

Window & Wall

IDEAS

Spring 2002
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sitting pretty

decorative dressings for
sumptuous window seats



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Fanciful patterns, rich textures, and inviting colors add decorative punch to these three stylish baths.

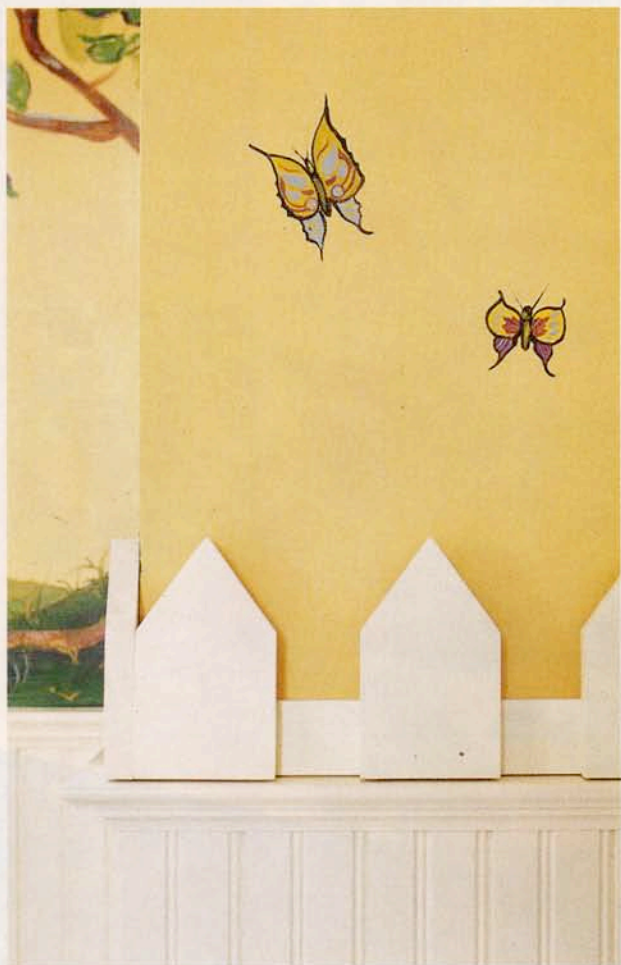


Garden Glow

Homeowner Kim Healey chose a whimsical garden theme to make the first stop of the day for her three young daughters as “happy as possible,” she says. She knew from the start she wanted a garden theme for the girls’ bath in their Cold Spring Harbor, New York, home. “My goal was to make the room colorful and happy, but not to the point that it would look too babyish in years to come. The moment I saw the floral wall tiles, I knew they were perfect.”

Trimmed with yellow bullnose border tiles, the 3×10-inch hand-painted floral ceramics protect the vanity wall from youngsters’ splashes and frame the large mirror. Blueberry lacquer, a color repeated from the tiles’ flowers, covers the double vanity base, giving the stock cabinet a custom look. In addition to the age-neutral scheme, the dual vanity with a pullout clothes hamper (behind the far-right cabinet door) makes the bathroom a space that will grow with the young residents.

Above: These hand-painted floral tiles serve as the decorative starting point for this bath. “I found the tiles, and we used them to define the color scheme for everything else. It made the decorating process very simple,” homeowner Kim Healey says. **Opposite:** Garden-fresh hues punctuate the crisp white woodwork that transforms this bathroom, shared by three sisters, into an outdoorsy retreat.



To accentuate the garden theme, Kim and kitchen and bath designer Susan Serra had artist Heather Dunn create the vanity-sheltering trellis from finishing boards and stock molding pieces. Atop old-fashioned beaded-board wainscoting around the room, Dunn fastened custom-made shapes resembling fence pickets to the yellow walls.

Dunn also hand-painted the charming landscape that adorns the wall opposite the vanity surrounding a cozy window seat, where an arch-top window floods the bathroom with light. The painted outdoor view is reminiscent of an illustration in one of the girls' favorite books.

"The girls come into the bath, sit at the window seat, and pretend they are in a magic garden," Kim says. "It's a very enchanting place to be."

For more information, see Resources on page 98.

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& more

Careful preparation and selection of materials can help ensure long-lasting wall treatments in bathrooms where high moisture levels often cause problems.

For paint:

- Look for a paint finish that is washable, scrubbable, and moisture-resistant. Latex paints are as durable as their oil-base counterparts.
- Coat walls and/or wood with a quality, water-base primer before applying paint to ensure good adhesion.
- Open windows whenever possible, and supplement fresh air with a high-quality fan that vents to the outside. Without proper ventilation, paint will eventually start to bubble and peel, and painted ceilings will mildew.

Above: Painted butterflies flutter periodically across the bathroom's walls above the clever picket-fencelike trim that tops the beaded-board wainscoting. **Opposite:** Four-inch-thick foam padding covered in a plaid cotton fabric makes this window seat a comfortable and attractive place for the young girls to sit.



