



*Ember Spa  
Bathroom Remodel*

NARI MINNESOTA - 2025 ROTY AWARDS

# Project Overview

**Project:** Ember Spa

**Category:** Residential Bath \$40,000 to \$70,000

The Ember Spa Project was a DIY gone wrong – the homeowners realized it was too much to handle on their own, when they gave us a call. This once small, outdated bathroom was completely redesigned to not only support aging-in-place with a no-step shower with built-in seating and accessible shelving, but also shifted the showers location all together to make room for a washer and dryer discreetly tucked behind a sliding door. Other elements were added to bring this once congested DIY eyesore to life. This bathroom now shines with thoughtful design and organization that works for everyday use.

## Client's Wants:

- Washer and dryer added
- Shower designed with aging-in-place in mind
- Colors and design that are cohesive with the rest of the home
- Keep existing windows





*Before and After*





*Before and After*



# Functionality

- A large walk-in closet was added in the walkway from the bedroom to the bathroom
- A round soaking tub under soft lighting adds a calm element where the homeowners often relax
- Large aging-in-place friendly walk-in shower with no-step feature, a bench, and accessible shelving
- In-bathroom washer and dryer were behind sleek sliding door for easy access





# Aesthetics

- The arched wall detail provides space for a mirror and shelf that brings a subtle architectural touch
- The mirrors of the vanity were chosen to match the arched wall detail
- The thrifted vanity and countertop were chosen to match the home's existing honey-oak window trim, tying the whole look together
- Marble trim around the shower was added for interest and to match the countertops
- The wood-looking porcelain tile on the back of the shower was chosen to create a soothing, spa-like finish



# Craftsmanship & Innovation

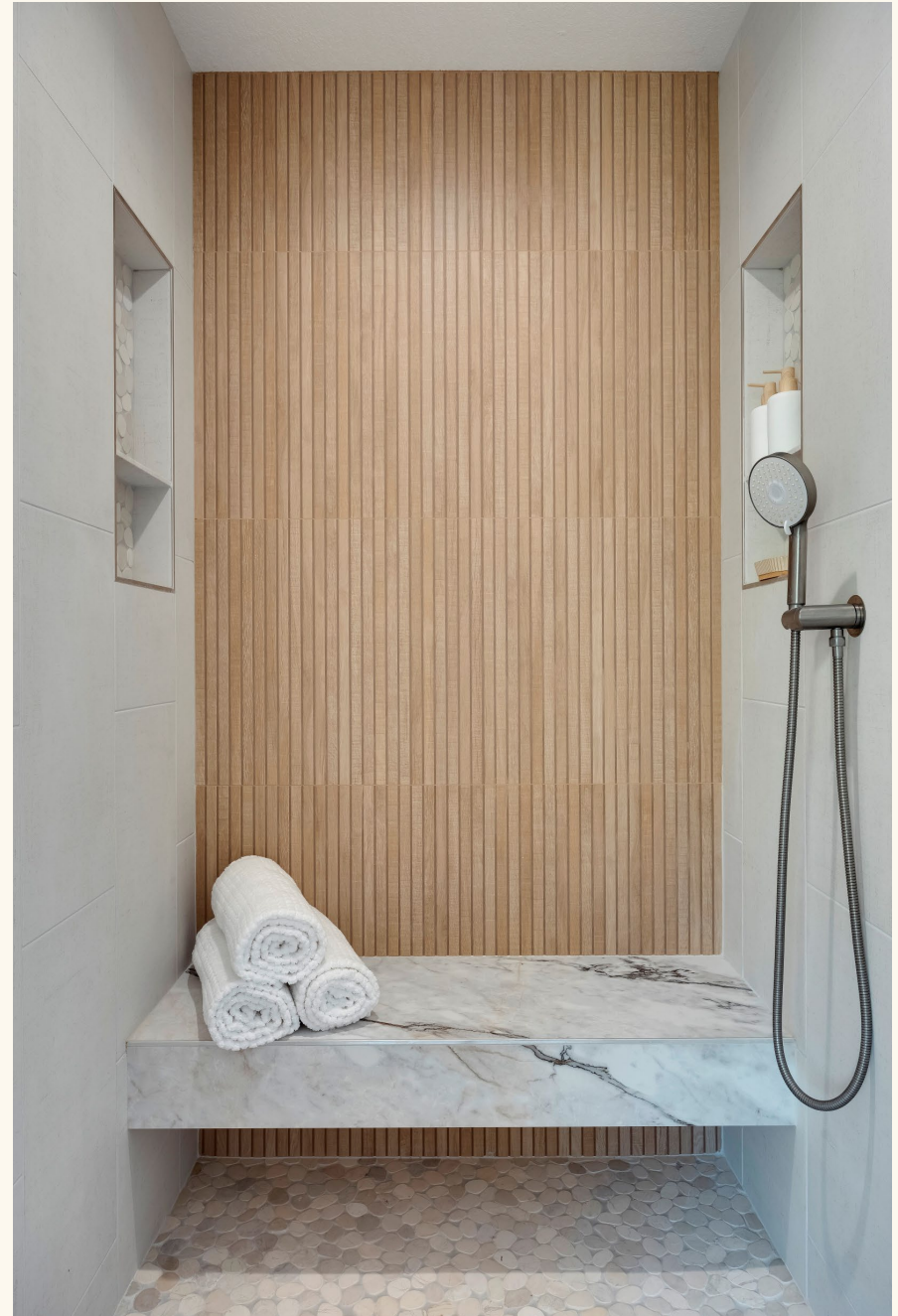
- The large format porcelain tile bench was tricky to add into the shower, but was necessary for a clean look
- With storage space at a premium, we added a custom cabinet to the left of the thrifted vanity, designed to match it perfectly. To ensure the washer and dryer's sliding door could open smoothly without obstruction, we left just enough clearance beside the cabinet for seamless operation
- Space reconfiguration to support the best use of space, specifically allowing enough space in the closet for the washer and dryer



# Project Challenges

When designing a walk-in or aging-in-place shower without a curb or step-up, it's essential to involve an engineer, as this type of design requires lowering the existing floor joists to create the proper drainage slope. This process was challenging, requiring time, precision, and careful planning to avoid compromising the structure beneath. When complete, the homeowners were left with a flawless, step-free finish.

Adding to the complexity was the placement of a heavy, oversized porcelain tile bench. The solution involved reinforcing the floor structure, installing specialty brackets, and implementing custom waterproofing techniques—ensuring safety and durability.







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