

BLANK-CANVAS BUDGET BATH

Like the other rooms in this Victorian row house, the old back porch didn't have a lot of details worth saving. It did, however, have location on its side. After transforming their parlor into a sleek new kitchen (pp. 32-35), Alex Nerland and Lisa Signoff turned their attention to converting space formerly occupied by the old kitchen and the porch into a master suite. They gutted the porch, relocated the stair to the backyard, and devised a plan to get a shower, a full-size tub, a double vanity, and the toilet all into a flag-shaped space of about 70 sq. ft.

The couple's goal for the kitchen—high-quality finishes and fixtures for the best possible price—became their goal for the bath as well. With Alex doing the work, they had about \$6000 to spend on fixtures and materials. Here are the highlights.

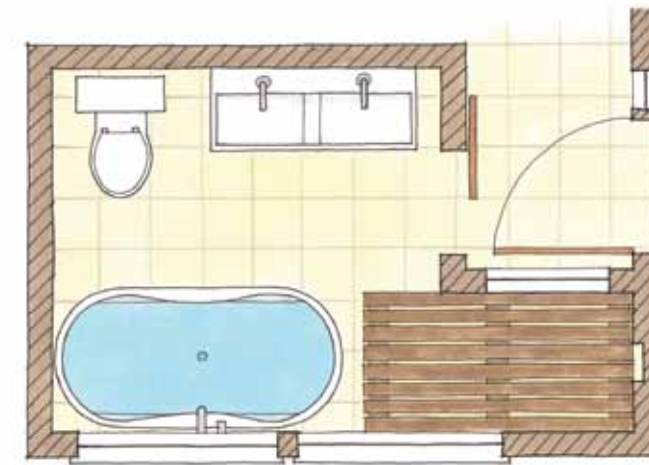
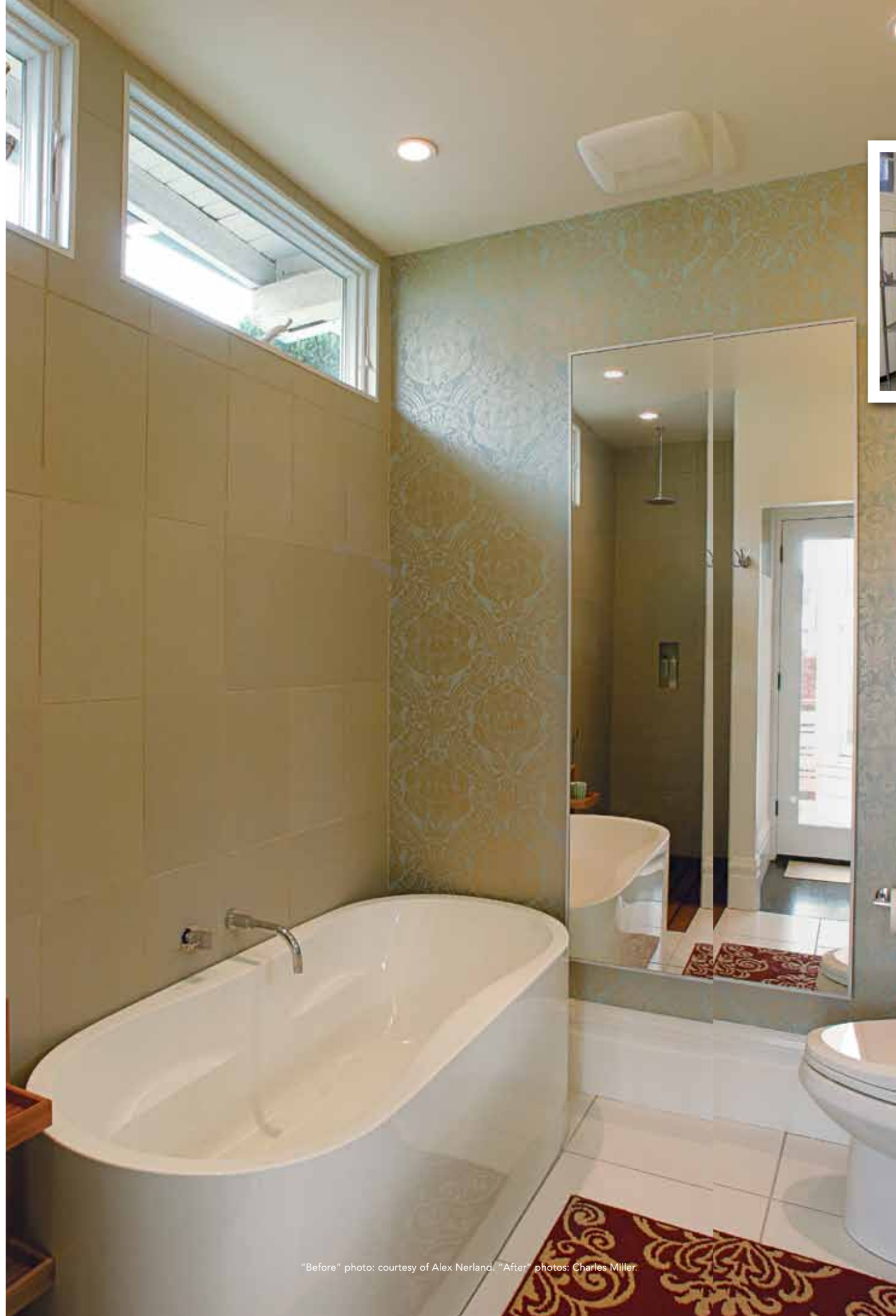
► The couple wanted stone tiles for the walls and floor, but at \$8 to \$10 per sq. ft., that dream was out of the question. Fortunately, the advances in the porcelain-tile industry have resulted in ceramic tiles that are dead ringers for stone. The result: porcelain floor tile at \$5 a sq. ft. and porcelain wall tile for \$4 a sq. ft. Total: \$1000.

► A 48-in. double-faucet single-drain sink from Design Within Reach for \$1000. Even on closeout, this was a splurge, but worthwhile because its size made the rest of the bathroom work. It also drove the theme of clean lines throughout.

► A freestanding bathtub on closeout from Signature Hardware for \$800.

► Thermostatically controlled bath and shower controls for \$350 from Hudson-Reed.

► Off-the-shelf mirrors from Ikea for \$100.



Tuck the shower in the corner

Ipé duckboards over a floor drain lead to the doorless shower in the corner opposite the bath. High transom windows and a wavy-glass panel between the shower and the entry even out the daylight.

0 1 2 4 ft.



Designers: Alex Nerland and Lisa Signoff

Builder: Alex Nerland, San Francisco

"Before" photo: courtesy of Alex Nerland. "After" photos: Charles Miller.