



LIGHT, RECLAIMED

Residential Bath | \$40,000–\$70,000

A concealed window inspired the transformation

This guest bathroom began with a bulky tub surround that concealed an original exterior window and limited both light and movement. The remodel replaced the tub with a custom shower, reopening the window in its original location and protecting it with a complete Schluter waterproofing system. Obscure glass and a casement sash provide privacy and ventilation. A custom glass door swings from a fixed panel, allowing dry access to the controls. Period-sensitive fixtures, preserved hardwood flooring, and vivid penny-round tile bring renewed character to the compact room while respecting the clients' budget and the home's architecture.



CLIENT NEEDS | Recover light and openness

- **Reveal the hidden window**

Restore the natural light that was visibly missing from the exterior.

- **Improve shower access**

Replace the high-sided tub with an easier step-in shower.

- **Respect the house**

Use period-sensitive fixtures and preserve the existing hardwood floor.

- **Work within constraints**

Keep the window, radiator and exterior opening in their established locations.

- **Control the investment**

Create a distinctive guest bath without unnecessary storage or unlimited spending.

A hidden window changed the design opportunity

Removal of the surround exposed an existing exterior opening behind the tile.



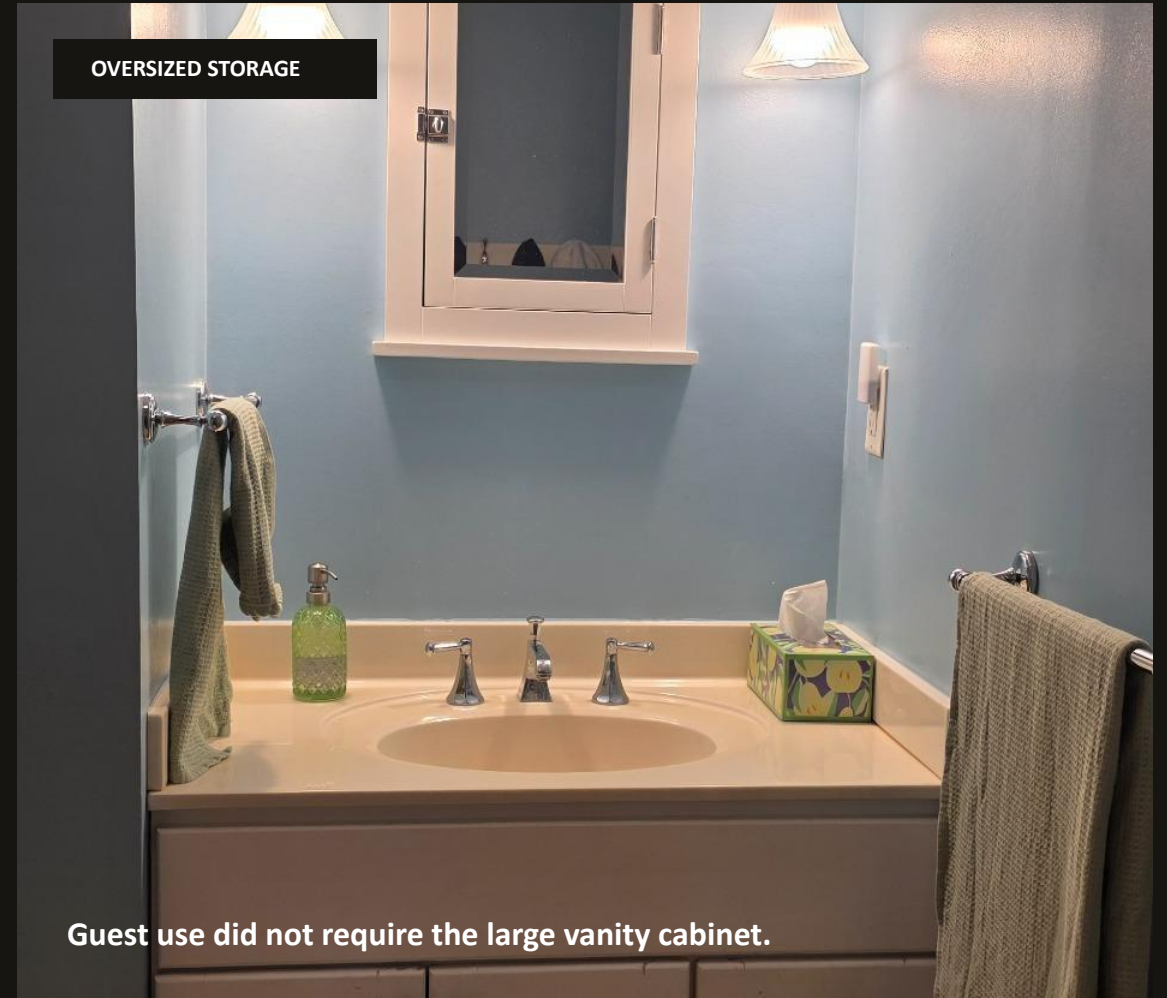
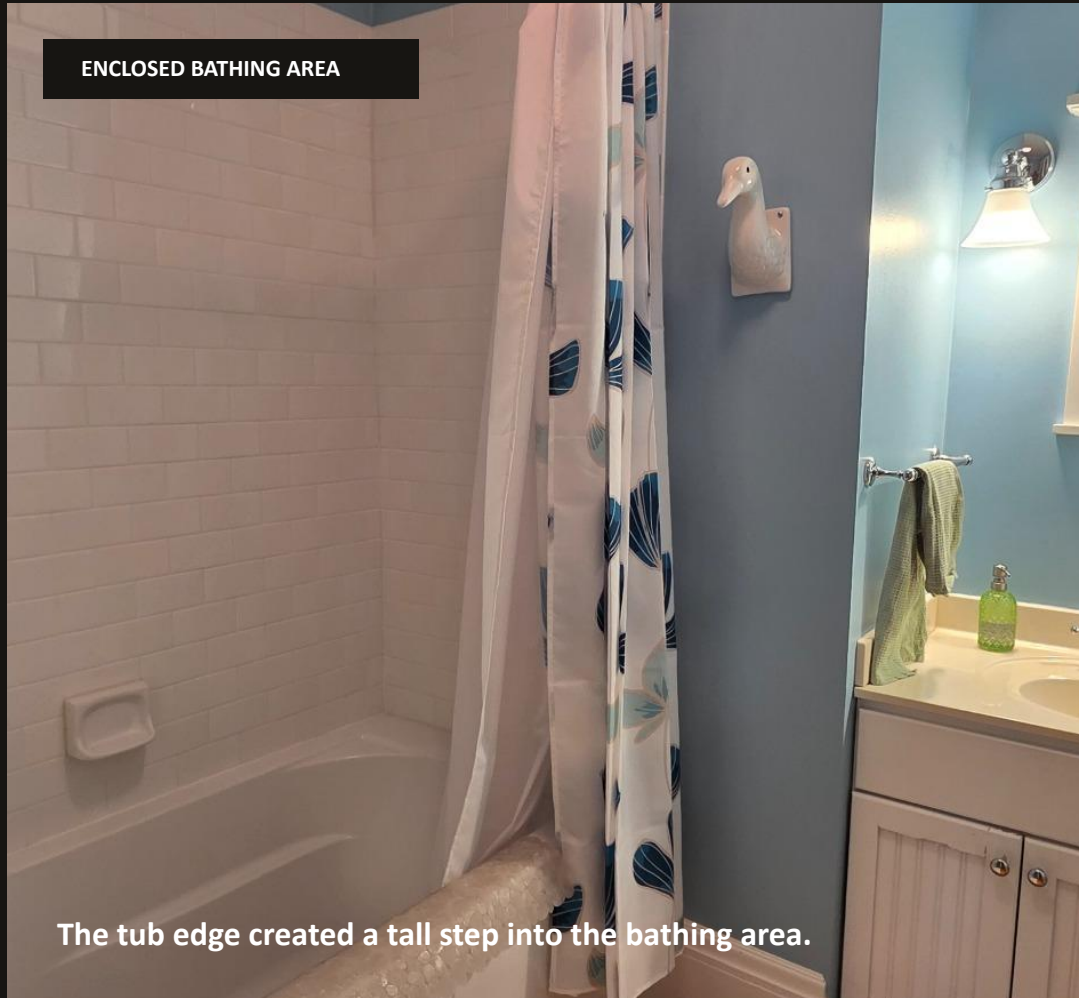
CONCEALED IN PLAIN SIGHT

The discovery became the organizing feature of the new shower.

The opening confirmed what the homeowners could see from outside: a window had been covered during an earlier remodel. Reusing its exact location restored daylight without requiring exterior alteration.

The existing bath concealed its best source of light

A bulky surround, shower curtain and vanity made the narrow room feel enclosed.



The tub surround gave way to a light-filled shower

A custom shower improves access while keeping the historic exterior opening intact.



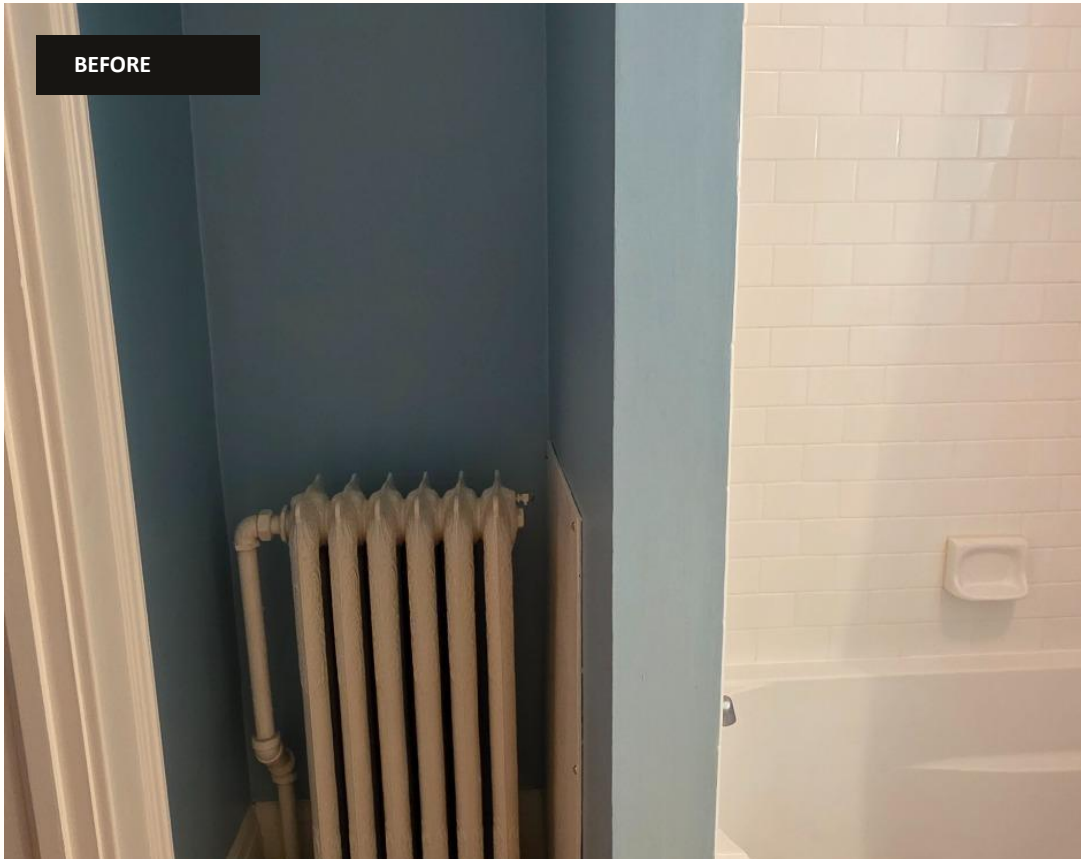
The original tub and curtain blocked the window and narrowed the bathing area.



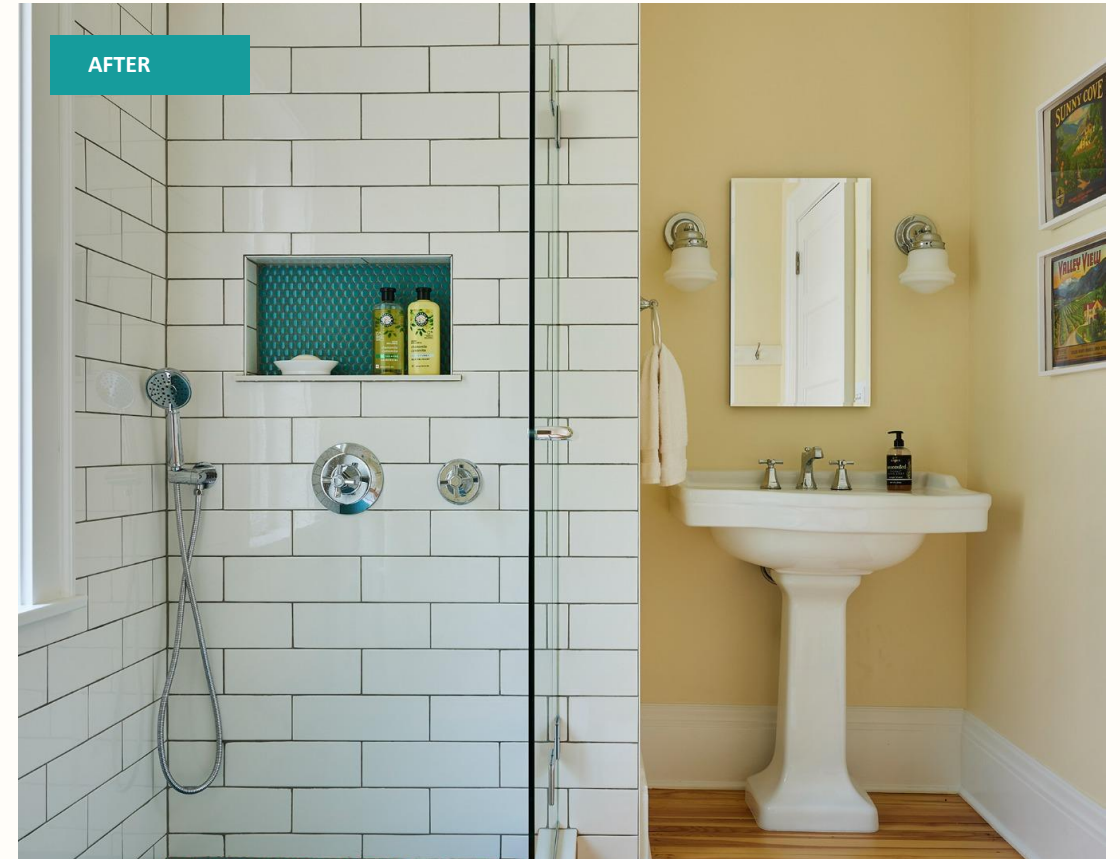
Clear glass and the restored window visually enlarge the room.

The room now feels open from the doorway

Existing hardwood and period-sensitive fixtures preserve the character of the home.



A tub wall and radiator niche fragmented the compact room.



A pedestal sink and open glass enclosure reduce visual bulk.

AESTHETICS | Light, color and contrast create balance

The restored window anchors a composition that feels appropriate to the house.



- **Rhythm and continuity**

White subway tile, dark grout and rectangular window muntins establish a consistent grid.

- **Color and contrast**

Turquoise penny rounds energize the shower floor and niche against warm yellow walls.

- **Visual balance**

The shower and pedestal sink share the wall without crowding the narrow room.

- **Open character**

Clear glass keeps sightlines intact and allows daylight to travel through the space.

FUNCTIONALITY | Every change serves daily use

The compact guest bath gains safer access, privacy, ventilation and useful light.



- **Easier entry**

The custom shower curb is substantially easier to cross than the former tub wall.

- **Dry control access**

The door can be opened while the valve is reached from outside the spray zone.

- **Privacy with ventilation**

Obscure glass allows the casement window to open a few inches discreetly.

- **Appropriate storage**

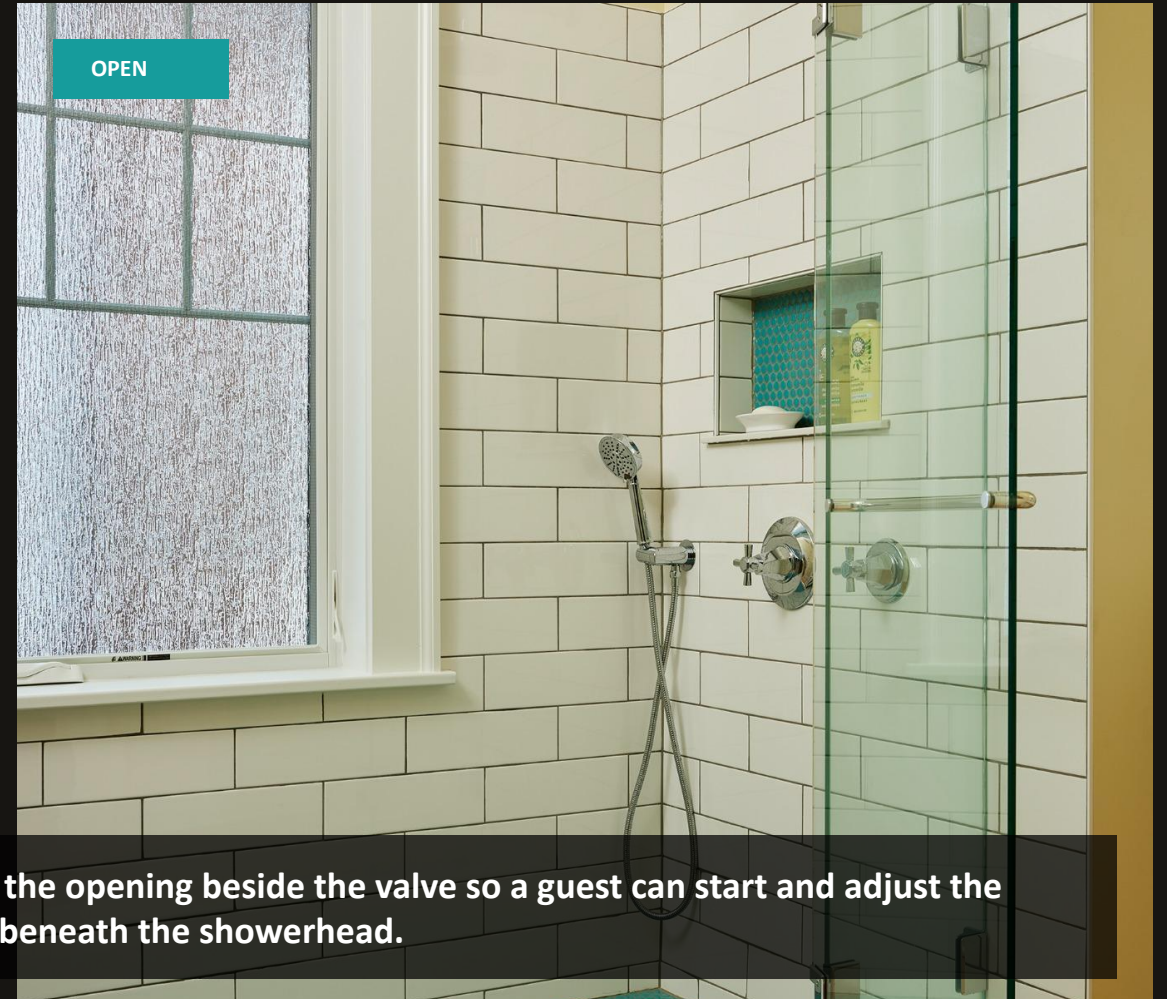
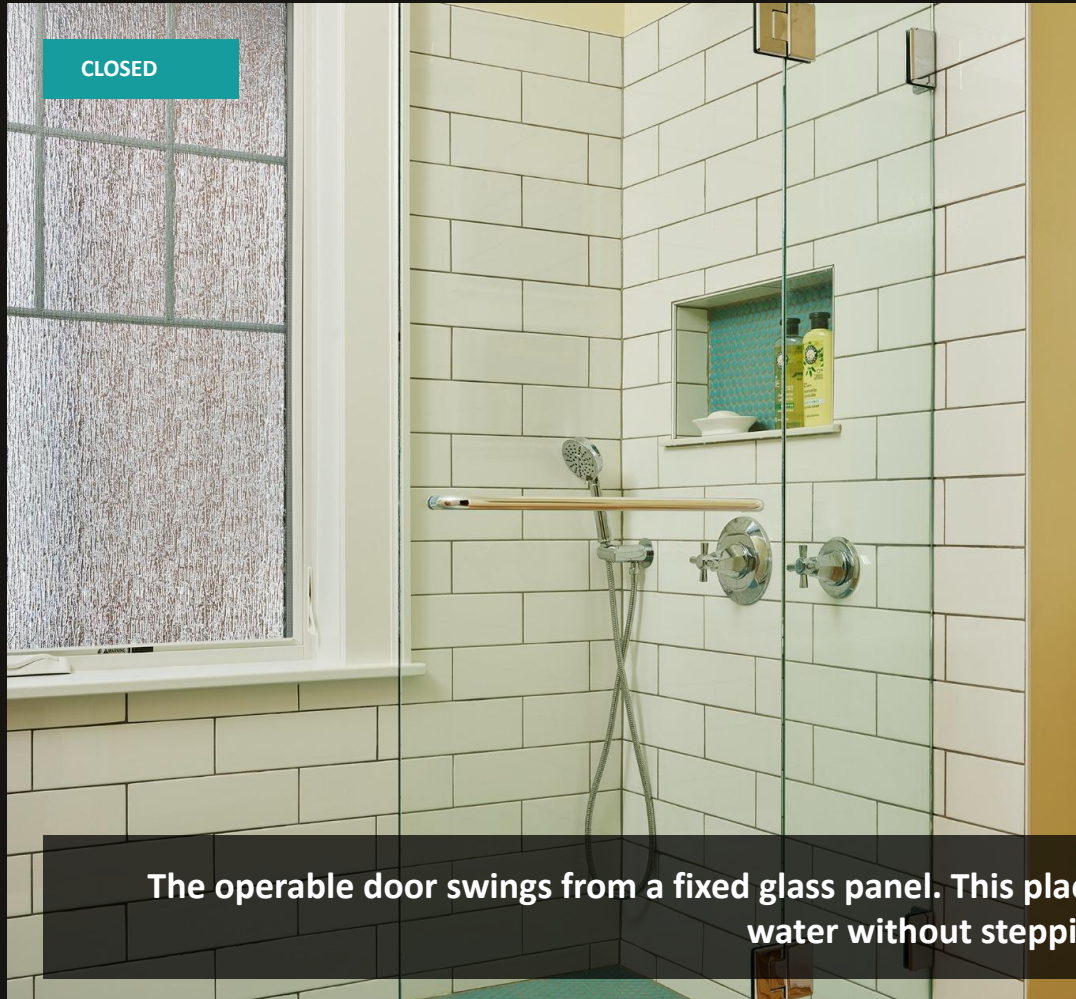
A pedestal sink replaces cabinetry the homeowners did not need in a guest bath.

- **Preserved surfaces**

The surrounding hardwood flooring and radiator location remain intact.

INNOVATION | The glass door solves an everyday problem

A custom hinge arrangement improves access to the shower controls.



The operable door swings from a fixed glass panel. This places the opening beside the valve so a guest can start and adjust the water without stepping beneath the showerhead.

CRAFTSMANSHIP | A window inside the wet zone

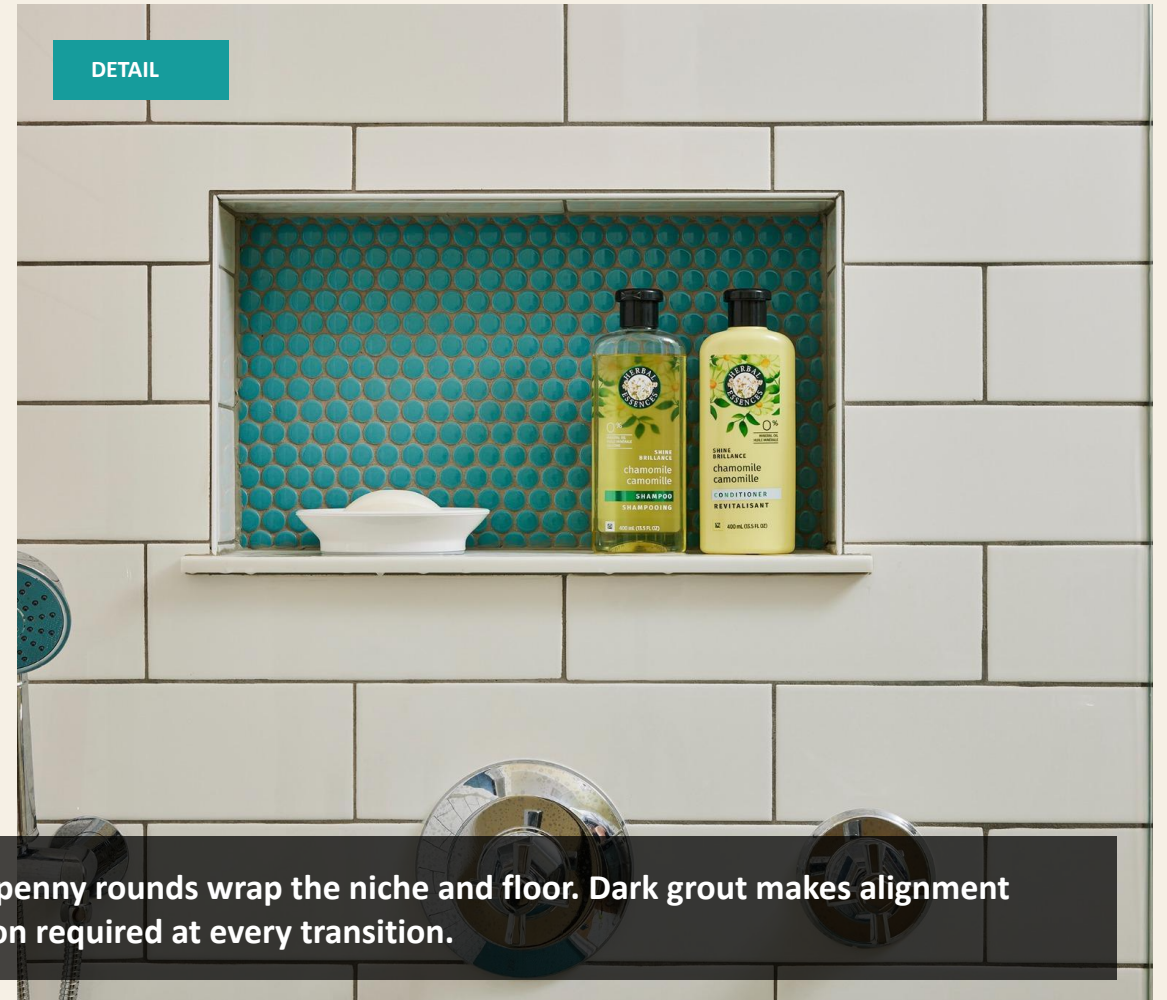
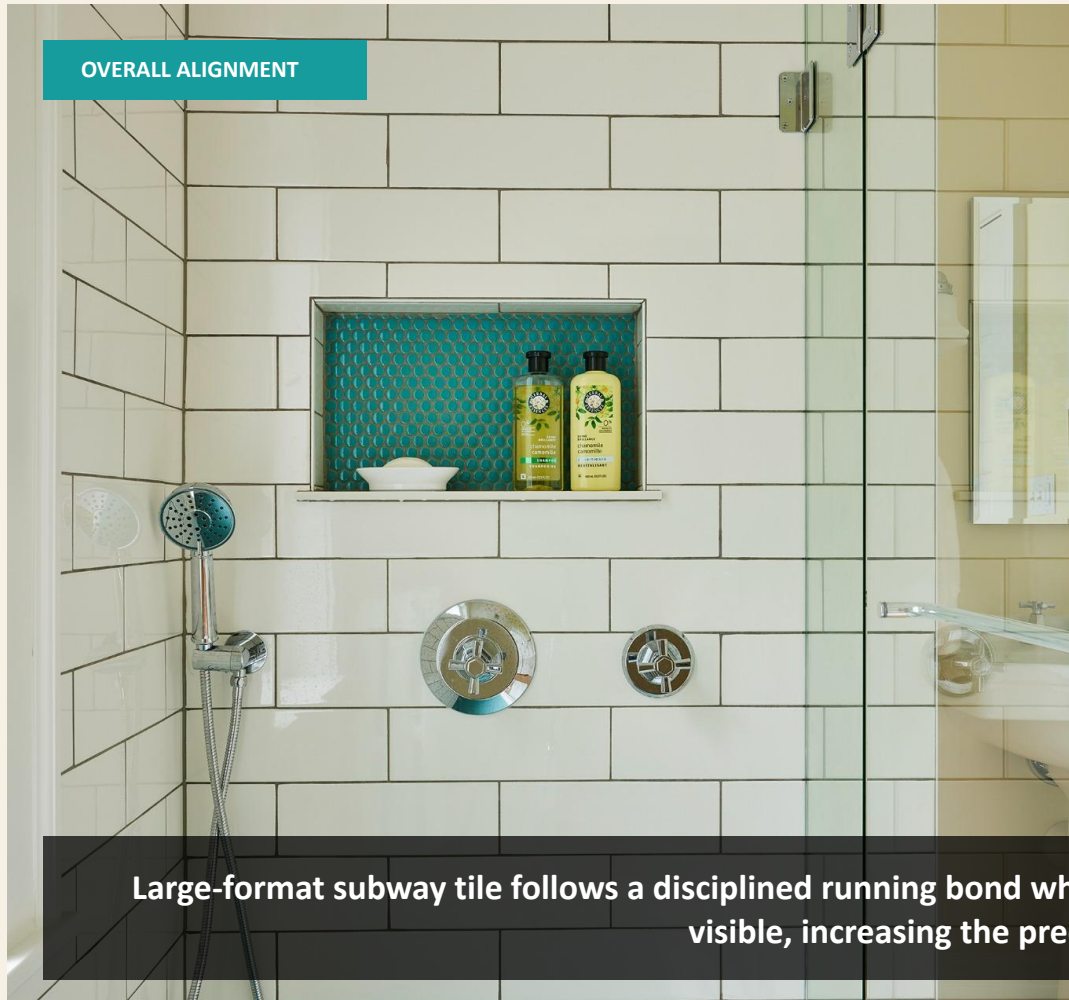
Careful waterproofing allows the original opening to become a practical shower feature.



- **Complete waterproofing**
The Schluter system extends through the window area to protect a demanding transition.
- **Purpose-built window**
A vinyl casement unit resists moisture and fits the existing exterior opening.
- **Privacy considered**
Obscure glazing maintains privacy even when the sash is opened slightly.
- **Water managed**
Fixture placement and shower head angle reduce direct spray at the window.

CRAFTSMANSHIP | Precise tilework carries the design

Two formats meet cleanly across the shower floor, niche, corners and glass edges.



Large-format subway tile follows a disciplined running bond while penny rounds wrap the niche and floor. Dark grout makes alignment visible, increasing the precision required at every transition.

INNOVATION | Constraints became design assets

The solution works within the home instead of forcing unnecessary exterior or structural changes.

- **Existing opening reused**

The new window occupies the original location, avoiding exterior reconstruction.

- **Wet-zone window protected**

Layered waterproofing resolves the difficult intersection of tile, framing and operable sash.

- **Glass engineered for access**

A fixed panel carries the swinging door and positions the opening beside the controls.

- **Budget directed strategically**

The design exchanges unneeded vanity storage for a period-appropriate pedestal sink.

- **Historic materials retained**

Hardwood flooring and the radiator remain part of the finished room.

CLIENT NEEDS MET | The missing light returned

The guest bath now feels open, memorable and at home in its architecture.



THE CLIENTS GAINED

- ✓ Natural light and ventilation
- ✓ An easier step into the shower
- ✓ Privacy within the window
- ✓ A period-sensitive pedestal sink
- ✓ Preserved hardwood and radiator
- ✓ A vivid, joyful tile focal point

A covered window became the feature that defines the room.