

SMALL SPACES modern elegance

A restored Victorian home gets a new bathroom with traditional touches and a modern sensibility. By Nadine Kampen



high ceilings, a steady stream of natural light and a heated marble floor on a cold winter night: those are the little extras in life. And, oh, how luxurious those extras can be in a 19th-century home, bringing bold new life to a period decor.

In restoring the interior of their home, built in 1892 in Toronto's Rosedale area, Alex Ribeiro and Douglas Queen wanted to complement its original style and satisfy their traditional design sense. Though the bathroom had been renovated in the 1980s, the place came complete with mouldings and radiators typical of an earlier era. "The '80s-style bathroom had to go," says Alex. "It had plain white tiles, a melamine vanity and a pasted-on mirror. We tore it all out and had the room rebuilt."

The eight- by nine-foot bathroom had an existing skylight and had been framed with three different ceiling heights. To open up the space, the ceiling was raised to a more elegant nine feet, completely changing the look and feel of the room. And because Alex and Douglas like natural colours and textures, they chose



In the daytime, the glass shower surround lets in natural light from the skylight. The rest of the ceiling was raised to a uniform nine feet for an airy feel. With panel moulding, stainless steel, wood and marble, the bathroom blends modern and classic styling.