

Q&A

Nature's Way

Wendy Ryan reveals how she imbued rustic-chic in a northern Michigan bathroom

TWENTY-FIVE-YEAR INTERIOR DESIGN

veteran Wendy Ryan, of Ann Arbor-based Wendy Ryan Interior Design, was recently tasked with adding a two-person soaking tub to a master bath in her client's Boyne City vacation home. That meant tearing out a closet and updating the overall look by replacing dark wood and old gold marble countertops. Here she shares a few secrets on pulling off this restful retreat remodel.

Q: What was the main remodeling goal?

A: There wasn't a bathtub in the home, and the client wanted a soaking tub. We also wanted to add an Up North feel to the space.

Q: What were the steps and some of the elements you brought in to attain that goal?

A: We got rid of a 6- by 5-foot closet in the bath and replaced that space with the soaking tub (construction: Matt Johncheck, Conquest Builders Inc., Charlevoix; bathtub: Meridian 60, Builders Plumbing & Heating Supply, Ann Arbor), and added a closet to the bedroom. We created a capiz-shell chandelier, added a window, changed

the color palette to grays, creams, and stark whites, and gave it an outdoor-ish theme. The tub surround and shower floor are stone, while the gray tile looks like barn wood.

Q: What's a favorite feature in the space?

A: The wood we used on the walls. It's (salvaged) from a century-old barn in Chelsea that was torn down. The design for the walls was inspired by a love of the outdoors and barns, and we wanted to try to replicate how they have cracks where sunlight comes through and how beautiful that is. We mirrored the walls first and then put the barn wood over it, so when sunlight shines through the window it reflects on the mirror and looks like light coming through the barn wood. *More information:* wendyryaninteriordesign.com — *By Megan Swoyer*

ROCKING THE WOOD

Located in a northern Michigan vacation home that overlooks Boyne River, this redesigned bathroom by Wendy Ryan, top, is welcoming, with its natural materials and salvaged elements.

