

Going deep

Lightening up overhead—and underfoot—allows a windowless bath to be wrapped in a warm dark shade BY KATELIN HILL • PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DYER

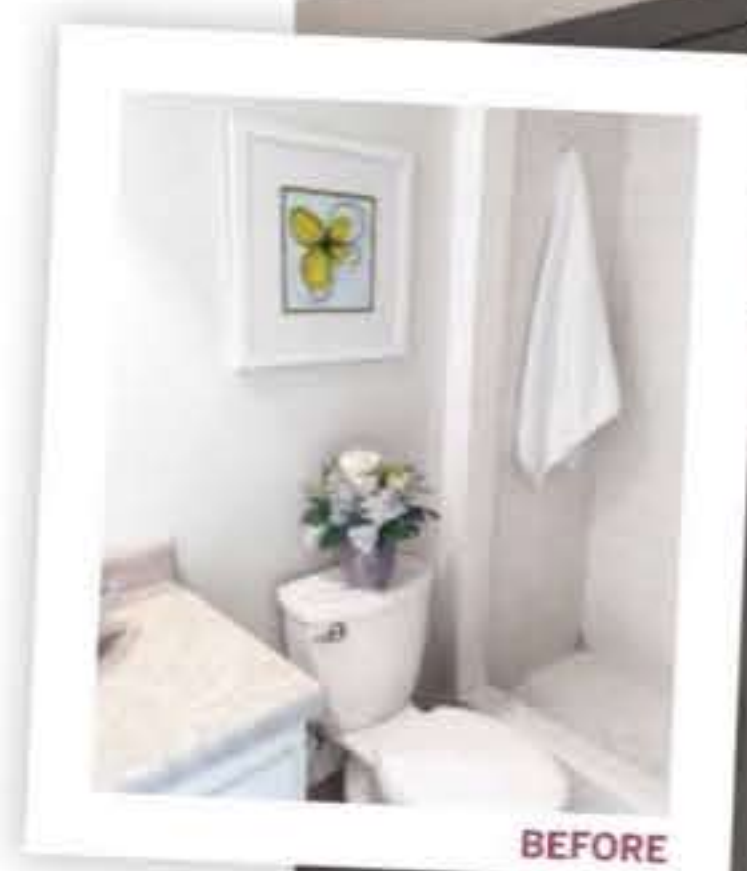
→ A SMALL SPACE can be the perfect place to add some drama. Even though designer Laura Ulam's Yountville, CA, home was a light and bright mix of modern-farmhouse and cottage styles, she envisioned a darker, "more masculine" look for the small guest bath in her 1982 home.

But first she added some much-needed light in the windowless space, installing a skylight in the shower and recessed lights in the ceiling. Oversize white-marble hex tile on the floor brightened the room even more, allowing Laura to add shiplap walls painted a warm dark gray, making the bath more cohesive with the rest of the house and softening the room's sleek modern fixtures and finishes. A shower door on a rolling track suggests a sliding barn door, while saving floor space.

The result is a comfortable yet refined bath that Laura—and her guests—love. "In fact," she says, "it's become my favorite room in the house."

BEFORE The guest bath lacked personality, with washed-out colors and builder-basic materials.

AFTER With a dramatic paint color and a mix of rustic and modern finishes, the updated guest bath has a style all its own. *Paint (walls): Benjamin Moore's Iron Mountain. Sconces: Restoration Hardware. Vanity top: Caesarstone*



homeowner tip

LAURA ULAM,
YOUNTVILLE, CA

"In small spaces, experiment with different colors than you normally use. The rest of my house is light and bright. It's nice to have a dark, cozy room, too!"

V-groove shiplap helps take the edge off the sharp lines of the quartz countertop, while echoing the farmhouse style found in other rooms in the house. A custom vanity optimizes storage. *Vanity: Smith's Custom Cabinets*



With a tight footprint, the bathroom wasn't large enough to accommodate a shower door swing, so the contractor suggested a rolling door on a barn-door-style track to save space. *Shower door: OVE Decors*



Five-inch marble-and-basalt hex tile makes for a stunning surprise on the floor. It also adds another brightening element in the windowless space. *Tile: Mission Stone & Tile*

PRODUCED BY NICOLE ESPOSITO-POLLY; STYLING: SARA ALBA; FLOOR PLAN: IAN WOIPOLE

after

While the layout stayed the same, a skylight and improved lighting brightened the room; all-new finishes gave it a style boost

