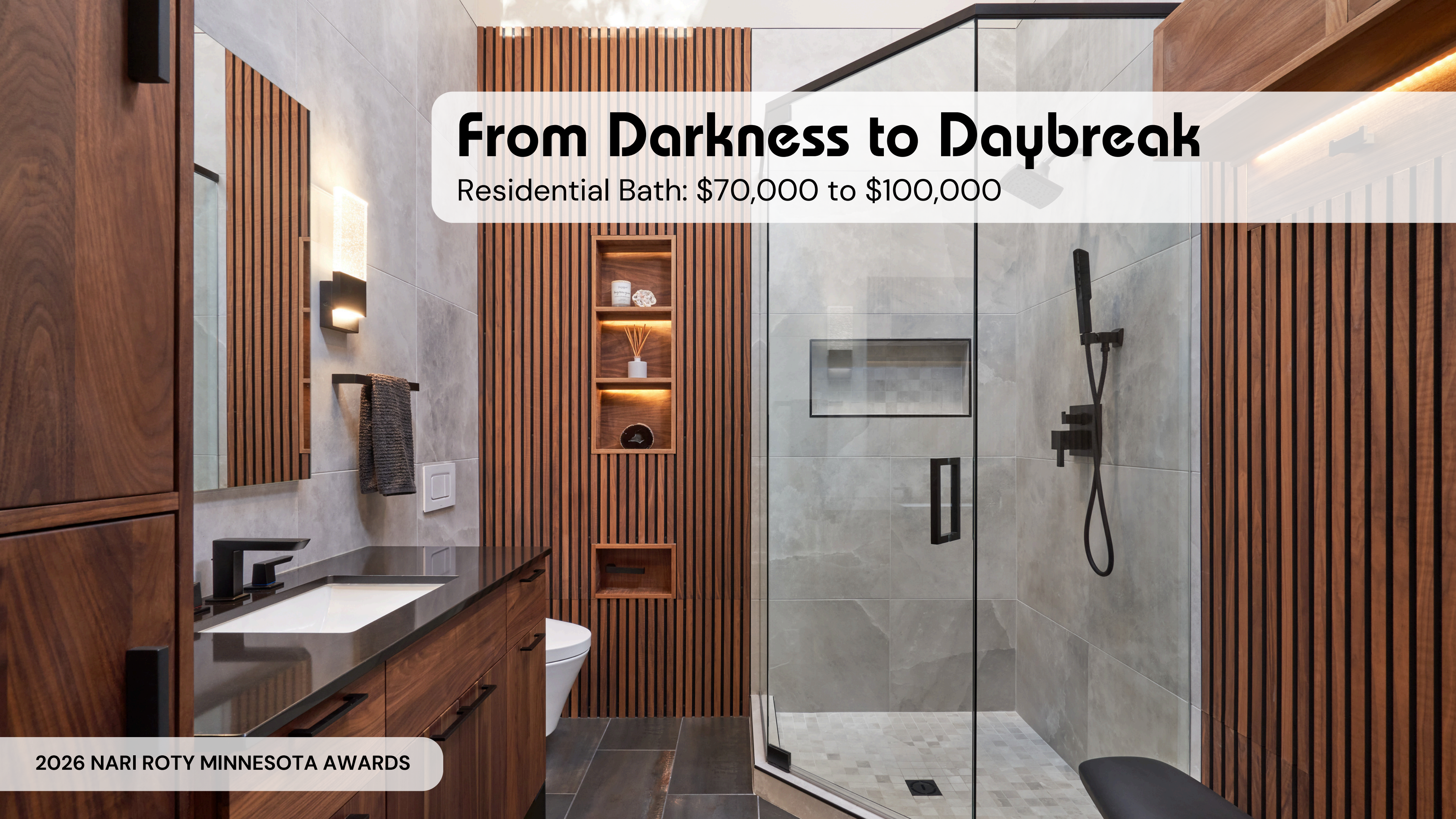


A modern bathroom interior featuring a glass-enclosed shower with grey stone tiles and a black showerhead. The walls are clad in vertical wood slats, and a built-in wooden shelf holds decorative items. A vanity with a black countertop and a white sink is visible on the left, along with a towel rack and a wall-mounted light fixture. The floor is made of dark grey tiles.

From Darkness to Daybreak

Residential Bath: \$70,000 to \$100,000

2026 NARI ROTY MINNESOTA AWARDS

Optimized Flow, Elevated Ritual

Background

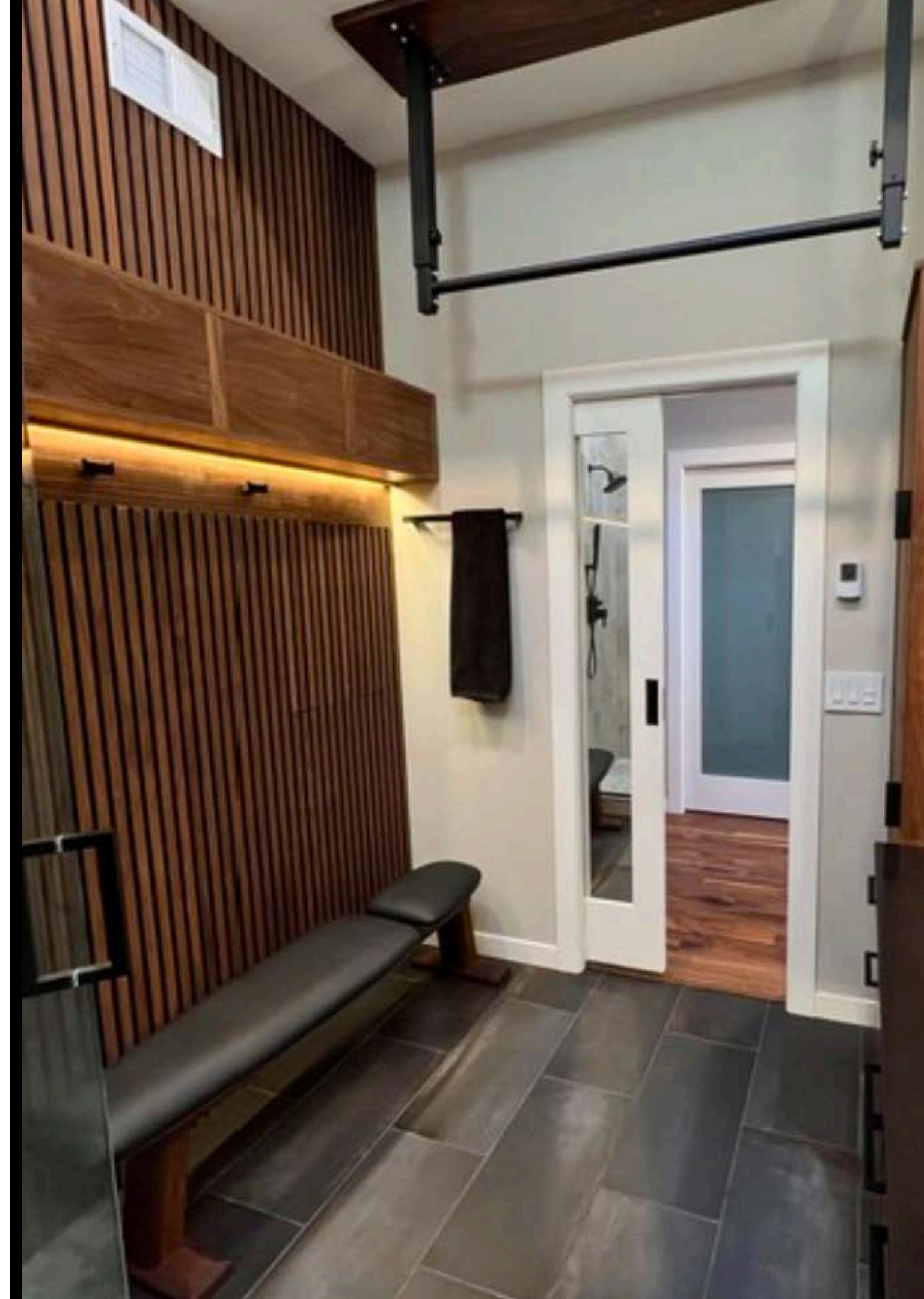
The existing bathroom was old, dated, and rarely used — a cramped tub/shower combo, dated tile, and a single small skylight doing little to lift the room.

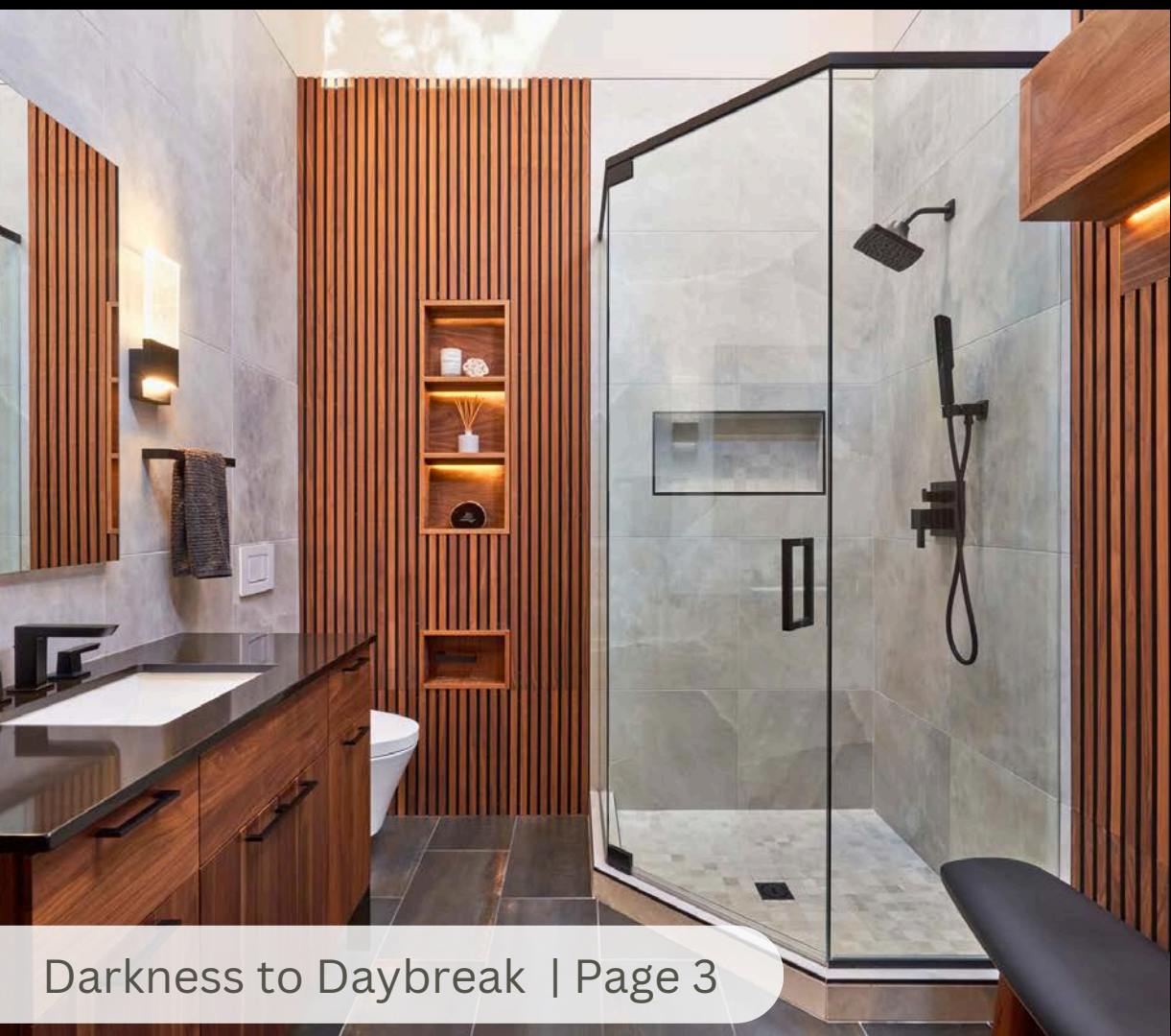
Goal

Create a masculine sanctuary centered around an early-morning ritual of strength training, coffee, and preparation for the work day ahead. Design the space in a way that maximizes efficiency, while allowing reclaimed space for adjoining areas of the home.

Strategy

Rather than expanding, the bathroom footprint shrank—yielding space for a new kitchen pantry. Anchored by dark tile and stone, the space uses a fluted-wood light well to pull daylight deep into the room, optimizing brightness, traffic flow, and overall functionality.





Key Features

Architecture & Layout

Strategic Footprint:

Reduced bathroom size to yield space for a new walk-in kitchen pantry

Natural Lighting: 13'3"

clerestory light well in fluted walnut paneling, pulling daylight deep into the interior

Dual-Function Circulation:

Full-view mirrored pocket door doubling as a workout mirror for the bench area

Fixtures & Finishes

Neo-angle frameless shower with book-matched stone-look tile and a recessed niche

Floating dark stone vanity featuring wall-mounted matte-black fixtures and a backlit mirror

Floor-to-ceiling walnut display niches integrated into a fluted-slat accent wall

Wall-hung smart toilet with integrated bidet functions

Built-in leather bench for stretching, dressing, and morning prep

Plans

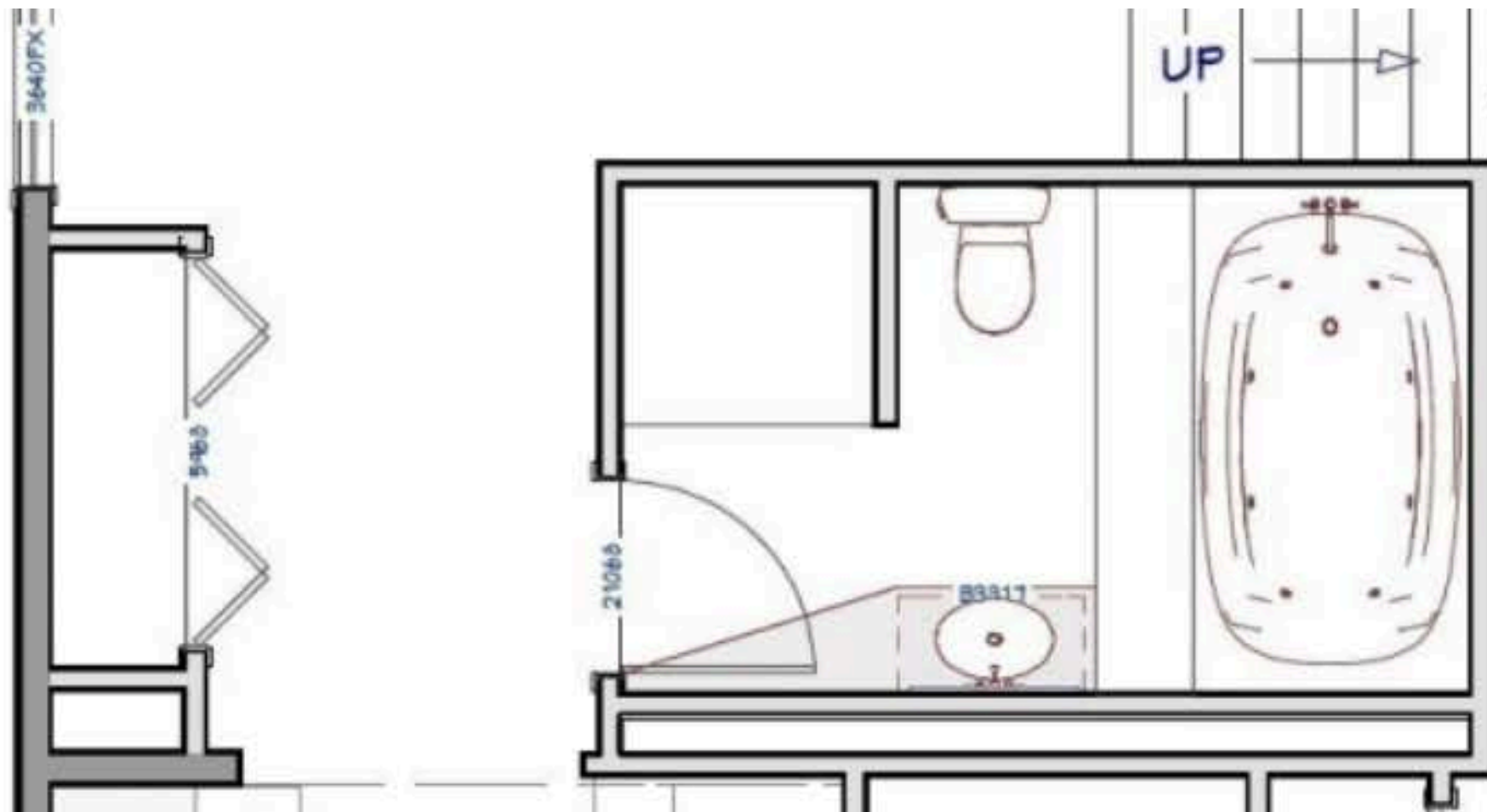
Bathroom, pantry, and hall, showcasing reconfigured layout and new skylights.

The redesign maximizes efficiency by shrinking the bathroom footprint to grant space for a kitchen walk-in pantry.

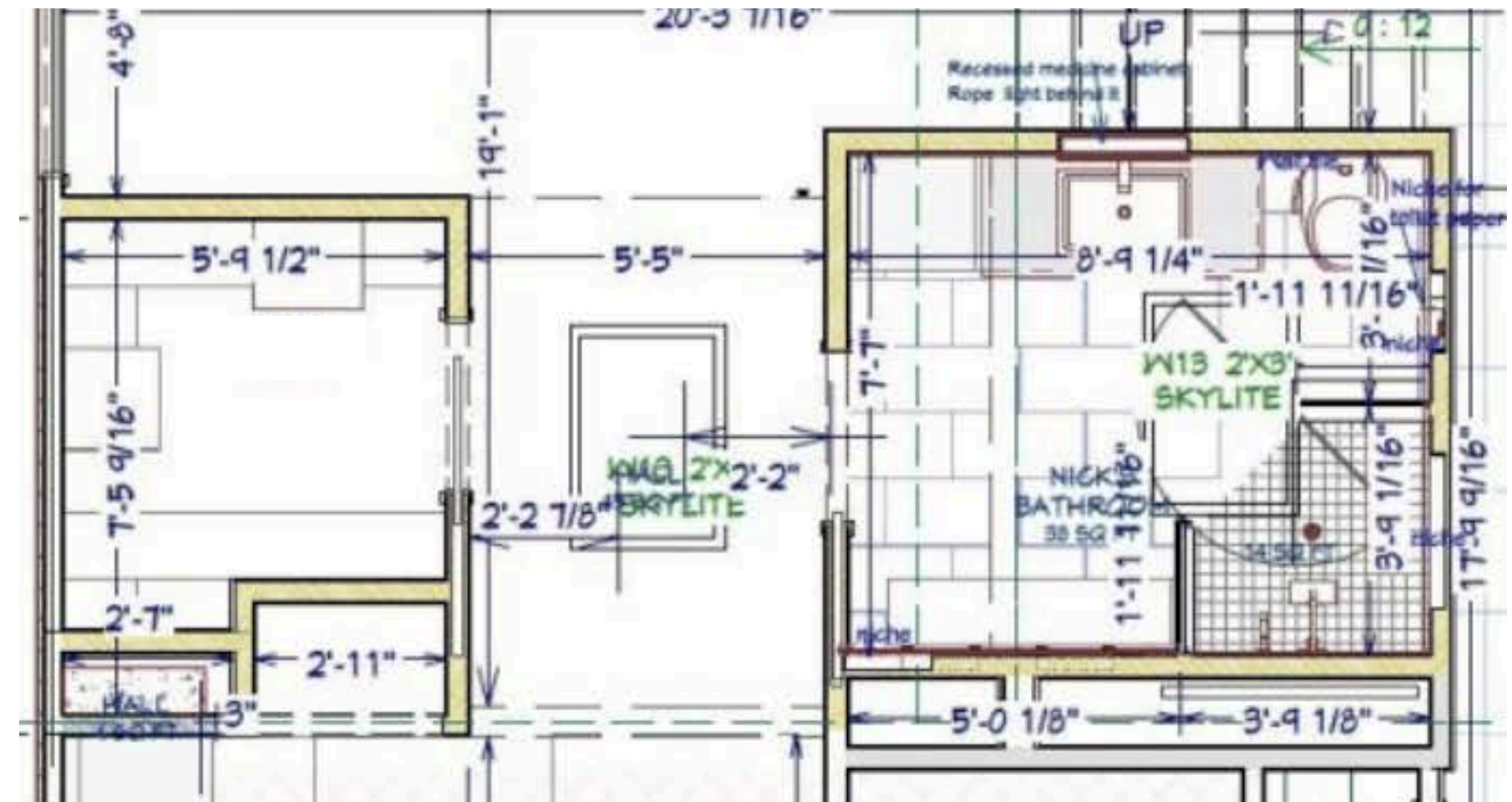
Positioned under a new skylight, the revamped bathroom can fit a neo-angle shower, floating vanity, and prep bench.

These changes allow for a brighter layout with enhanced flow throughout the rest of the home.

As-Built Plans

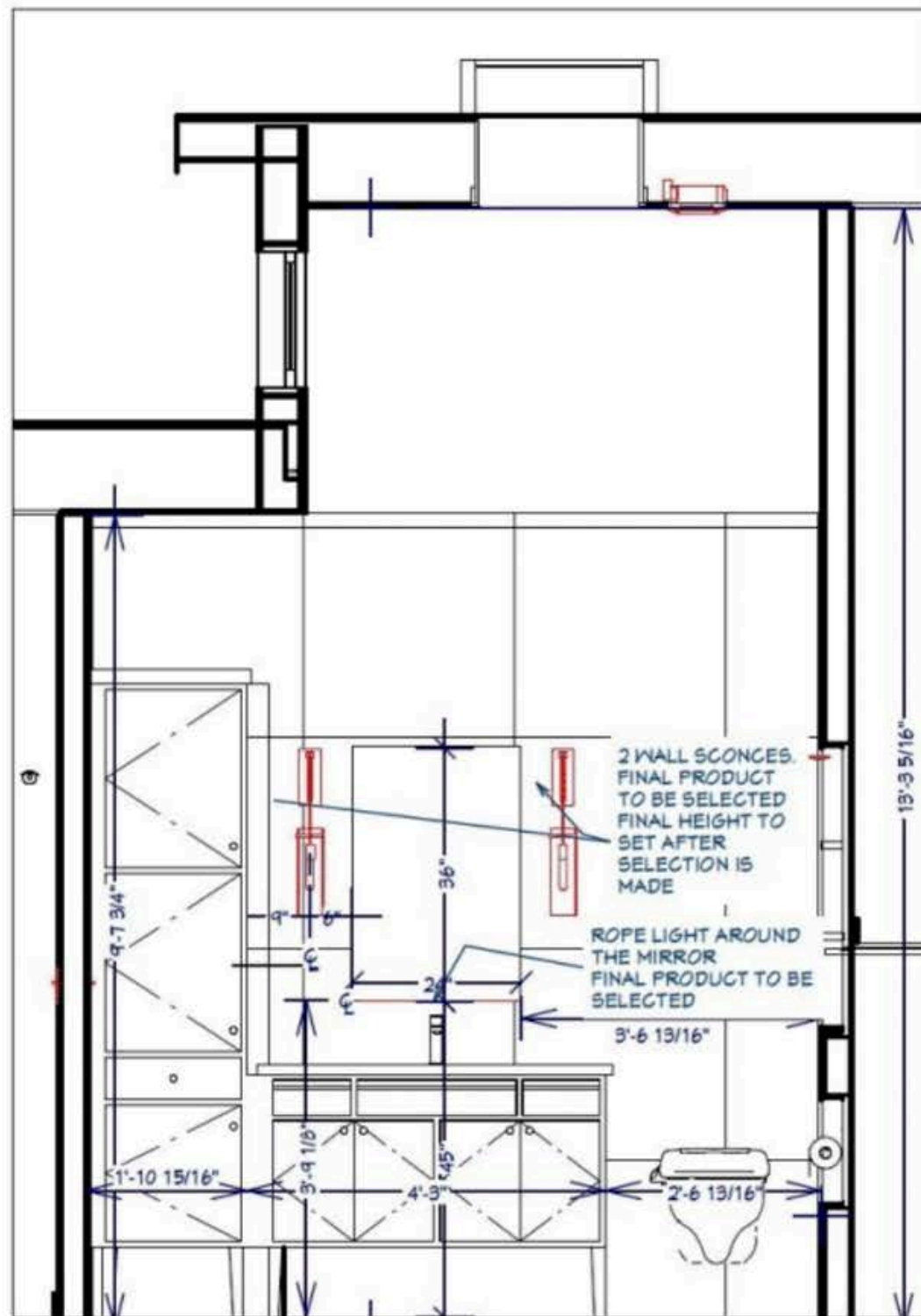


New Plans



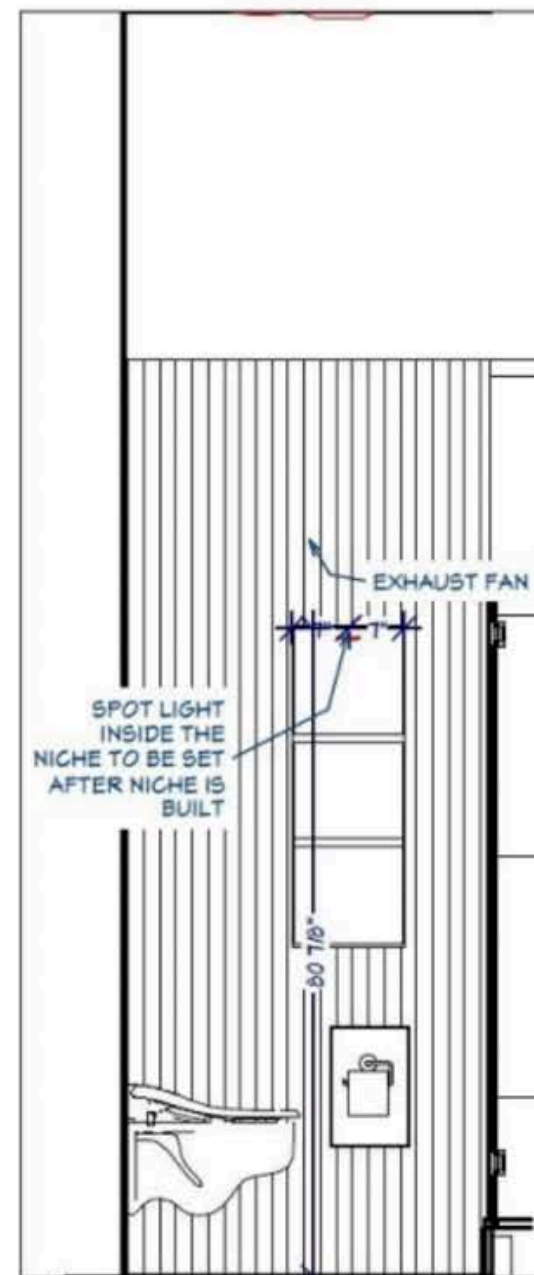
Bathroom/Pantry/Hall As-Built and New Plans (1/4 in = 1 ft)

Interior elevations: vanity wall, niche wall spotlighting, and bench wall with sconce and lighting-callouts.



Bathroom Vanity Wall Elevation

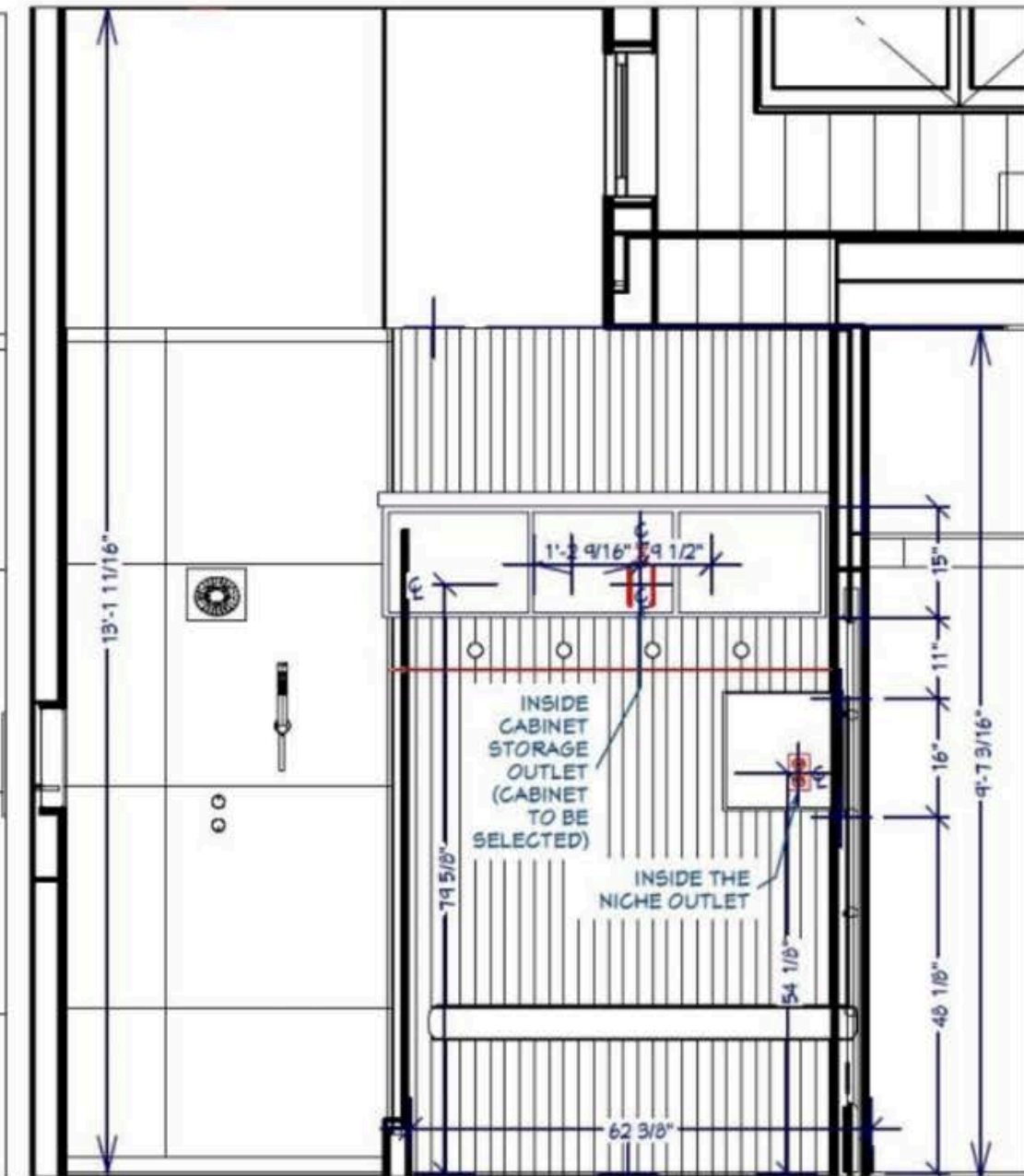
(1/2 in = 1 ft)



Bathroom Niche Wall

Spot light

(1/2 in = 1 ft)

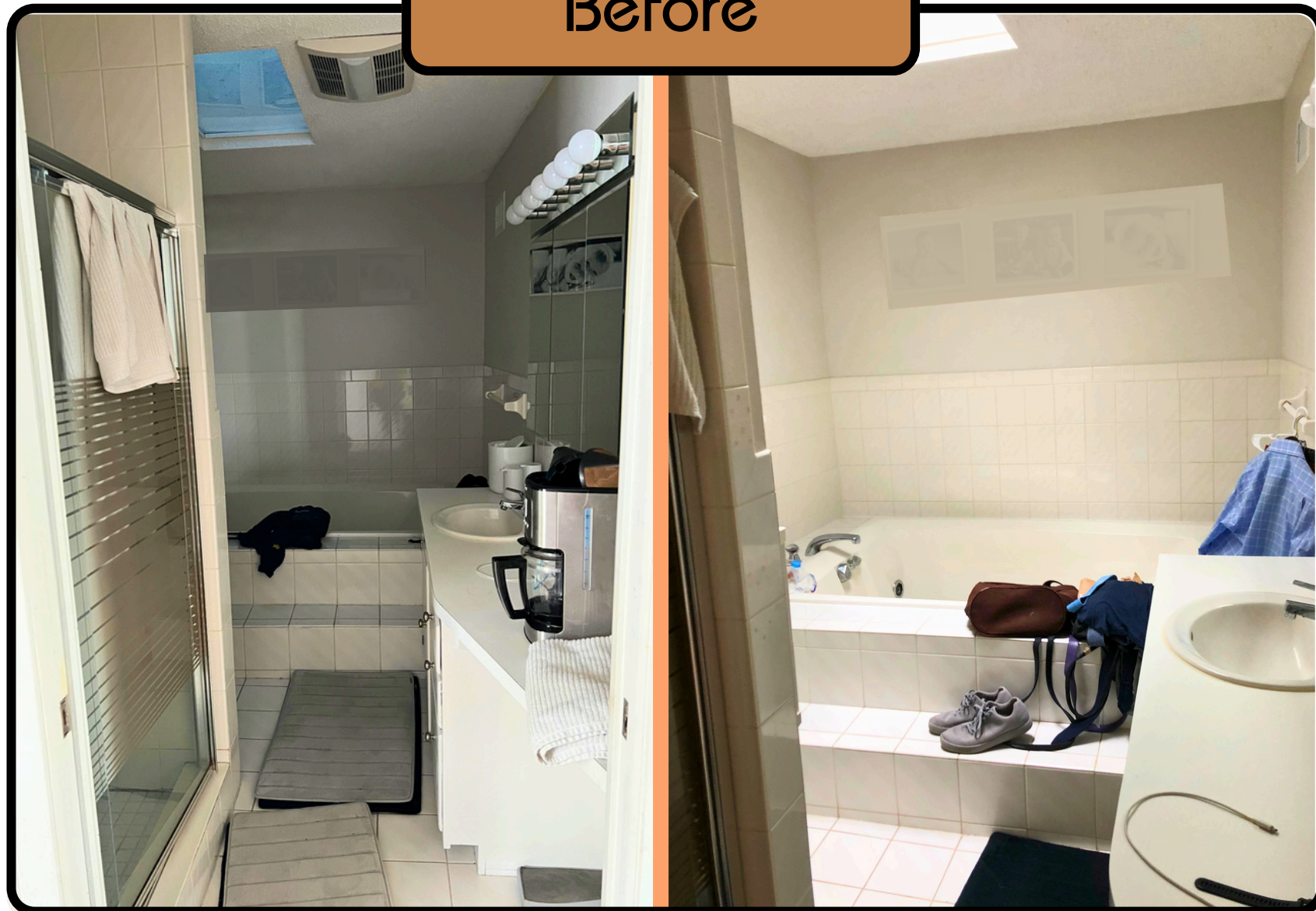


Bathroom Bench Elevation

(1/2 in = 1 ft)

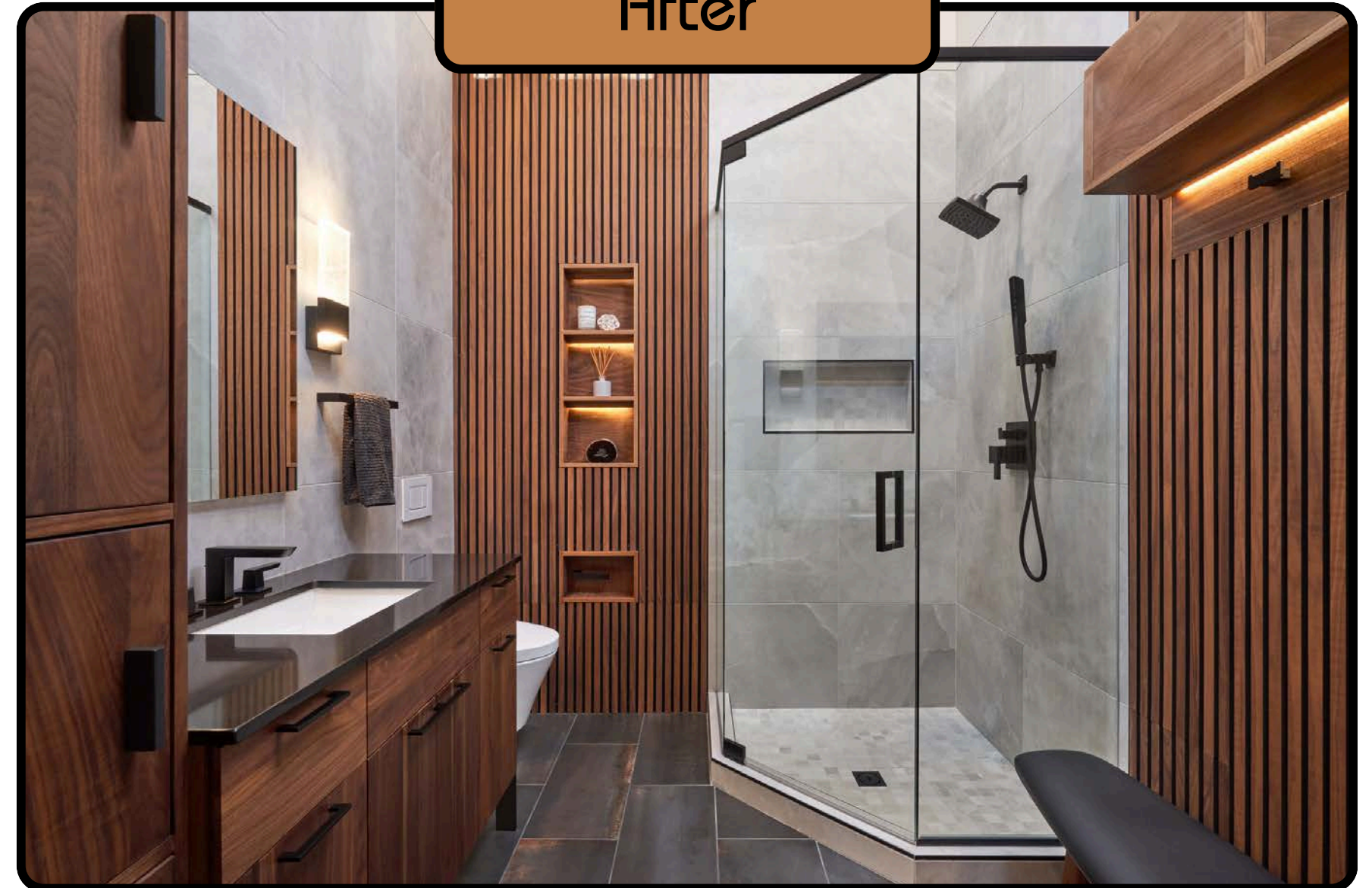
From Pure Utility to Daily Ritual

Before



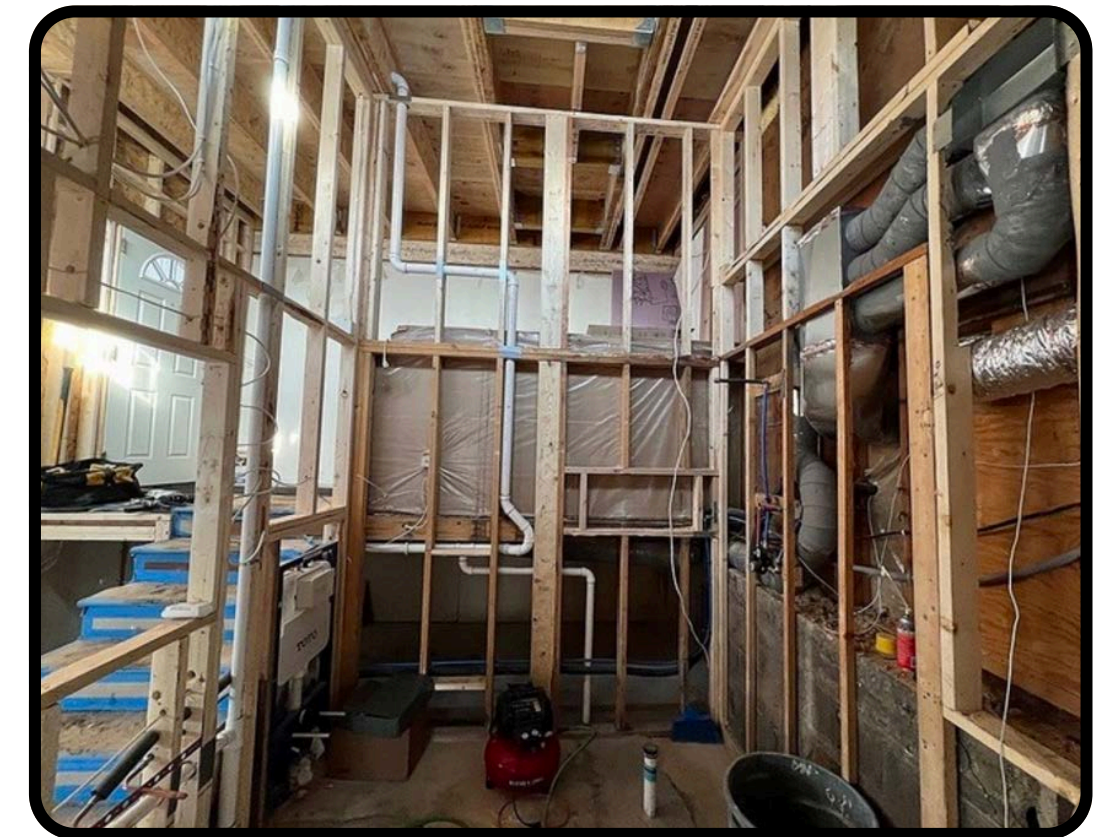
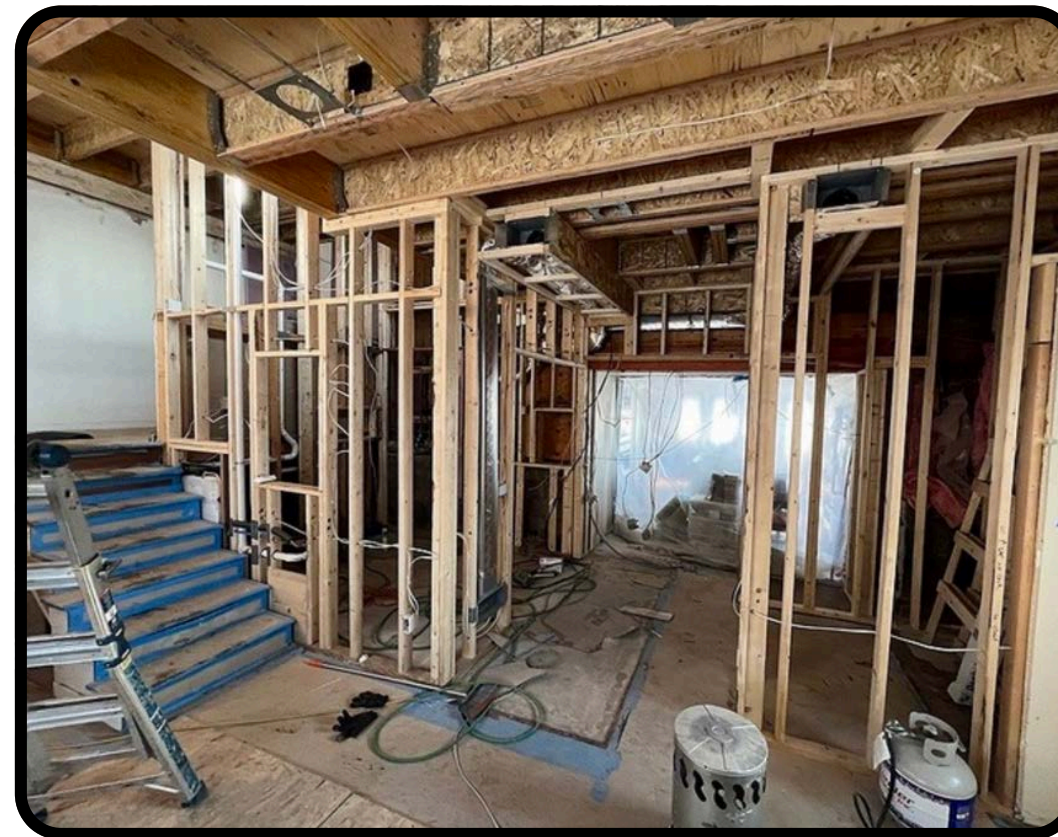
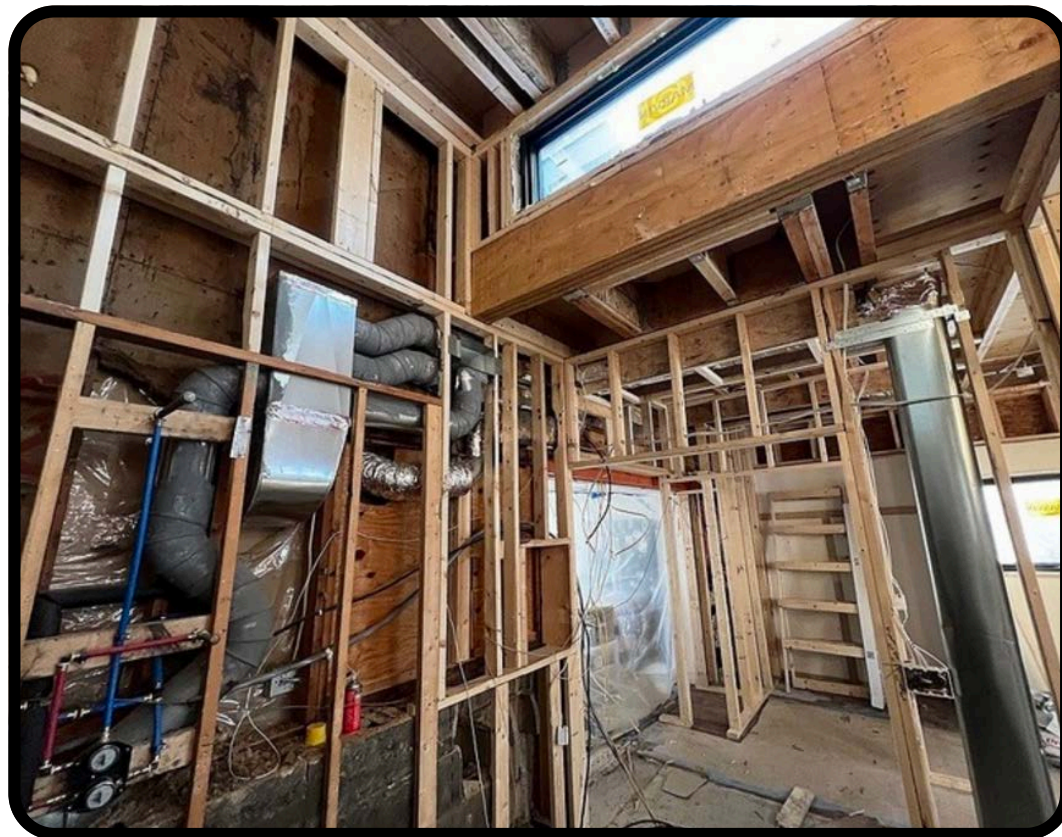
Dated beige tile, a dim skylight, and a cramped vanity made the original bathroom feel claustrophobic and strictly functional. It lacked natural light, offering little invitation to spend time in it.

After



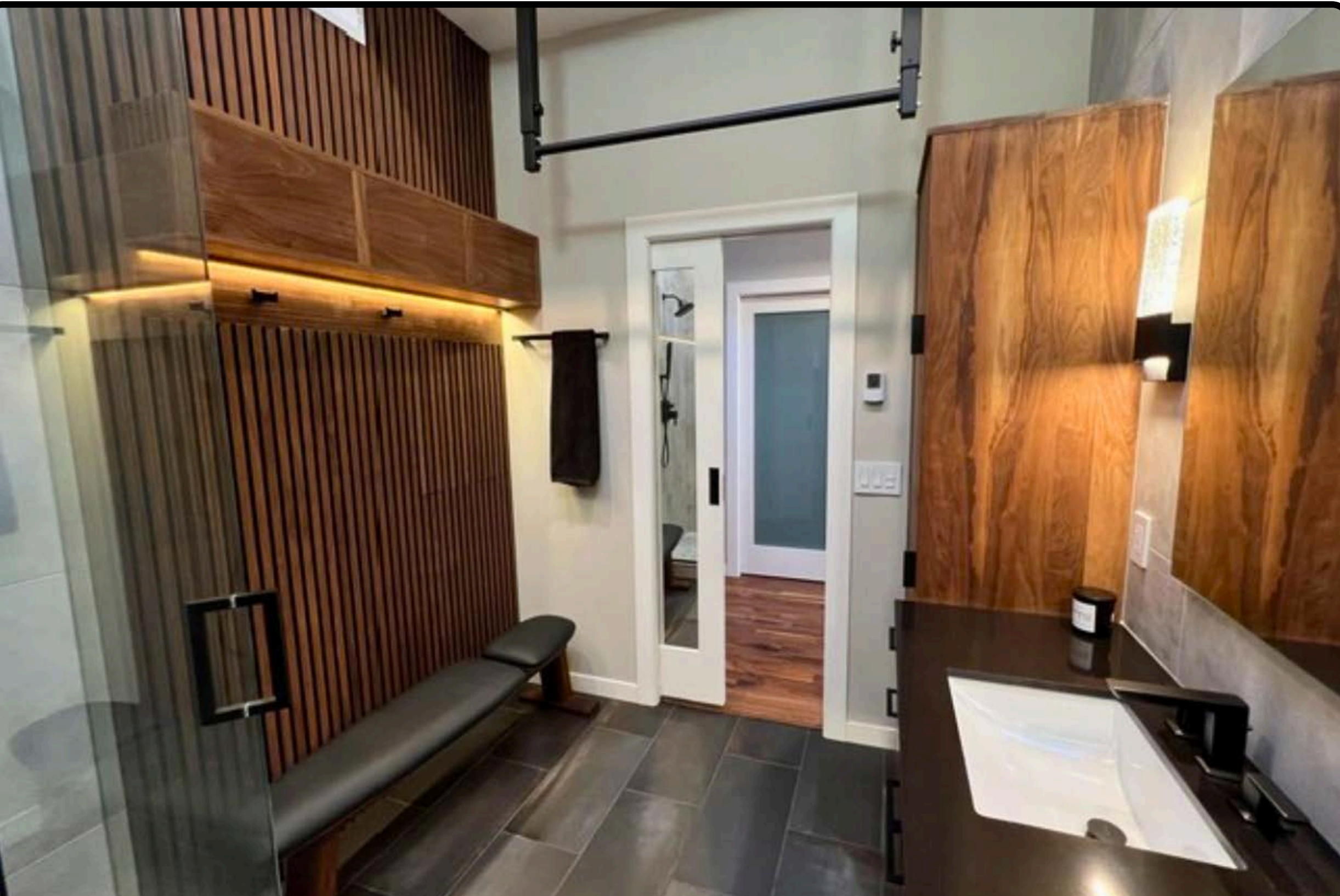
Reimagined as a daily morning sanctuary, the room blends dark stone, a custom leather bench, and a frameless glass shower to create a grounded, masculine vibe, while warm walnut walls guide the eye up to a sun-lit clerestory overhead.

- **Roofline Realignment:** Reaching a 13-ft 3-in ceiling and a clean, contemporary flat-roof profile meant realigning the existing roofline and relocating bearing points that had supported the original structure — work that had to happen without compromising the framing around it.
- **Reworked Drain Lines:** Waste lines were rerouted within a tight gap in the existing framing to accommodate the new fixture layout — plumbing through a space that was never designed to carry it.
- **HVAC & Mechanical Work:** The team reworked the HVAC supply and return runs for the bedroom above and the adjoining rooms, along with a range of other structural and mechanical concerns uncovered once the walls and ceiling were opened up.



Progress photos above showcase the challenges faced with roof framing, plumbing, and mechanical rework.

Accommodates Daily Fitness: Combines open floor space and built-in seating for pre-shower workouts.



Optimizes Workout

Sightlines: Aligns a full-view mirrored pocket door with the bench for instant form feedback.

Solves Spatial Constraints:

Redesigned counter layout and power supply to support both grooming and a morning coffee station.

Aesthetics & Craftsmanship

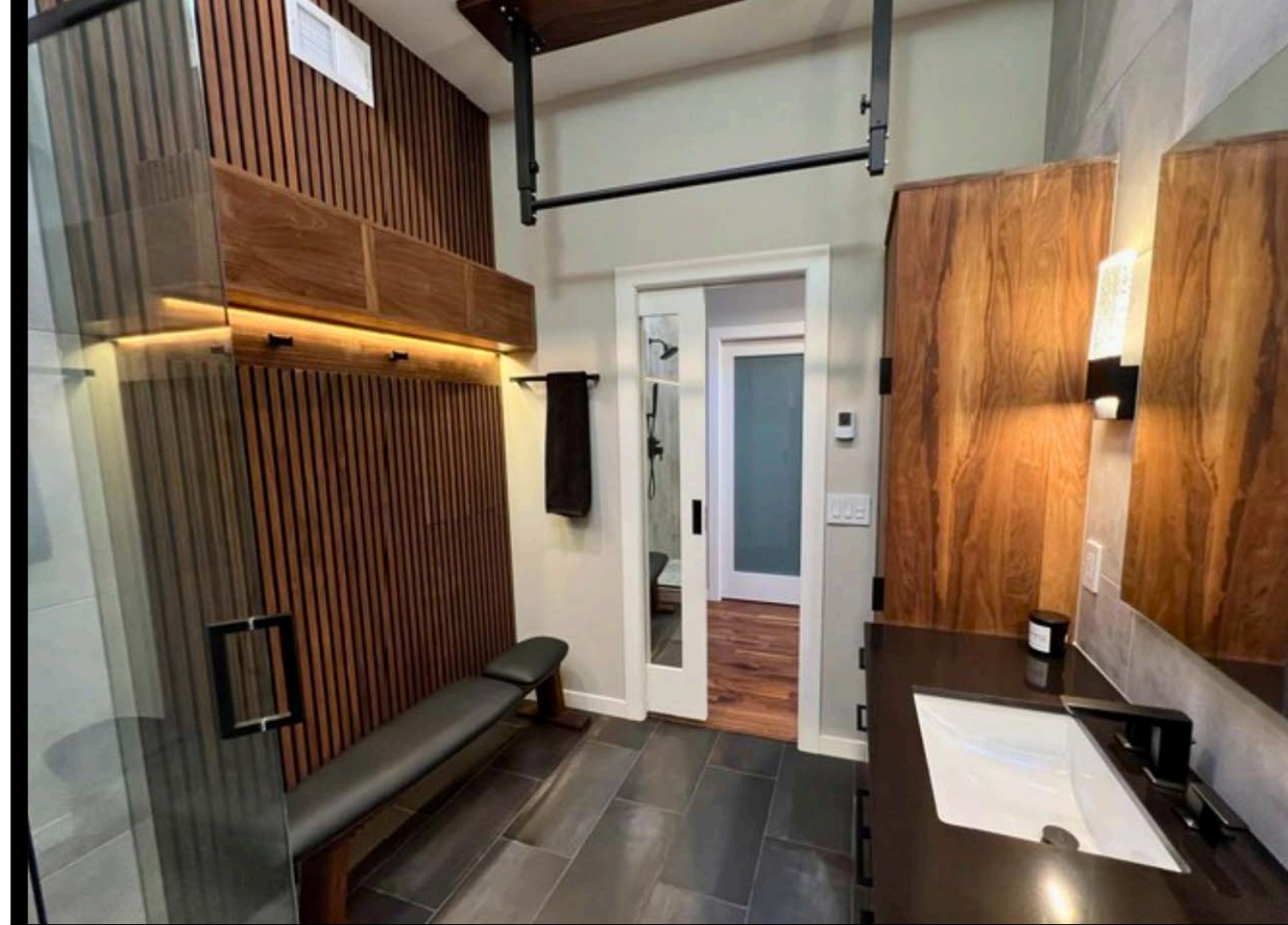
Grounded Material Palette: Dark tile, rich stone, and walnut paneling create a masculine, anchored atmosphere without feeling heavy.

Fluted Wood Light Well: Draws warm walnut tones up into the 13-foot ceiling, bathing the space in natural daylight.

Integrated Backlit Niches: Floor-to-ceiling display niches built seamlessly into the fluted accent wall for ambient warmth.

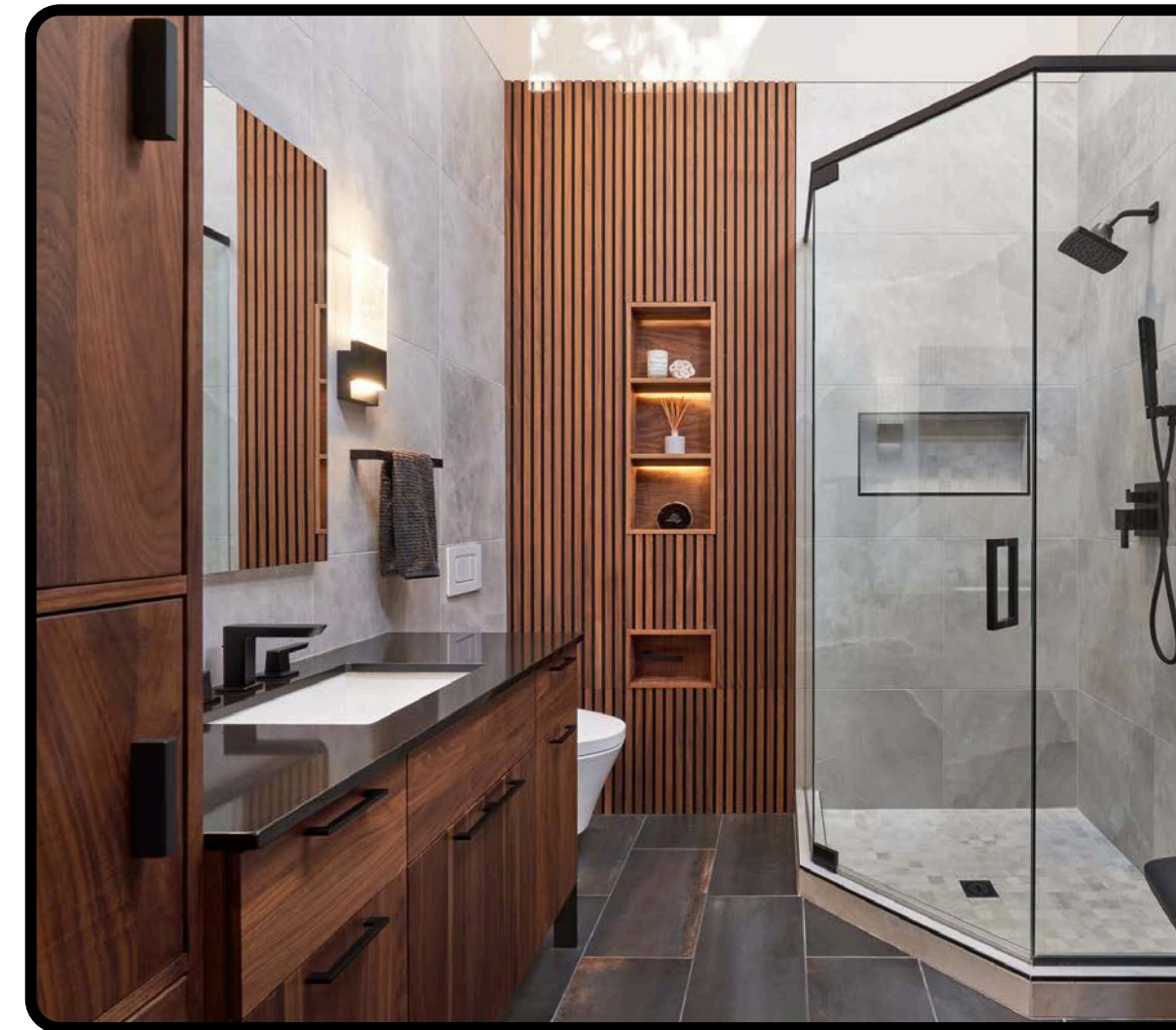
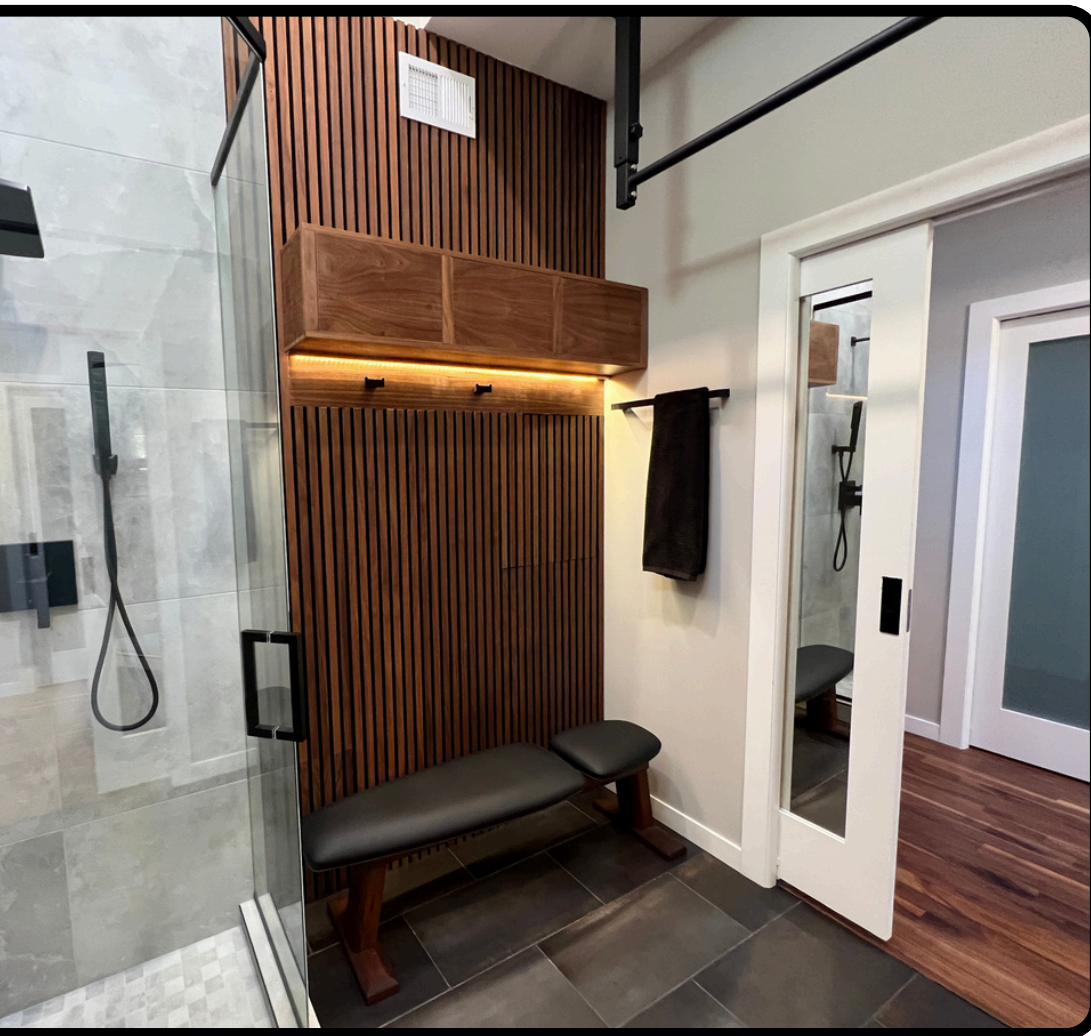
Frameless Glass Enclosure: Neo-angle design wrapped in book-matched stone-look tile, keeping sightlines open and refined.

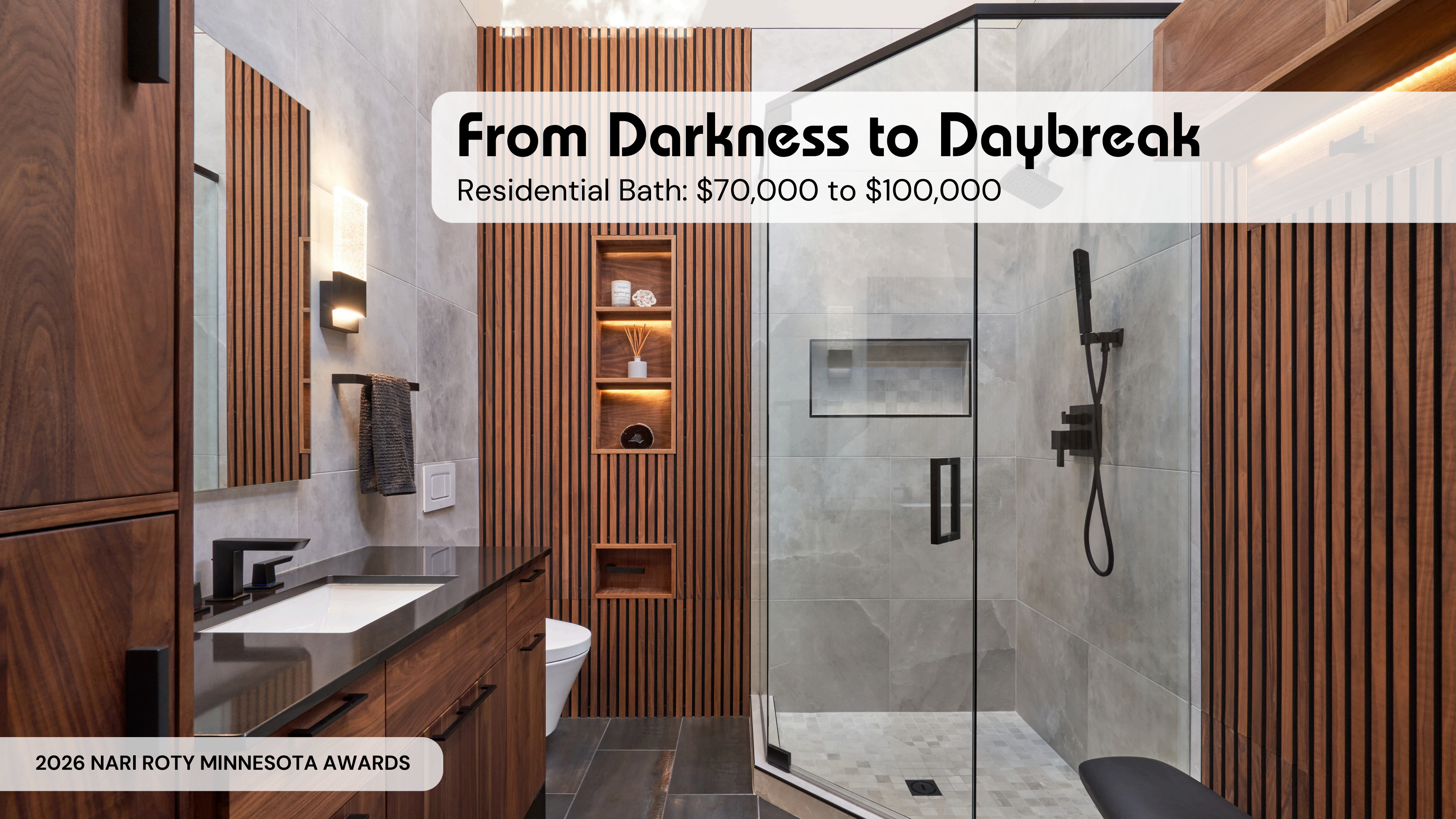
Full-View Mirrored Pocket Door: Serves double duty as a clean architectural element and a full-length workout mirror.



End Results

In the end, our clients received exactly what they wanted: a smaller, more efficient bathroom that gained real functionality — a grounded, masculine ritual space built around movement, coffee, and daylight pouring down through a fluted walnut light well.



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