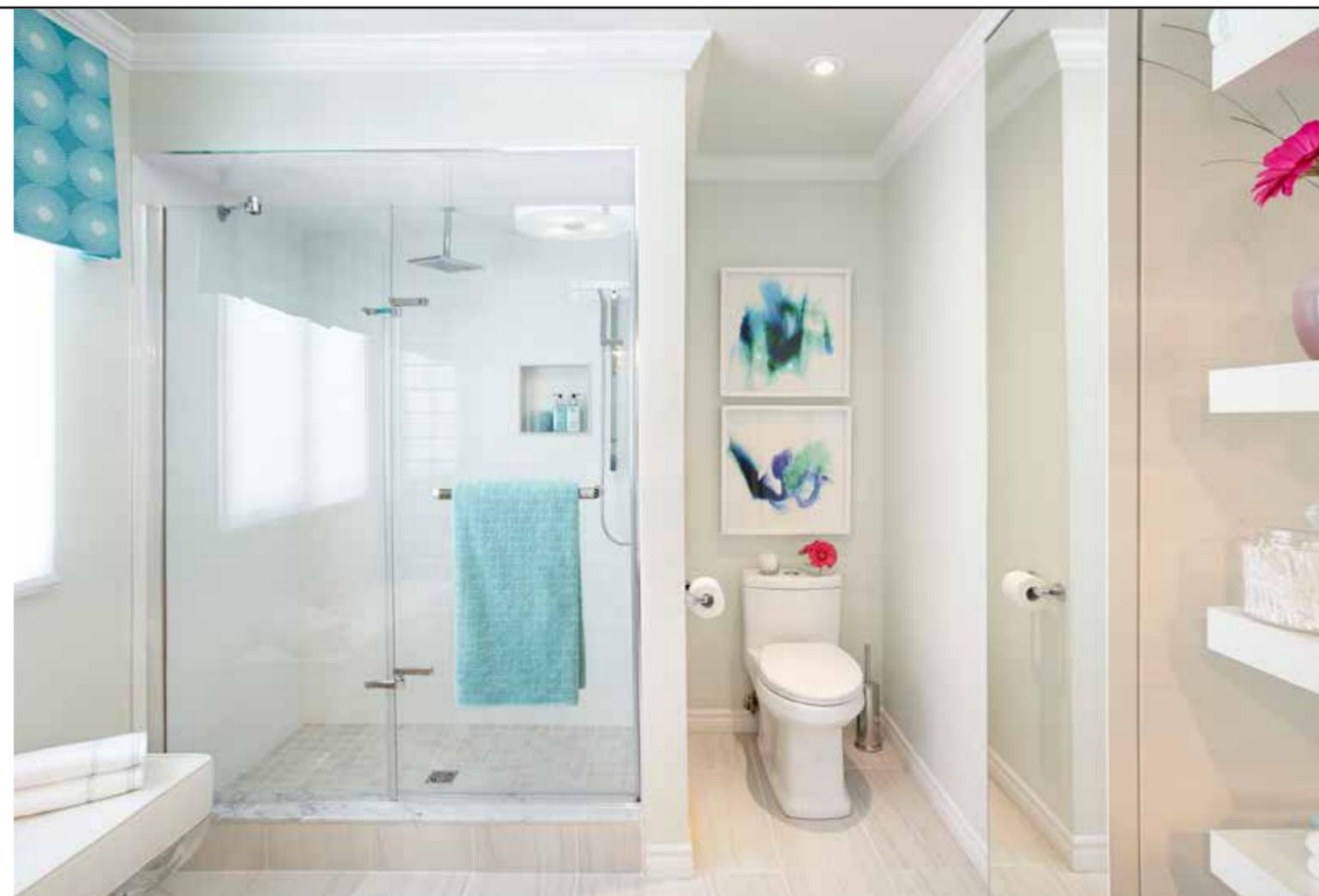


BY SARAH ST. AMAND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TAE PHOTOGRAPHY

PRIMP & PRIME

A teen bathroom gets a fresh-faced makeover that is perfectly poised for the growing needs of two young adults



When you have two teenage girls attempting to share a bathroom with a small sink,

limited storage, the walls painted in a bright blue hue and decorated with *Finding Nemo* decals, there comes a time when you have to throw in the towel—no pun intended—and renovate.

Since teenager does not mean adult (regardless of their argument), the goal for this bathroom was to keep the vibe youthful yet refined and fresh while adhering to a budget.

That's when homeowners Dave and Michelle Gowling realized they needed assistance and called me to work on a design that functions efficiently and meets the needs of their daughters' busy lifestyle.

MUST-HAVES

The first basic need was storage. It was necessary for their daughters Laura and Alannah to have enough space to house their extensive makeup, perfume, hair products and jewelry collection, as well as a place to store towels, toiletries and other bathroom necessities.

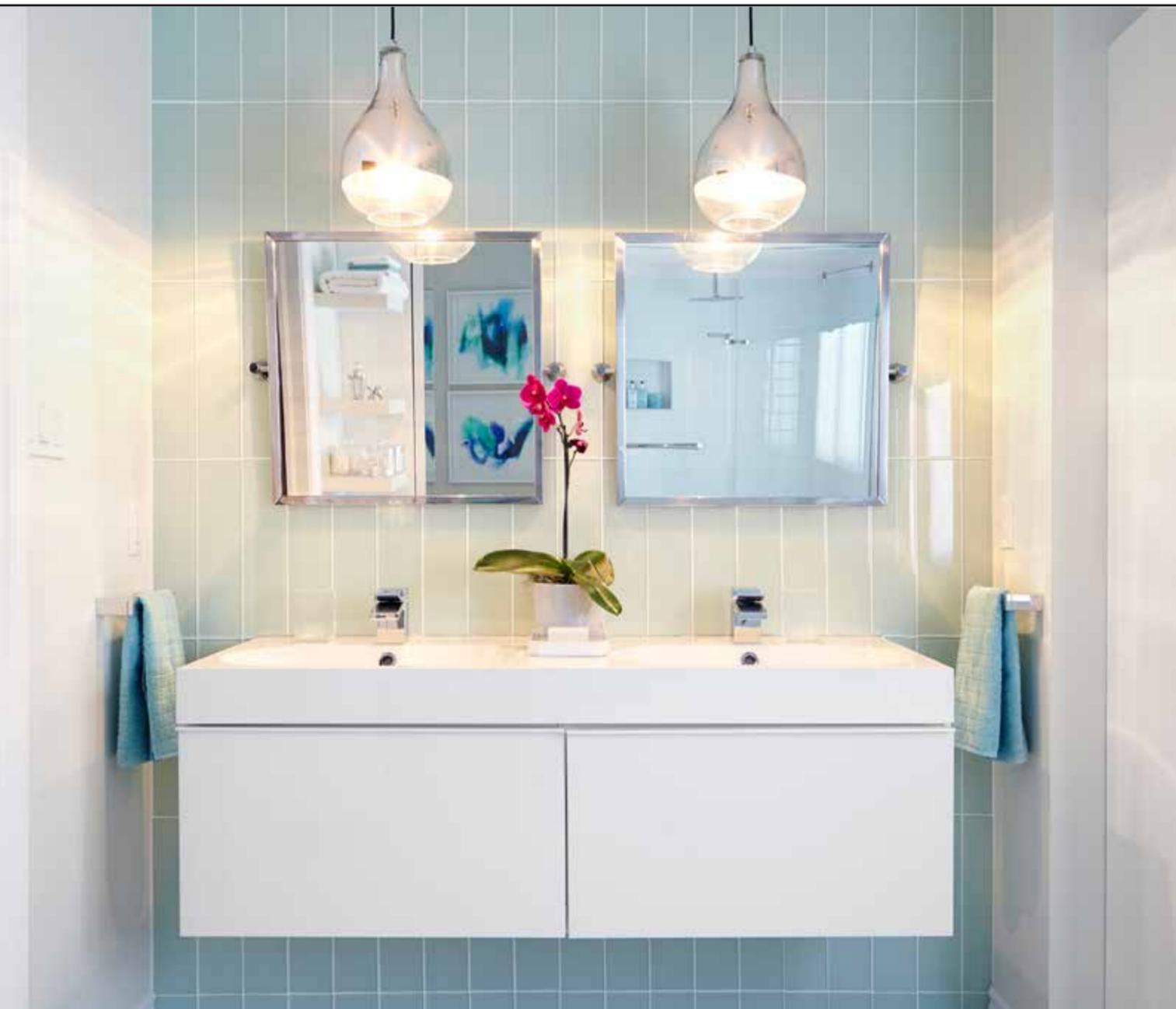
The bathroom needed to have enough compartments and storage options to keep it organized and free of clutter, and it also needed a functional, efficient space to accommodate two very active young ladies. There was no longer a need for a bathtub so the space was transformed to accommodate a walk-in shower.

Since the bathroom is one of two on the upper floor, and renovations to the master bath were also on the horizon,

it was necessary to work within a tight budget and accommodate both the design esthetic and functional needs of the space.

COST ANALYSIS

Bathroom renovations can be expensive propositions. With such a huge spread in pricing on tile and plumbing fixtures, it's hard for many homeowners to know where to start. There are \$200 faucets and there are \$1,200 faucets. The same goes for tile; it can range from 90 cents to 450 dollars a square foot. And the overall price range of a bathroom remodel can vary just as greatly. If you're on a budget—and not the kind that includes \$400-per-square-foot-tile—there are some tricks of the trade to keep the look high-end and the budget in check.



Bathrooms are a great area in your home to use ordinary, less expensive products and use them in an unexpected way to create visual interest. A white bathroom is a timeless and popular choice, and basic white tile, whether it's a 4" by 4" or 3" by 6", can really be affordable. Subway tile can be a clean and inexpensive option and now comes in a variety of colours. I wanted to add a feature wall behind the vanity to add interest, so I used a 4" by 16" bottle-green glass tile and

positioned it vertically rather than a typical horizontal configuration. The look is unique and creates a more contemporary feel and adds a subtle contrast of colour to the space.

DESIGN TRICKS

The wall colour, (Benjamin Moore Dewdrop CC-608) coordinates with the glass wall tile and gives the bathroom a soothing spa-like feel. Using stock items is a great way to keep costs at a minimum; however, there are some design

tricks of the trade to elevate the look.

Readily available stock items can easily be transformed from ordinary to extraordinary just by making subtle changes to offer a unique customized look. It may be something as simple as adding trim work, spray-painting the doors or changing out the hardware to create a designer style.

To keep the timeline and budget on target, I chose a stock vanity and storage cabinetry, like this one from IKEA, but splurged a little within the

budget on great faucets for the entire space.

Pops of colour were added in a custom roman blind, which gives the bathroom a more youthful teenage vibe, along with colourful artwork and accessories. When renovating a bathroom, it is important to consider a neutral colour when selecting the bigger ticket items like the vanity and tiles. That way, other design elements like paint, artwork and fabric can easily be updated as colour trends and styles change over time.

This space creates a distinct serene vibe and captures my signature design esthetic perfectly—an unfussy approach to decorating, which is clean and refined. Most importantly, the end result was an age-appropriate bathroom renovation that met the needs of my clients, both on budget and style sense. ♦



SOURCES:

Roman blind fabric: Jonathan Adler through Kravet.
Pattern: Super Nova, **Colour:** 13 (through designers)
Wall Colour: Benjamin Moore Dew Drop CC-608
Acrylic Bench: Through Sarah St. Amand Interior Design
Vanity: IKEA – Godmorgan Series



"Faucets, lighting and hardware, are like the jewelry on a little black dress, they instantly transform the look from dull to dramatic!" says Sarah.



Designer Sarah St. Amand, principal/owner of GTA-based Sarah St. Amand Interior Design, specializes in residential and commercial design projects of all sizes and scope. She has made appearances on Citytv's CityLine and has gained national recognition for her design work. For more information, visit stamanddesign.com.