

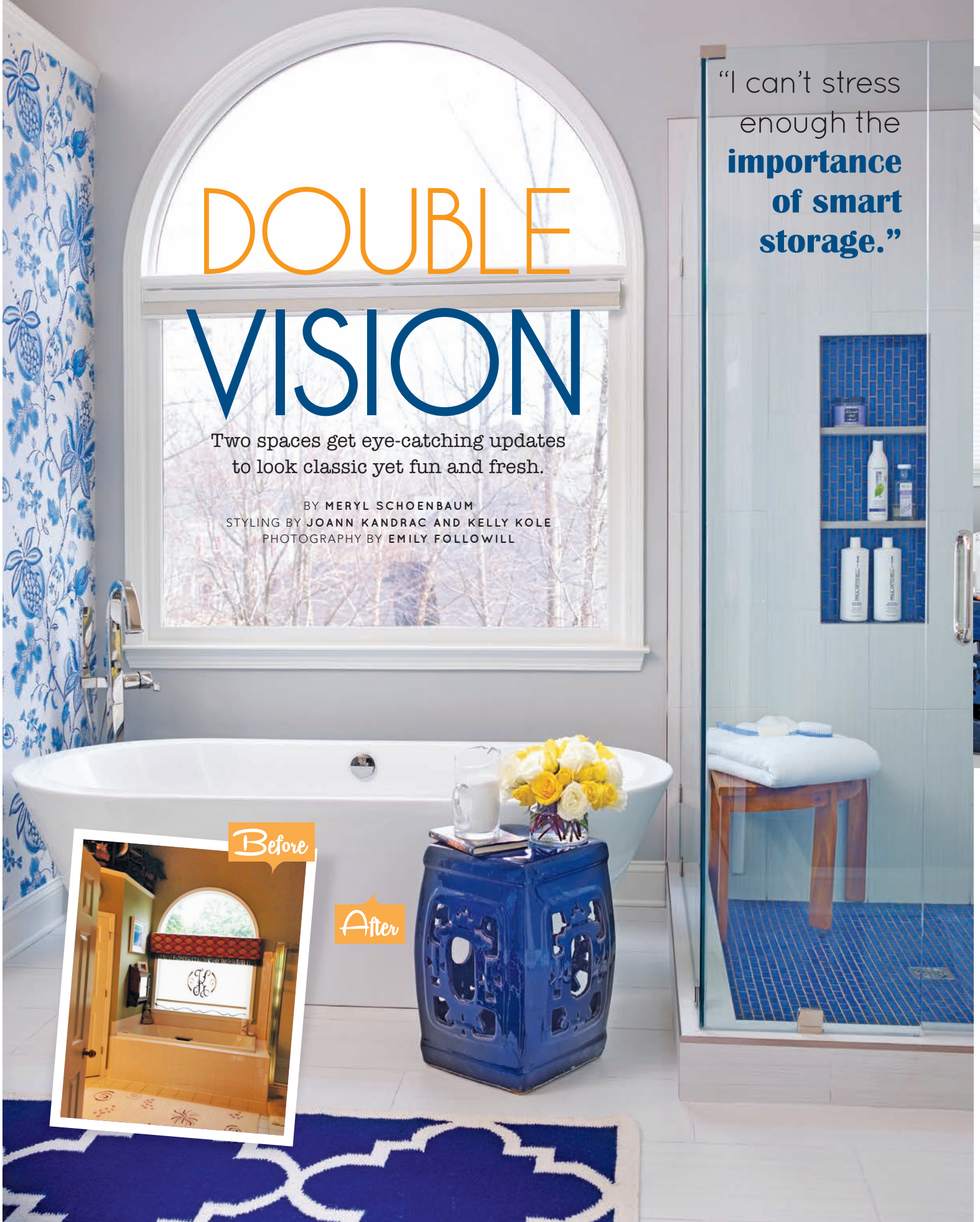


DOUBLE VISION

Two spaces get eye-catching updates to look classic yet fun and fresh.

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“I can’t stress enough the **importance of smart storage.**”



Before

After





Before

After



BUSINESS PARTNERS JOANN KANDRAC AND KELLY KOLE OF KANDRAC & KOLE INTERIOR DESIGN

aim to “imagine and create distinctive spaces.” Here, we show you two of their room transformations that will get you inspired to give your home a timeless yet fresh update.



STYLE FILE

- **Insider Secret:** Consider tilt-down drawers in front of the sink. It's ordinarily wasted space, but it makes for the perfect place for your toothbrush and toothpaste.
- **Budget Basics:** “There are endless choices in the marketplace today when it comes to tile,” Kelly says. “It is very easy to use a high/low combination to get an upscale look without breaking the bank. Try a waterfall of tiles down the corner of the shower, or just use it on the floor or inside the niche.”
- **Easy Idea, Big Impact:** “Make your pricey purchases in small quantities, but make sure they make a big impact,” Kelly says. In this bathroom, the Ann Sacks indigo tiles and the Thibaut wallpaper on just one wall and a large rug make a dramatic statement. “Go big and colorful by using indoor/outdoor rugs. There are a lot more designs and sizes to choose from than with bath mats.”

THE BATHROOM

Interior designer Kelly Kole had a special interest in redesigning this bathroom—because it is located in her very own home. Part of a traditional brick/stucco house built in 1997, the room was a sore spot for Kelly.

“It was completely dated. It had all-white tile, a shiny brass shower enclosure, low counters, improper storage, poor lighting and tub that we never used because the jets were dirty,” she says.

Kelly wanted to redesign the space with more storage, better lighting and a more contemporary, fresh feel. “I also wanted to keep the same footprint to reduce the cost of the renovation,” she says.





START WITH INSPIRATION

"My jump-off inspiration was the Thibaut wallpaper," Kelly says. "That led me to the Ann Sacks indigo tile. Once I had my two impact areas, it was a matter of choosing timeless, sophisticated neutrals for the other surfaces."

The old bathroom had a faux vanity that she never used. "We took that middle space and built the cabinet tower to look like a piece of furniture; the feet and crown molding helped achieve that goal," she says. This change gave Kelly new storage at eye-level. She also added lights with dimmers, to give the space a spa-like feel and make it the ultimate restful retreat.

"I can't stress enough the importance of smart storage. I have a place for everything," she says. "The drawers in the bottom of the tower are deep, and they hold my big fluffy towels. The drawers on the sides are deep, too, so they can hold all of my bath and hair products as well as a lot of extra toilet paper."

With a new design that she calls "mild contemporary with an unexpected twist of color and fun thrown in," the bathroom is now the perfect mix of functional and inspirational.

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Before



After

When Joann Kandrac was contacted by a client who purchased a home to use as an office, he told her that he wanted it to have a warm, masculine feel that represented him.

"I was horrified by the blue and yellow color palette when I walked in," Joann says, "and the period lighting was dainty and Victorian. It wouldn't work with the masculine décor the client wanted."

However, she noted that the floors, which she believes to be original to the 1847 building, were in beautiful condition. Other redesign requests from the client included an "open-door approach," a TV and some personal items that were meaningful to him. He wanted his office to have the ambience of a home.

FASHION FORWARD

To get started, Joann changed the white cabinets to a faux wood-grain finish that was painted by a local artist. Joann left the wainscoting on the walls, but rather than keeping it two-toned, she made it all white instead.

Joann reupholstered the chairs in a classic menswear-pattern fabric. To create a more informal seating area, she placed the armchairs facing each other in an inviting, conversational style.

Next, Joann focused on the lighting. She opted for statement lighting: a hefty, oversized hanging circular fixture with candles and leather strapping. Final touches included incorporating a barn door she had custom-made to look like architectural salvage. "It's a work of art and functional. You have to have the wall space for that," she says.

She also added a Calvin Klein area rug made from strips of hide rather than placing an animal hide on the floor. To add the client's personal touches to the room, she placed hunting photos, signed books and other mementos on the bookcase shelves.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

As with most projects, there were some challenges thrown into the mix. "The client wanted the big-screen TV to be on the wall without wires hanging from it. It took a few phone calls, but I was able to find someone who could do it," she says.

Another challenge was making the new neutral palette seem interesting without a lot of color. Joann managed to accomplish that by using various textures, such as the leather strapping on the lighting fixture, the area rug and the reclaimed-wood mantel.

When the homeowner saw the big reveal, he gave Joann perhaps the highest compliment a designer can get. "You got me," he said—and he couldn't wait to greet his clients in the new space that is truly a "home office."

See Sources, page 128.





Before



After

“Don’t be afraid to mix patterns.”

Just find or one or two common colors in the patterns and they will look fine together.”

STYLE FILE

- **Insider Secret:** One of the best ways to transform a room is with lighting. “Most homes have substandard lighting that’s too small,” Joann says. “My best advice for every decorating project is to add personal items to the room. In this office, the bookcase includes the homeowner’s family photos.”
- **Budget Basics:** Use books as decorative elements. You can find them at flea markets and antiques shops. Look for interesting titles and colors. “Booksbythefoot.com has been a great resource for us,” Joann says.
- **Easy Idea, Big Impact:** Replace a regular door with an old door, a glass door or a barn door as an inexpensive, unusual statement piece, Joann advises.



After

