

AT HOME

IN YORK REGION

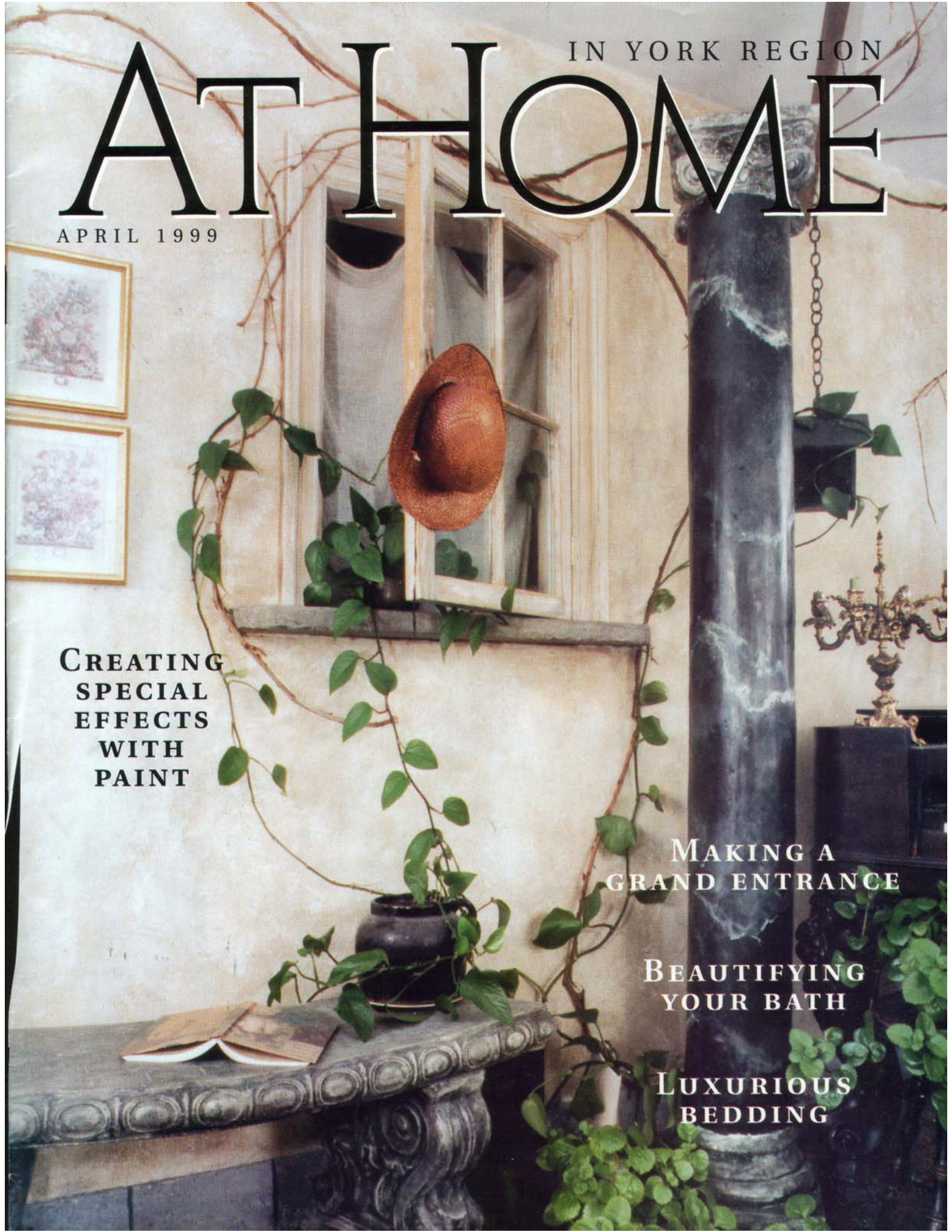
APRIL 1999

**CREATING
SPECIAL
EFFECTS
WITH
PAINT**

**MAKING A
GRAND ENTRANCE**

**BEAUTIFYING
YOUR BATH**

**LUXURIOUS
BEDDING**



AT HOME

IN YORK REGION

THIS MONTH



28 FRESHENING THE BATH

Four bathrooms, four budgets ... interior decorators provide ideas for brightening up your bathroom, using paint techniques, fabric changes and accessories, on four different budgets.



JOHN TRIGIANI

FEATURES / DEPARTMENTS



12 CHOOSING YOUR BED LINENS

You can create a wonderful nest to sink in to each night with carefully selected bed linens. We offer some ideas for creating the mood that's right for you.

31 TRENDS

It's hip, it's chic, it's urban ... the look of metal can add some polish to your home decor. We have some fabulous finds, from chairs to spoons.

8 DECORATING

A little creativity, a little paint, a lot of magic ... that's what artist Cheryl Ward can create in a home. From frescoes to faux finishes, Ward adds personality to plain walls.

20 RENOVATIONS

You're ready to renovate ... now where do you begin? An expert gives us some advice before embarking on a home project.

24 APPLIANCES

You walk into the kitchen, open the fridge door, take out something, close the door. But why would you settle for that when there are so many options in today's fridges?

DECORATING YOUR BATHROOM

4 FACELIFTS, 4 BUDGETS

Coloured ceramics, old tile and 25-year-old wallpaper don't have to be torn out to update your bathroom.

With just a few changes, you can give your bathroom a facelift without a major overhaul.

And considering a total renovation project could cost \$5,000 to \$10,000, it might be worth working around some of the older items.

Interior decorators at Decorating Den Interiors of Thornhill share a few helpful hints on how to get a new look without breaking the bank.

STORIES BY
DAWN LIERSCH

Bathroom #1: A Powder Room With Pizzazz

Budget: \$550

AFTER

Interior decorator Anita Wicklem proved that good things come in small packages when she revamped a tiny powder room to create big impact.

The room was only two feet, nine inches by five feet, plus it had vaulted ceilings because it was housed beneath a staircase.

But Wicklem was able to create an inviting look for guests with just some wallpaper, a fabric skirt around the sink and a topiary.

She used a white and green vertical-striped wallpaper for the lower half of the walls, to open up the room, topped with a green, marble-effect wallpaper for the upper-half of the walls and ceiling. Using a dark colour at the top of the walls and ceiling creates the illusion of a lower ceiling, she explained.

A white and green leaf-patterned wallpaper border separated the two. Wicklem placed the border about waist high to draw the eye to that level.

"You have to bring the interest down to a level where you're going to enjoy it," she said.

The existing white sink was adorned with a white and green fabric skirt to hide the pipes and create a small storage area. It was made out of bedding material so it could easily be thrown into the wash.

The home owner had painted an old gold mirror white to be hung over the sink.

Wicklem made a co-ordinating topiary using white, silk flowers. It was glued to the back of the toilet so that it wouldn't get knocked off.

Small candles placed on either side of the topiary were the finishing touch.

The entire project cost only \$550.

Jeanne Grier, interior decorator and owner of Decorating Den Interiors, says a small room allows people to choose more expensive wallpapers because they won't need very much.

"You can use the most luxurious wallpapers, it doesn't have to be solid vinyl. But you'll need so little for a small room that you can work within your budget," she said.

"People are usually more willing to be daring with a powder room because they want their guests to be impressed."



BEFORE



PHOTO/CELIA BRONKHORST

DECORATING YOUR BATHROOM

Bathroom #2: Dressing Up A Rental Budget: \$1,000

AFTER

Interior decorator Anita Wiklem wanted a new look for the small, stark bathroom in her apartment. But because she is only renting, she didn't want to spend a lot of money.

With a budget of about \$1,000 and a little ingenuity, she was able to give her bathroom an upgrade with items she can take with her if she moves.

Wiklem already had a bold-patterned, black and café latte-coloured fabric shower curtain that she wanted to use as the focal point for the room. It also matched the existing black and white floor tile to which she added a black floor mat.

She used the existing shower curtain rod for the liner and hung the curtain from a silver rod with decorative silver curtain jewellery.

The challenge came in making the rest of the room match.

Instead of replacing the existing blue wall tiles, she painted them in a coordinating soft café latte colour using specialty primer and paint for tiles.

She painted the upper walls and ceiling a rich mocha colour to give the illusion that the ceiling is lower, creating a cozy, enclosed feel.

Her bathroom was only 4-3/4-feet by 6-1/2 feet, including the tub.

"You're not going to make it any bigger, so try to make it dramatic," suggested decorator Jeanne Grier.

"Do something interesting with the ceiling. Paint it to bring it down so it doesn't feel like you're in an elevator shaft."

Wiklem added a large mirror on one of the walls to open up the room. She also moved towel racks from the walls to the back of the door to save space.

She hid her electrical receptacle inside the existing medicine cabinet, making it handy for her electric toothbrush.

A pewter-coloured Italian frame was attached around the medicine cabinet mirror and a new light fixture over top, dressed it up.

Wiklem added a black, raw silk skirt with velcro closures around the sink. This made the plain, white sink look more sophisticated and allowed her to store items under the sink in a black, vinyl crate.

A wicker basket perched on the back of the toilet was used to hold cosmetics and a galvanized steel pail stores make-up brushes within reach. A matching wicker foot stool provided a place to sit and a wicker waste basket tied in with the look.

She also added glass shelves to the wall above the toilet to display crystal vases and glass bowls filled with Q-tips and cotton balls.

"Items for storage can be part of the accessorizing," Grier said.

Fresh flowers displayed here and there were the final touch.

Wiklem estimates her new look cost about \$750, but she points out that she already had the shower curtain, vases and glass bowl. She figures the entire project can be done for around \$1,000.



BEFORE



PHOTO/JOHN TRIGIANI

DECORATING YOUR BATHROOM

Bathroom #3: Making Coloured Ceramics Fit

Budget: \$1,000 to \$2,000

AFTER



PHOTO/TED YARWOOD

When interior decorator Jeanne Grier was presented with a bathroom that had a mauve-coloured toilet and tub, she showed the family how to decorate around the fixtures to make them appear the perfect fit.

"Some people get hung up about having coloured fixtures, but the colours have all come back," she said.

"You don't have to renovate, you just have to find a matching wallpaper or fabric that make the colours belong. Work with it, instead of fighting it."

Grier replaced the bathroom's old, blue and yellow wallpaper with a soft-patterned wallpaper incorporating pink, blue and a hint of mauve. The paper was topped with a flower-patterned border in matching colours.

Even though the windows were frosted and didn't need window coverings for privacy, Grier thought co-ordinating window coverings would add impact. She hung them about three-quarters from the top to let some of the frosted glass peak through.

The shower curtain was also in a co-ordinating fabric.

"In a bathroom, you don't have a lot of room to introduce colour, texture and pattern, so you should do it through the window coverings, shower curtains and wallpaper," she said.

"The changes were very simple. We just wanted to clean up the look."

The family wanted to keep the existing vanity, so a new, wall-to-wall mirror above the sink and new light fixtures updated the look.

A green floor mat was the finishing touch.

Grier said the project will cost between \$1,000 and \$2,000, depending on the materials chosen. She said the family eventually reglazed the tub, which is another inexpensive way to get a new look.

BEFORE

Bathroom #4: Old Wallpaper Gets A New Look

Budget: \$2,000

AFTER

Interior decorator Anita Wicklem had great base to work with when a family offered her the 25-year-old wallpaper in the throom had to stay.

The multi-coloured foil paper had been very expensive and was still in good shape.

The family also chose to keep the existing blue fixtures because they matched the paper, which incorporates blue, white and pink.

Some of the wall area was painted white, so Wicklem gave it a fresh coat to revive the colour. She also replaced the red carpet with blue.

The pink curtains were taken down and the windows covered with a gold blind and framed with a sheer white crinkled fabric held up by gold-plated sconces.

"We softened the look," Wicklem said.

The project cost about \$2,000.



BEFORE



PHOTO/CELIA BRONKHORST