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# kitchen + bath makeovers

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**EASY WAYS TO  
DECORATE YOUR BATH** p.20

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# budget bath

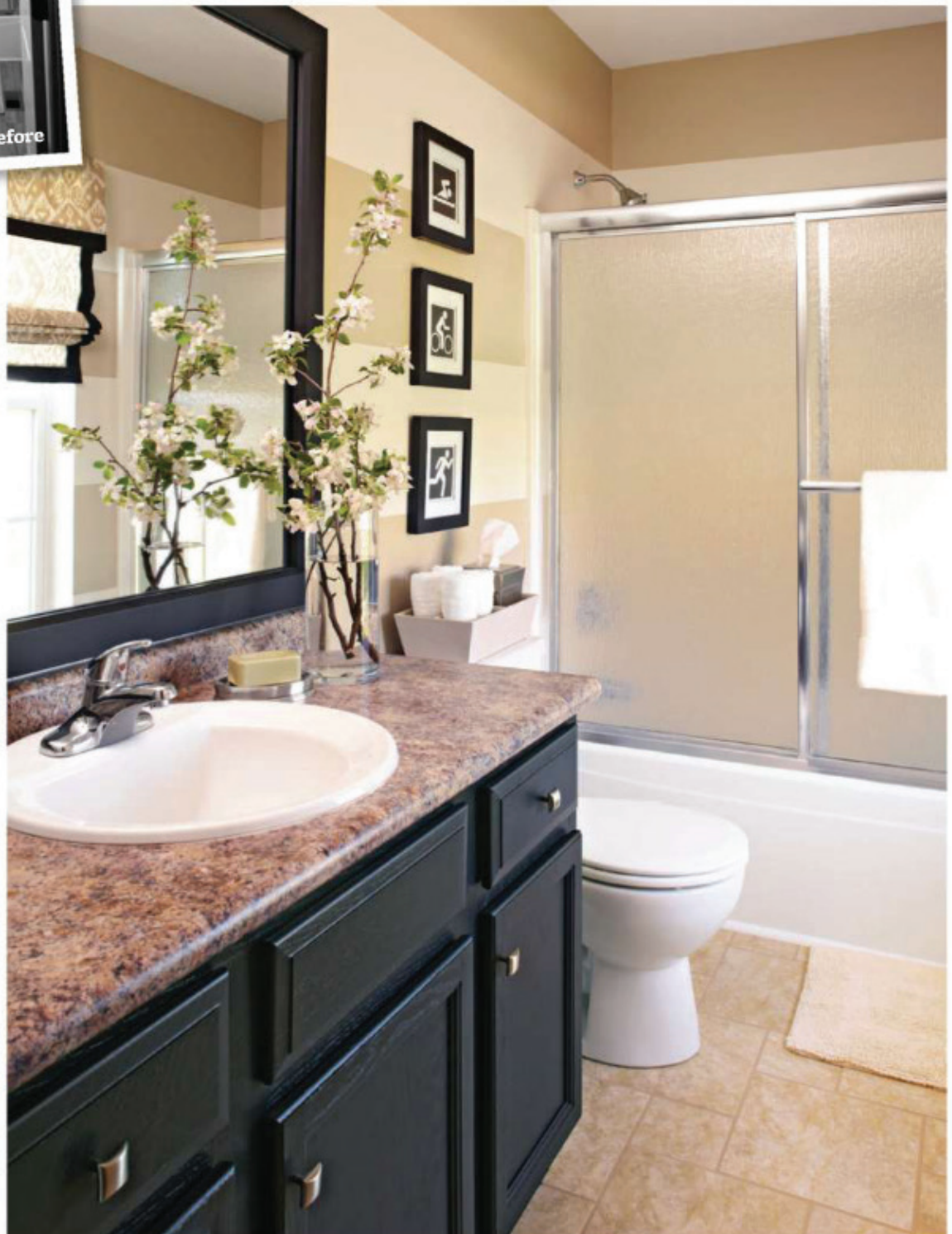
WRITER AND PRODUCER MARIA V. CHARBONNEAUX • PHOTOGRAPHER JAY WILDE

## on the surface

Porcelain tile, painted stripes, and polished accessories spiff up a blank-canvas bath for less than \$800.



**RIGHT:** Strategic punches of black inject a huge dose of style in this 9x5-foot bath. Clever tile and paint applications allow the room to remain neutral without being boring.





## Brown doesn't have to be boring,

but it was in Jason Stierman's suburban Des Moines townhome. As someone who craves contrast, Jason disliked the monochromatic surfaces in his upper-level bath. Eager to put his stamp on the space, the do-it-yourselfer set out to upgrade the room's lackluster finishes on a tight budget.

Because the existing laminate floor planks weren't the best choice for the wet room, Jason splurged on a new floating porcelain tile floor that's perfect for beginners. The easy-to-install tiles are permanently bonded to interlocking trays that simply snap together and are then grouted in place. "I was a little intimidated to tile because I'd never tried it before," Jason says. "This option was very forgiving."

Painted stripes in cream and taupe create the look of wallpaper for less. After applying a cream base coat and allowing it to dry thoroughly, Jason marked 13¼-inch-wide sections with painter's tape for the taupe stripes. "The stripes made a huge impact," Jason says. "It's impossible to miss them."

By painting the existing oak vanity crisp black, Jason made it stand out against the neutral floor while coordinating with the existing countertop. A custom frame kit gave the plain-Jane frameless mirror a high-end look in minutes, while a beige Roman shade with a black band balances the opposite wall.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Homeowner Jason Stierman combined 6×6-inch and 12×12-inch porcelain tiles for the bath floor. The interlocking tiles can be installed over most solid flooring, eliminating the need for underlayment or mortar. **ABOVE, FAR RIGHT:** A Roman shade made from ikat fabric softens the window wall. **RIGHT:** Simple art pops against bold painted stripes. To achieve crisp lines, Jason applied painter's tape over the cream base coat, then sealed the taped edges with another coat of cream and let it dry before applying the darker color. Visit [BHG.com/Stripes](http://BHG.com/Stripes) for more tips. **FAR RIGHT:** Square knobs in satin nickel sparkle against the painted vanity.



### print free art!

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## budget bath



**ABOVE:** To order the vinyl-wrapped custom frame for his mirror, Jason simply input a few simple measurements online. The frame—made from medium-density fiberboard—arrives cut to size, requires minimal assembly, and adheres directly to the mirror. **RIGHT:** A hefty new four-light fixture matches the scale of the large mirror.



Satin-nickel knobs and a new modern light fixture bring sophistication to the space and coordinate with existing accessories. Graphic black-and-white art inspired by Jason's love for triathlons adds a personal touch.

"Overall, I think the bathroom looks classy and modern," Jason says. "I'm happy that I could make it look updated without making it look too feminine."

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 108.

### budget

#### Surfaces

Flooring	213
Grout	70
Paint (for vanity)	33
Paint (for walls)	66
Primer	8

#### Miscellaneous

Art frames	31
Fabric	50
Hardware	11
Light fixture	121
Mirror frame	156

**Total** **\$759**

*Costs do not include labor unless noted.*

## PROJECT SPONSORS

**Fabric** Better Homes and Gardens® available through Jo-Ann Stores; 888/739-4120; [joann.com](http://joann.com). **Mirror frame** MirrorMate Frames; 866/304-6283; [mirrormate.com](http://mirrormate.com). **Hardware, lighting** Overstock.com; 800/843-2446; [overstock.com](http://overstock.com). **Grout, tile** SnapStone; 877/263-5861; [snapstone.com](http://snapstone.com). **Paint, primer** Valspar Paint; 800/845-9061; [valsparpaint.com](http://valsparpaint.com)