

EXCITING NEW 'COMFORT ZONES' WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED AT WESTEND BATH & KITCHEN

Modern spa ensuite perfect for 'old school' couple

BY BRIAN McCULLOUGH

Sometimes all it takes is a nudge in the right direction to help someone open their eyes to exciting new possibilities in what a room can look like.

When Jim and Nicole Britton bought their 14-year-old country bungalow retreat in Greely's Orchard View Estates last year they knew the place needed work, and No. 1 on the renovation runway was the dysfunctional master ensuite bathroom.

What they didn't know was that their idea of what they thought they wanted in a 'safe' traditional look was about to get turned upside down. In a good way.

"They were living with what I call a 'pre-millennium' ensuite," says Westend Bath and Kitchen designer Sarah Stott. "There was a large, overwhelming corner bathtub, a single-sink vanity, and a miniature shower in the corner. The bathroom had great potential to be so much more functional, but it needed a complete revamp."

The Brittons had only a vague image in mind when they visited the Westend showroom. "We wanted something safe," Nicole says. "We thought the bathroom was going to be dark wood and very traditional, but Sarah really flipped us. She asked us 'what about this?' and 'what about that?' and if she felt we were making a bad choice she would gently nudge us in the right way. When we put it all together it was bright and spa-like — and it was gorgeous."

One of Nicole's biggest peeves with the old bathroom layout was that the size of the corner bathtub made it difficult to reach the windows and clean along the back of the tub without having to climb right inside the tub. "It was cumbersome," she says. Sarah's



Westend Bath and Kitchen designer Sarah Stott guided Greely clients Nicole and Jim Britton toward a modern spa-like experience for their ensuite bathroom. The coordinated pieces, functional layout, attractive tiling and effective lighting gives the room what Nicole says is a warm, inviting feel that is like "crisp, clean linen." Below, two views of the Brittons' "pre-millennium" ensuite. JONATHON HARRINGTON/ICON IMAGING



NICOLE BRITTON

answer was to install a free-standing bathtub that would offer easy access behind, and also open up the visual space along with their choice of colours and materials.

"We decided to run an accent

tile around the room, behind the bathtub and through the shower to tie in the various colours used in both the floor and wall tile," says Sarah. "I knew they needed their ensuite bathroom to be

bright, inviting and calming, so I showed them a combination of colours and textures that were warm, yet felt very radiant and polished at the same time. The contrast of the dark floor against the clean white vanity cabinets and marble-inspired countertop really illuminates the room."

The Brittons also opted for a double-sink vanity, rain head shower fixture, and a heated floor that Nicole says her husband Jim loves. "He's always freezing, so when Westend offered it to us he jumped all over it."

The couple was extremely pleased with the work of Westend installer Mo Savard, who Nicole says did nice finishing work. They also appreciated the way Sarah and Westend manager Alan Carriere conducted their first home visit with tape measure and answers in hand. "They could look at things and give us answers on

the spot. That's what we liked," Nicole says.

"When you're old school," Nicole adds, "you need somebody to tell you to just try it. We would never have conceived this on our own. It was out of our comfort zone, but we really liked Sarah's confidence and we took a chance. We were relying on her visualization and it turned out perfect. It's so refreshing and bright and clean, I'm really grateful we didn't do the traditional look."

Westend Bath and Kitchen is centrally located just south of the Queensway's Maitland exit at 1660 Woodward Dr. The showroom is open from Monday to Saturday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and the website is open all the time at www.westendbathandkitchen.com. Exciting new possibilities in home renovation are just a phone call away at 613-226-7701.