

A CHATELAINE SPECIAL INTEREST PUBLICATION **All Canadian Sources**

CHATELAINE RENOVATES

# Kitchens & Baths!

Fall 1996

**20 terrific Canadian renos**

**100+** smart products

space-saving **solutions**

**budget** makeovers

CLEVER PROJECTS • PRO DESIGN TIPS • FLOOR PLANS • HANDY SOURCE LISTS

Display until Dec. 31, 1996

\$4.95





The owners wished to keep the original windows (the house was built in 1928 as a telephone switching station), so the designer framed them with shell-shape wall sconces and a swag of seashell-printed fabric. Custom mahogany and birch vanity is the base for a multitiered countertop of granite and wood molding with a faux finish. A chandelier, wall sconces and halogen strip lighting around the perimeter give the fantasy room a soft, warm glow.

# Shell Game

Part seashore, part spa, this fantasy family bathroom is a world away from its dreary grey-and-green seventies origins

Photography Mark Mennie  
Text Kate Pocock

It all started with the knobs," explains designer Monika Siebert Kakoschke, who spotted the bronze scallops, shells and sand dollars in a Calgary hardware store. When she discovered that her clients, Dianne Whiten MacDonald and Pat MacDonald, had their own collection of shells from trips to the west coast, shell-mania took over. Starfish were hot-glued to the mirror, sea creatures painted onto the walls and a starfish made of pebbles was set into the floor. The entire space was surrounded by a glass "wave"—a hand-cut glass frieze inserted above the upper molding and backlit to show the seahorses and beach shells sandblasted onto the glass.



## SHELL ART

If, like the MacDonalds you've collected buckets of shells on seaside vacations, use them as decorative accents in your bathroom. You can also purchase starfish and shells at craft stores. To clean them thoroughly and gain a translucent effect, run them through the dishwasher. Attach the shells to mirrors (as seen here) and other decorative objects in a free-form manner using a hot-glue gun.





*Left: The designer's first thought was to create a sea fantasy in blues and greens, but as the project progressed, she found that more subdued shades of sand and stone as well as the bronzes and coppers of natural metals created a more soothing effect. The whimsical retreat now delights the homeowners, their two children, nine-year-old Taylor and 12-year-old Jonathan, and their guests. Below: Wall-hung shelving unit painted in crackle lacquer is one of the designer's own Haus Couture productions. The starfish design was cut into the Marmoleum floor, filled with aggregate stone (round river pebbles) mixed with StoneSet epoxy ("Mini Pearl" for the interior and "Texas Grit" for the border) and leveled with a trowel. When the mix had hardened, the pebbles were treated with a thin coat of StoneSet clear epoxy for a smooth finish.*

## SOURCES

**Designer and contractor** Monika Siebert Kakoschke, MSK Design **Carpentry** Springfield Contractors Ltd. **Basin** American Standard undermount **Cast iron tub** Cheviot; **cross-handle brass faucets; towels** Fieldcrest "Shoreline"; all Royal Flush Boutique & Plumbing Showroom **Toilet** American Standard "Cadet" wall mount **Countertop** Gallant International Stone **Countertop**

**base, wall and tub murals** Dorothy Spitzer **Flooring** Forbo Marmoleum, KBM Commercial Floor Coverings Inc. **Starfish design** Richard Kenny, Designed In Stone Ltd. **Vanity mirror and flower vase** Joints **Lighting** B.A. Robinson Co. Ltd. **Display unit** Haus Couture Fine Furniture **Glass frieze** Suncatcher Studios Ltd. **Paint** Pratt & Lambert **Vanity knobs** Empire Tile and Hardware *See page 111.*

