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**OPPOSITE:** “Wallpaper is the perfect jewel for small spaces like a bathroom,” interior designer Kelly Kole says. Her master bath redo included removing a dated whirlpool tub and opting for a freestanding acrylic version that’s a focal point under the large arched window. **LEFT:** A tub filler with modern lines contrasts with the traditional wallpaper behind it.

# *over the moon*

Floral blue-and-white wallpaper brings bold drama to a designer’s dated ’90s suburban Atlanta bath.

WRITER AND FIELD EDITOR LISA MOWRY  
PHOTOGRAPHER EMILY J. FOLLOWILL



**Room size** 195 sq ft

**Budget** \$15,564

**Why we love it**

The wallpaper is like your grandmother's floral, but better.





*bold is better.* Sure, a creamy white bathroom is always classic, but Atlanta interior designer Kelly Kole's neutral bath benefited from a bit of pizzazz. "The wallpaper was definitely the

inspiration for the design of the space," Kelly says. "It was the sophisticated pop of color and interest I wanted, and once I had that picked out, I knew that the rest of the selections could simply be a nice, neutral backdrop to the wallpaper."

She and her design partner, Joann Kandrac, were drawn to the blue-and-white floral wallpaper while perusing new lines of accessories at High Point Furniture Market. While it was a bit of a splurge over what a standard painted wall would have cost, Kelly saved in other ways so she could afford stately faucets, a freestanding tub, and Carrara marble countertops. "My bathroom isn't that large, so I didn't need enormous quantities of any one thing," she says. Limestone was her top flooring choice, but she found a porcelain tile with subtle veining in it for a third of that cost. "And now I like the porcelain just as much," Kelly says.

Custom cabinetry is the workhorse of the bathroom, featuring dual vanities, a center storage unit, and a

comfortable 36-inch height. To make the center cabinet look like furniture, Kelly designed feet for the bottom and crown molding on top. She gave the traditional look a twist by choosing rectangular sinks. "I think those add a nice contemporary touch," she says.

"This bathroom is a great example of a 'high-low' design," Kelly says. "I don't feel like I ever compromised on the overall design plan, but I just spent the money in places where quality was imperative and then added color, texture, and interest in clever ways that made the price palatable."

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**ABOVE:** A center storage unit that resembles a hutch is flanked by matching vanities. Framed mirrors with inset sconces bring an upscale touch. **OPPOSITE:** A frameless glass shower enclosure makes the room appear bigger. Blue floor tiles and white porcelain wall tiles hung vertically offer a different take on classic shower style.

# budget

## Cabinetry

Cabinetry	4,375
Hardware	215

## Plumbing

Faucets	344
Shower fixtures	475
Sinks	252
Tub	2,049
Tub filler	980

## Surfaces

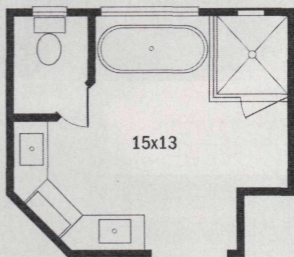
Countertop	1,250
Floor and shower wall tile	1,378
Painting, includes labor	800
Shower enclosure	2,000
Shower floor and niche tile	280
Wallpaper	234

## Miscellaneous

Lighting	480
Window treatment	452

**Total** **\$15,564**

*Costs do not include labor unless noted.*



The designer kept the circa-1997 room's original floor plan but replaced an inefficient makeup area with a tall storage unit. A freestanding tub and frameless shower enable the room to feel more open.

## Bath Wallpaper Tips

The bathroom is an ideal space to go bold with dramatic prints and colors. Before you start, here's what you need to know.

**Use permeable paper and adhesive.** Sean Samet, executive director of the Wallcoverings Association, recommends permeable wallpaper and adhesive in bathrooms. "Permeable papers have microvents that help the paper breathe. When used in conjunction with a permeable adhesive, moisture problems are significantly reduced."

**Know your humidity level.** Humidity is not just an issue in bathrooms, Samet says. In climates with high humidity, such as Florida, permeable paper should be used for any project. "Technical advancements in the past 15-20 years have made installation in high-humidity environments possible," he says.



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