



**Above:** The master bathroom features a LCD TV over the whirlpool tub, custom walk-in shower, half recessed vessel sinks, separate toilet/bidet room, make-up vanity and suspended bath cabinets.

## Suite Dreams

Newlyweds transform this bachelor pad into a dreamy, spa-like retreat.

TEXT BY SUZY FEINE

When Tracey Johnson purchased his rambler-style Savage, Minnesota, home in 2001, it was the ideal place for a single father. Just a few years later, he met and then married Diana, and suddenly his “bachelor pad” no longer seemed ideal, particularly the master bedroom.

Vaulted ceilings gave the master bedroom the illusion of spaciousness, but with only one foot on either side of the king-size bed, a small walk-in closet and only one bathroom sink, the Johnsons knew it was time to make a change.



They decided their best option was to find a new house that would better fit their needs. “We found a house and put our house on the market, but at the time the market was horrible,” says Diana. The couple quickly realized they needed an alternative plan.

Remodeling the master bedroom suite was the couple’s second option, so Diana began poring over decorating magazines and designing on paper what would soon become the master bedroom suite of her dreams. “I

**Above:** Maple cabinets, vessel sinks and an oval tray ceiling add to the spa-like feel of this bathroom.



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**Above:** The Johnsons can sit in side chairs next to their bed and look out over the treetops.

initially interviewed some high-end remodelers and found out I couldn't do what I wanted to do within my budget," she says. Then she found College City Remodeling.

Jeremy Perlick, Jennifer Murnan and Chris Menning, all members of the College City design team, worked with Tracey and Diana to turn her master bedroom suite design into reality. "The homeowners requested a larger master suite and master bath, which needed to encompass qualities of a spa retreat," says Bjorn Freudenthal, CAPS,

general manager at College City Remodeling. Diana shared her designs with the design team, and they all came to the same conclusion: The master bedroom needed to be enlarged to accommodate all of Diana's design ideas.

College City expanded the master bedroom by adding 330 square feet to the back of the house. Once the expansion was completed, the space was reworked so that the original master bedroom became the master bath and closet area. Then the space was transformed into

Diana's dream spa with the addition of radiant-heated tile floors, maple cabinets, his-and-hers vessel sinks, a flat-panel TV over the whirlpool tub, a custom walk-in shower, separate toilet/bidet room, a large walk-in closet, accent lighting, a makeup vanity area and an oval tray ceiling detail. "

The spa-like feel was carried through to the new master bedroom area with the addition of a stainless-steel fireplace beneath a flat-panel TV, vaulted ceilings and lots of windows. "I like the

feeling of looking into the trees," says Diana. "It's like being up in a tree house." The new bedroom space was so expansive that Diana even had room for two side chairs under the wall of windows.

According to Diana, this new space is her favorite place in their home. "Tracey always teases me that I have million-dollar taste without the million-dollar income," she says. "College City was able to give me the look of a million-dollar master suite without the million-dollar price tag." *Suzy Feine is a freelance writer from Elko, Minn.*

**Above Top:** The stainless-steel fireplace is one of the couple's favorite additions to the master bedroom.

**Above Bottom:** With the expansion, the Johnsons now have plenty of room on either side of their king-size bed.