

BATH OF THE MONTH

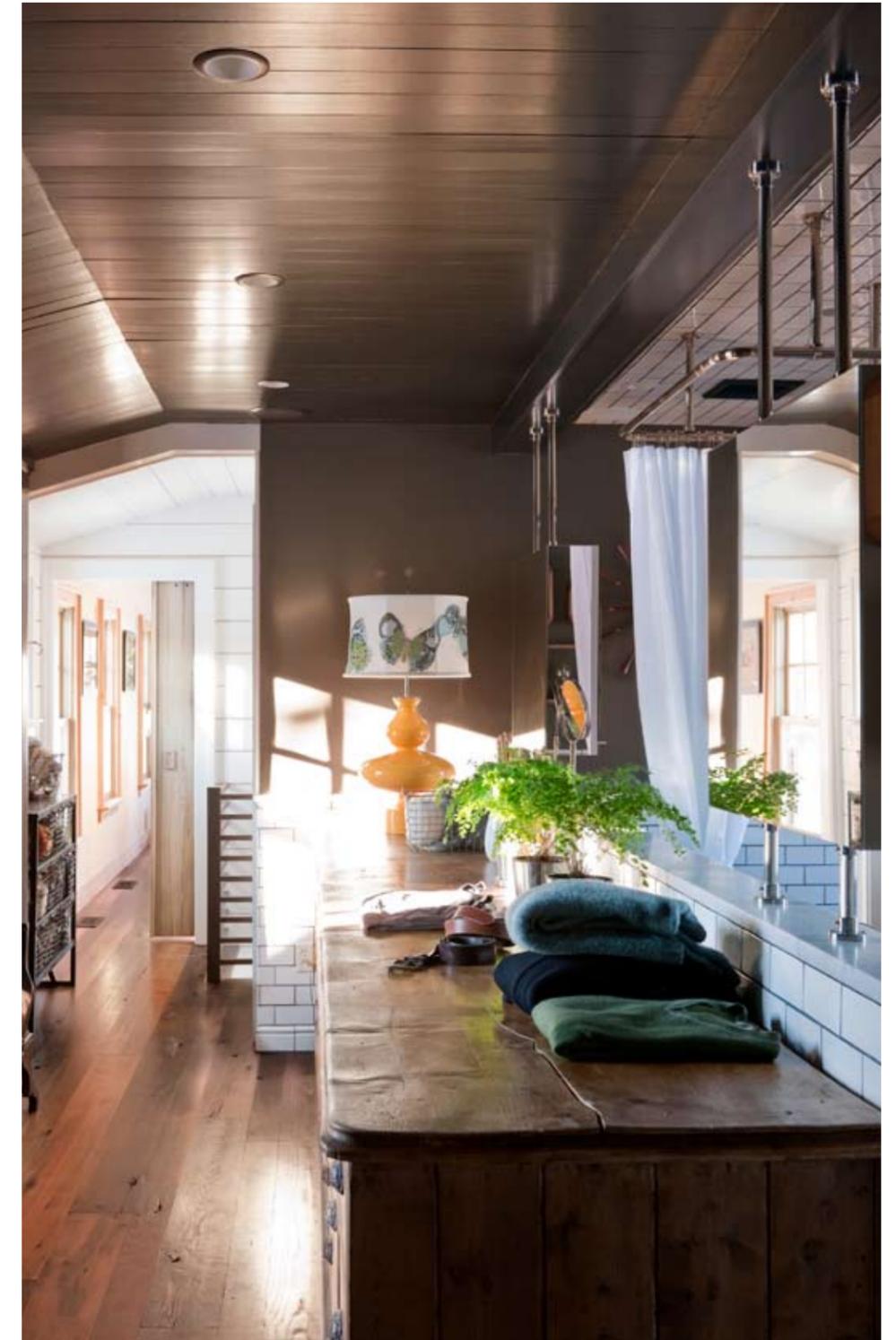
Bathroom by DAN RUHLAND

TEWKSBURY, NEW JERSEY

An attic room is ingeniously transformed into a gentleman's bath and dressing room.

Interview by MIMI READ

Photographs by JAMES MERRELL



BELOW LEFT: To divide his master bathroom into bath and dressing areas, designer Dan Ruhland built a half-wall tiled in Cotto subway tile. Medicine cabinets are hung over Lacava Aquagrande wall-mounted porcelain and stainless-steel sinks. The shower curtain is suspended on Strom's shower pan enclosure; it can be pulled around the Carrara basin or pushed aside with tiebacks. BELOW: The dressing area's centerpiece is a 13-foot-long antique counter with 24 drawers—dream storage for two.

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MIMI READ: *Why is there a low wall running straight down the middle of your bathroom?*

DAN RUHLAND: This bath used to be a really weird sitting room. It's on the second floor of our New Jersey farmhouse and it's oddly shaped, with eaves that cut into usable space. Because it's next to the master bedroom, my partner and I decided to turn it into the master bath. We wanted to divide it into a bathroom side and a dressing room side, but rather than build a wall and close in the space even more, we put up a half-wall and tiled it.

Well, you've been wildly inventive. You even hung medicine cabinets from the ceiling!

Well, we had no wall space. So we found a way to use the shower rod system to hang them. Then we glued mirrors to the backs, so they're mirrored on both sides.

You've used industrial-looking fittings and modern sinks. Yet it's got an old-fashioned, gentlemanly aspect, too.

I wanted it to be contemporary, but with an old-world solidity. The tile is hand-molded ceramic with a slight wave to it. It reminds me of bathrooms in Newport mansions. The floors are reclaimed river oak; the wood was submerged for 100 years and has such richness.

Who chose the tub?

LARRY CRAIG: At first, Dan wanted the tub but I didn't. He saw it as a gorgeous piece of sculpture. To me, it looked like half of a hard-boiled egg without the yolk. Then I got in. It's womblike and immediately relaxing. It's so big I've actually done yoga poses in it. Now I love the tub.

You two lived in Manhattan before you moved here. How's life on Green Acres?

LC: We haven't taken a vacation in two years because we have so many animals—sheep, goats, turkeys, chickens, two cows. But this bathroom is so spa-like, you feel like you're on vacation every day. *



BELOW: The .25 tub by Waterworks adds curves to a bathroom dominated by angles. Ruhland tiled wainscoting and eaves, using a dark gray grout for a more graphic effect. Walls are painted Kendall Charcoal and trim is Black Tar, both by Benjamin Moore. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** The mirrors of the Uplift medicine chests by Robern slide upward, revealing shelving. **OPPOSITE RIGHT:** Over the sinks, Ruhland put together non-matching faucets and handles by Boffi. Red handles "add industrial flair and a cool accent," he says.



GET THE LOOK...

.25 tub by Waterworks:
800-899-6757.

Aquagrande porcelain and brushed stainless-steel sinks by Lacava: lacava.com.

Hansgrohe's Axor Starck Downpour Air Showerhead: hansgrohe-usa.com.

River Reclaimed Oak Flooring from Armster Reclaimed Lumber: 203-214-9705.

Kendall Charcoal walls and Black Tar trim by Benjamin Moore: 800-672-4686.

Pipe handle (in red), Minimal Spout by Boffi: boffi.com.

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