

## BARN BATHROOM

### The Vision

Jennifer Altier had worked on home projects before, but never an undertaking as involved as designing an entire master bathroom. The home she shares with her husband, Rick, had been a horse barn, circa 1860, which made it all the more difficult.

Altier wanted to keep the space authentic to the barn by using old wood from an outbuilding on the property. Yet she wanted it to be modern and serene as well.

### The Challenge

The area where the master bath is now was originally a small, dark powder room off a great room. When they turned the great room into their bedroom, they gutted the powder room with a plan to take use part of the garage to create the master bathroom and a large walk-in closet.

The first challenge would be to remove the cement garage floor. The second was unexpected: Jennifer discovered that the wood she wanted to repurpose was just too rotted out.

### The Approach

Removing the cement floor took a week, and heavy equipment.

For materials, Altier headed to Pioneer Millworks in Farmington for reclaimed wood. Contractors Trevor Huls and Seth Thomas from Honeoye cleaned and planed each piece.

Altier stained all the wood herself. She wanted a color palette of gray, white and off-whites. "But every

piece of wood took the stain the way it wanted to," she says. Brown and orange hues came through along with the gray. So she made a rug from multi-colored pieces of leather to bring out all the colors of the wood.

For a contemporary look, Huls and Thomas placed the boards horizontally. The wood "boxes in" the large bathtub and the vanity's edge.

It was important to Altier to see and touch all the materials she'd be using. She worked with Debra O'Connor at Concept II in East Rochester to choose tile.

"We found two different wood-look porcelain tiles for the floor and walls of the shower and used a solid surface material for the shower curb, shelf and bench," O'Connor says. "Although a tile-top vanity is unusual, it's a great choice with a vessel sink that sits up above the counter."

Most important, Altier says she "fell in love with the tile, and just had to use it."

Still, says Altier, "It was nerve-wracking right up until the end to see if it would come together."

### The Result

Vertical lights on the mirror behind the vanity add good task lighting, and three casement windows bring in natural light. They're framed in rough-cut wood and stained white so some grain shows through. For privacy, the windows are covered in a translucent film.

"Everyone wondered how this was all going to work," says Jennifer. "The contractors made every step and every decision easy. Everything worked out—despite me."



Angled wood beams along the ceiling have lights on top, reflecting upward. A tile-top vanity is unusual but, according to the designer, works well with a vessel sink because it sits on top of the surface. The rug, made by the homeowner, wasn't planned, but when she stained the reclaimed wood, additional colors came out; the rug incorporates all of them, helping to tie the room together.

*A dreary kitchen reborn >*