

RSA Bathroom Less than \$36,000 Narrative

They wanted to spend just enough to take out the tub and put in a shower with a curb, because getting into the tub had become difficult.

For the first time in my career as a CAPS contractor, the challenge wasn't technical, it was my knowledge they needed a wider door and space for a curbless shower, combined with their reluctance to face these facts and spend the money necessary.

They had already paid me for the plan, so I asked them to let me do the estimate with my trade partners. They wanted me to just estimate the tub-shower swap. I couldn't, because it wasn't the right thing to do for them. I said if they ever needed a walker or wheelchair, even temporarily, they wouldn't be able to stay in their home; because they couldn't get through the 24" wide door.

He said "okay, bye" and hung up. I figured I'd lost the sale. Three weeks later he called and said, they'd decided to let me do what I said they needed, if I feel so strongly I wouldn't do less, just to get the job.

We removed and reframed the side wall and part of the wall with the door. It was tight, because we could only widen the bathroom 12" so we barely had the 36" minimum needed for a curbless shower and to relocate the toilet. We had enough space to put in an accessible bathroom door. We would normally move the window, to look centered, but we promised not to add expenses we could avoid, so it stayed, off center.

They originally told us to put in plain white tile. While waiting for the permit, I convinced them to go look at tile and see what was available. Then something magical happened and we can't take credit for it. This retired lady picked out 24"x12" tile, which many do, and instructed us to install it vertically, alternating gray with white tile the same size, which we'd never done or seen, resulting in a stunning shower.

