

TRANSFORMATIONS

BY JANE POWELL

As the Twig Is Bent



Above: The bathroom in a rustic house on Lake Tahoe. The owners wanted it to match the remainder of the house, so they settled on lining the walls with pieces of birch bark, with moss and twigs added to the seams. The glass Kohler sink with imperfections adds to the handmade look. Right: two "before" shots of what was a plain white-walled bathroom.

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A plain white-walled bathroom with white fixtures and a single window is common to many homes, and can even be classic. But it wouldn't be quite right for a rustic style house in Lake Tahoe's Squaw Valley Resort.

So interior designer Catherine MacFee and Associates set out to make it match the rest of the rustic house. First, the white walls of the 8-by-8-foot room were lined with pieces of birch bark (bought from a supplier in the Midwest). Moss and twigs gathered from the site were added to the seams. A slab of limestone, with the edges left rough and outlined with moss, was attached to the wall to serve as a backsplash for the rough glass vessel sink.

The Kohler sink is made from green glass with bubbles and imperfections adding to its handmade look. It rests on curled bronze brackets, which match the finish of the wall-mount cross-handled faucets. The drain has been plated to match. Above the sink, the square window is outlined with flat redwood moldings, and a tortoiseshell

bamboo blind set into the frame adds privacy and contrasting texture.

Above the sink, a light fixture of cast iron twigs and branches (which was designed and fabricated by the designer) holds a mica shade overlaid with more twigs. To the left of the sink, three Tramp art mirrors with frames made from branches hang on the wall next to a turn of the 20th century Black Forest chair hand-carved with leaves and twigs on the backrest.

The concrete floor has been covered with distressed chestnut (not shown). Off to the right, barely seen, is a low-slung white toilet. The client is inordinately pleased with the space, calling it his "outhouse." •

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