

AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | 2008

6 BRILLIANT BATHROOM DESIGNS



Wallflowers

A BOLD WALLPAPER SOURCED FROM LONDON PROVIDES THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS POWDER ROOM DESIGN

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AS LOS ANGELES-BASED DESIGNER FELICIA Bushman demonstrates, without daring designs such as hers, life could become rather boring. "It's a great time we live in," she says. "We're much more adventurous, especially here in Southern California."

Fortunately for Bushman, owner of Felicia Bushman Interior Design Inc., her clients this time around were willing to take some risks with regard to their powder room. Now, they are clearly reaping the rewards.

Before bending the rules, Bushman begins with a plan. "Once I am hired by a client, I will usually spend a couple of weeks pulling concepts together to present to them," she explains. "So, I'll review books and magazines as well as stroll around my favorite shops. A few things will always stand out as inspiration."

For the renovation of this 1930s Mediterranean-style home in Glendale, California, that inspiration came from across the pond. That's because the project happened to coincide with a trip to London, where Bushman found just the right wallpaper for the powder room.

"I walked into Neisha Crosland's boutique shop (then not yet available in the U.S.)," the designer says. "I have always admired her graphic wallpapers and fabrics. She has married a contemporary feel with traditional patterns in the most perfect and subtle way."

The blended designs of the wallpaper were also in tune with what her clients were after all along. "They asked us to make the home reflect more of their young eclectic style while still keeping the integrity of the traditional home," Bushman says. "We used quite a mix of styles to pull together their very own look."

So, Bushman pulled a showstopper of a wallpaper for her client's powder room and designed the entire space around it. As Jennifer Bunt, who shares the house with her husband, Ken, and their two children, explains, "This particular powder room had pink-and-white-striped wallpaper with a floral border." So, for the new design, wallpaper of any kind was the last thing on Jennifer's mind. "But I instantly fell in love with it," she says of the elegant wall covering presented by Bushman.

The homeowners, described by their designer as "a young hip family," also agreed to go along with the idea of painting the powder room wainscoting, vanity, moldings, and cabinetry black. The existing cabinets, which were original to the home, may have

needed work, but they had good bones. "We were lucky with the cabinetry," Bushman says. "It certainly needed some fixing, but with a little help and new hardware it was as good as new and still kept the charm of the original architecture."

Now what turned out to be the first room Bushman and her design team tackled is their favorite room in the house, she says. "It actually set the tone for the rest of the home's renovations."

The dazzling design is a welcome departure from what was there before the designer worked her magic. Now, a pendant lamp with a blue silk shade casts a lovely light in the small space while sconces designed by Bushman add sparkle above the pedestal sink. "Lighting is key in a powder room," the designer notes. "Our guests must look good when they go to powder their nose!"

A perfectly proportioned reproduction chair sports a French blue antique painted finish with gold accents. "We selected a fun and fresh fabric to cover the seat," Bushman says. "It has a dragonfly print, which made my client smile."

Wood floors that tie into the rest of the home replaced old, worn tiles. The window, which was intentionally left bare, allows the outdoor views to blend with the naturally beautiful space.

The dramatic décor of the powder room is also one-of-a-kind. Bushman, who appeared on Bravo's *Top Design*, is always up to the challenge of trying something new. Of her design aesthetic, "It's all over the map," she says. "I don't like to do the same thing twice."

When it comes to bathrooms, Bushman suggests going bold. "Use the powder room to take the risks you are afraid to take elsewhere in the house," she says. "I've always felt that a powder room is one of those few places where anything goes. We can add the drama without worry, we can go 'over the top' if we like, because it's a place where we go often but for only a very short period of time."

Besides, the designer adds, "It's a place where people go when we entertain, and it's always nice to have a bit of flash when we're entertaining."

Now everyone who enters is in awe of the innovative design. "I love the reaction that it gets," says Jennifer of the spectacular space. "There's not one person who hasn't said, 'That is the most beautiful room.'" ■