

# J • MAKEOVER diaries

Interior designers Nikki Baron and Wendy St. Laurent rely on savvy trade tricks and innovative ideas to update this 1942 bathroom in a Colonial-style Coral Gables home. This inspiring before and after may prompt you to take a second look at your bathroom.

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before

clockwise: Designers Wendy St. Laurent and Nikki Baron. The bathroom's plumbing, tile and lighting are from Interworks in the Miami Design District. The mirror and cabinetry are custom designed.



JILL KROHN



antique-inspired tub brings back the aesthetic of the original architecture into the bathroom  
 e the dark-stained cabinetry with polished nickel adds contrast.

ive it to the talented team at Miami-based Baron & St. Laurent  
 Design, Nikki Baron and Wendy St. Laurent, to transform a ho-  
 mismatched bathroom into an elegant work of art. By respecting  
 hitecture of a 1942 two-story, southern colonial-style Coral  
 -based home and by using fewer but more dramatic elements,  
 and St. Laurent added dignity and glamour to a 131 sq. ft  
 om.

umble of colors and poorly placed objects including a pea-  
 toilet and tub, red walls, and brown carpet, confused the eye  
 ded a claustrophobic element to the tiny space. A few things  
 mmediately. Out with the ho-ho-ho carpet, in with the Calcutta  
 arble flooring throughout. A Benjamin Moore aqua-toned green  
 eplaced it, helping relate to the golf course beyond the  
 vs and creating an expression of nature.

id speaking of windows: The stretching of the smallish windows  
 d a magician, but, hey, in a pinch, an architect will do. So the  
 tretched the windows without changing the physical element,  
 on a clever architectural illusion.  
 om ceiling to floor we wanted to read a vertical element," St.

Laurent says. "The windows were small but we wanted them to be big  
 and dramatic, otherwise they would not go with the big, modern  
 pieces, like the new cabinetry."

As elongating was key, the team started at the top with a ceiling  
 molding, then added a beveled mirror on top of the windows.  
 Embroidered silk Roman shades hung over the windows and ended at  
 an ivory-colored wainscot. The antique-inspired tub brings back the  
 aesthetic of the original architecture into the bathroom while the dark-  
 stained cabinetry with polished nickel adds contrast. The double arm  
 wall sconces are a traditional element, and accents including a  
 Venetian style mirror and a crystal ceiling fixture "help to make the  
 place sparkle and add brilliance and shine," says St. Laurent.

By applying two design philosophies including using a traditional  
 context to convey a contemporary feel and keeping it simple by using  
 the repetition of the same elements (marble and polished nickel)  
 Baron and St. Laurent managed to tone-down and glamour-up a  
 dowdy, boxy space.

This former bathroom now prefers the moniker "powder room,"  
 thank you very much.