

By Susan Bady, Senior Contributing Editor

Around the middle of September 2012, Tenhulzen Residential of Bellevue, Wash., received a call from former clients about updating their master bathroom. “We hate it—we’ve always hated it,” the couple told Mike Tenhulzen. The empty nesters wanted to remake the space in a way that would be appropriate for their current lifestyle as well as whatever the future may hold.

The two-story home in Bellevue had been built in the 1970s. Tenhulzen remodeled the kitchen in the early 1990s. “The house is fairly unique in that it was built using an Asian technique,” he says. “It’s a timberframe, octagonal structure supported between floors by beams that are at 30-degree angles to each other and zigzag across the ceiling. On top of the beams is car decking for the floor above. It’s not standard construction — there’s no diaphragm between ceiling, drywall, and floor.”

The master suite is on the second floor. Prior to the remodel, there was a hall bath adjacent to the master bath, and two additional bedrooms at the opposite end of the house. Because of the home’s octagonal shape, the clients had two options: leave the rooms in their existing locations, or expand the master bath on a platform so the plumbing fixtures could be relocated. They chose the second option.

Since their adult children come home to visit regularly, the clients decided to make the two secondary bedrooms more guest-friendly. They repositioned the hall bath between bedrooms 1 and 2 in a Jack-and-Jill arrangement with two doors. In addition, they chose to enlarge and remodel the master closet. Tenhulzen designer Stephanie Lofquist worked with the couple to achieve their goals and ultimately exceed their expectations.

Stepping it Up

The existing master bath had fluorescent lighting over the vanity capping a three-quarter-height wall that doubled as a headboard for the master bedroom. The primary goals for the remodel were to improve lighting and storage while including a Japanese soaking tub as well as an oversized shower, double vanity, and water closet. The existing wall above the back wall of the shower was left intact

Tenhulzen Residential raised the floor of the existing master bath to accommodate the structure and drainage of a Japanese soaking tub (opposite). Both spouses can use the rectangular sink. The trellis over the shower (right) reflects the Asian motif of the main floor living room.



COMPANY SNAPSHOT

COMPANY: Tenhulzen Residential
 OWNERS: Michael Tenhulzen, Director; Traci Tenhulzen, Executive Producer
 LOCATION: Bellevue, Wash.
 2013 SALES VOLUME: \$2.3 million
 PROJECTED 2014 SALES VOLUME: \$3 million
 WEBSITE: www.tenhulzen.com