create their own private sanctuary by adding a whole new level above their existing home. "When you want to expand, it's often an excellent choice to go up, particularly if you don't want to take away from your existing lot size," said Wilkes.

As you enter their inviting refuge, the first thing you notice is the exquisite walnut door leading into their bright and airy space. "Making the most of natural light was an important focus for this bathroom and throughout the design of the home," explains the architect and designer, Rebecca Devine of Devine Austin. By placing it on the east side of their property, she ensured that the bathroom was flooded with radiant sunlight for getting ready in the morning.

All of the cabinetry in the bathroom is custom built by expert craftsman Bruce Mende using a gorgeous walnut wood. The walnut supplies an abundance of deep, luscious tones and textures, while providing a beautiful contrast to the white hexagon subway tiles across the walls and floor.

The refreshingly open and abundant space is complemented by expansive frameless shower doors and top-rated Kohler water fixtures. The bathroom also features elegant Lacava custom sinks.

Meeting the clients' objectives of using only the best products available as well as incorporating water-saving measures, they installed a Toto dual flush toilet and a Rhinnai water heater. There's also a rainwater retention tank and energy-efficient windows throughout the home.

Wilkes understands how crucial quality building is to all successful projects, but when remodeling an older home, providing the right additional foundational support is indisputably essential.







Devine explained how her partnership with David Wilkes Builders was the perfect fit for the bungalow project. “In order for its contemporary design to look this clean and seamless, it is absolutely critical that the contractor provides the best structural base possible,” said Devine. Because the ground in Austin can move around so much, without the experience of skilled contractors, she has seen many homes begin to literally crack at the seams within mere months, popping tiles and essentially destroying the new, refined look they set out to achieve in the first place.

“One of my favorite things about the room is the way the sun moves throughout the day, highlighting the individuality of the wood and reflecting the best of its details,” said Devine. As natural

light infuses the master bathroom in this charming bungalow, it’s easy to see how its ageless materials combined with quality building, expert craftsmanship and design finesse really do make all the difference. ❖

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