

MODEST BUT MIGHTY

You don't have to super-size a space to make it super



GAIL OWENS

A Del Mar kitchen and a Mission Hills bathroom tell the story of how small can be big. Although both spaces remain humble, updating weary materials (like 1980s-style ceramic square tiles) gave each space classic looks that stand the test of time.

Kim Nadel's agenda for a kitchen ensnared by walls was to create an open, modern and elegant space that would accommodate her clients' love for cooking and entertaining. "The ceilings were extremely low, so I utilized full-height doors and raised the ceilings to create more space," she says. "I removed a structural wall to make the kitchen larger and more accessible to the rest of the living area and added a structural column that is concealed in the full-height bar/pantry cabinetry. I also relocated the powder room to accommodate the expanded kitchen design, which features two entrances."



BEFORE

In the bathroom, homeowner Wendy Frisk and designer Dara Simic aimed for a simple look that recalled the 1940 home's original feel.

"The inside of the shower had generic-looking tile and details that didn't go with the house," Wendy says. "The floorboard was cracked and damaged beyond repair and needed a complete overhaul. Our choice for the new flooring and backsplash went with the old style of the home and also brightened up the space. It made our small bathroom seem more spacious."

Graceful, French Gold-finished fixtures complement the white tile and gray grout. An acrylic tub by Duravit, which is not as wide as but is deeper than the original, adds a touch of contemporary sleekness. And a new awning-style window fills the room with natural light.

"The signature piece is the iron-framed mirror/medicine cabinet, which complements the overall look," Wendy says.

Inigorated with cleaner lines and sophistication that wasn't there originally, both the kitchen and bath spaces show off remarkable changes — without showing off. ❖



HARRISON PHOTOGRAPHIC

With guidance from designer Dara Simic, Mission Hills homeowners renovated their bathroom to reflect a clean, simple look in a style that suits a house built in 1940.

Facing page: The kitchen redesigned by Kim Nadel includes a larger cooking surface, a bar area and a movable prep island (not visible in photo).



BEFORE