

## HOME REMODELING TIPS

### Refreshing a vintage bathroom

By Kevin Mond

Oftentimes, a simple refresh on a fixed budget can give your bathroom a whole new look and feel. Recently, HDR Remodeling completed a bathroom refresh in a guest bathroom in Oakland and we're sharing how we made it happen.

Our clients came to us with a request for a makeover of their guest bathroom with a contemporary design. They loved the charm of their 1920s-era house but wanted to liven up this space. In the original bathroom, the toilet sat in the center of the room and was the first thing guests saw as they approached. The fixtures and finishes were also of the original 1920s era.

The driving factor of our design was to maintain the existing architectural details of the house, while infusing our client's personal style – a blend of modern and vintage – with an appreciation for unique natural handmade materials. We collaborated closely with our clients who wanted to incorporate an organic and natural form of wood into the bathroom. That became the source of our inspiration and a focal point for the bathroom. Open shelving and natural elements also create a sense of openness in tight spaces.



Bathroom refresh with natural countertops and bold backsplash.



Bathroom before refresh.



Custom wood countertop cut by Revival Woods of Kapa'au, Hawaii.

Because our goal was to remain within the footprint of the existing bathroom, we had to be creative with the space we had. We shifted the layout of the bathroom, repositioning the original bathtub and relocating the toilet using a wall-mounted tank behind the door. This gave us additional valuable square footage and made space for the statement piece of the bathroom - a custom wood countertop and shelves sourced from our client's family member, Revival Woods of Kapa'au, Hawaii.

To add dimension, we built a deep tub ledge for seating and to hold bathing necessities. A bold patterned tile adds interest to what would otherwise be a simple, tiled wall. By not changing the square footage, we were able to keep costs down and allowed for some major changes to upgrade this bathroom. Incorporating intentional fixtures and key finishes is pivotal in transforming a small space and giving it new life.

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## Piedmont's Heritage Trees: Eastern Redbud

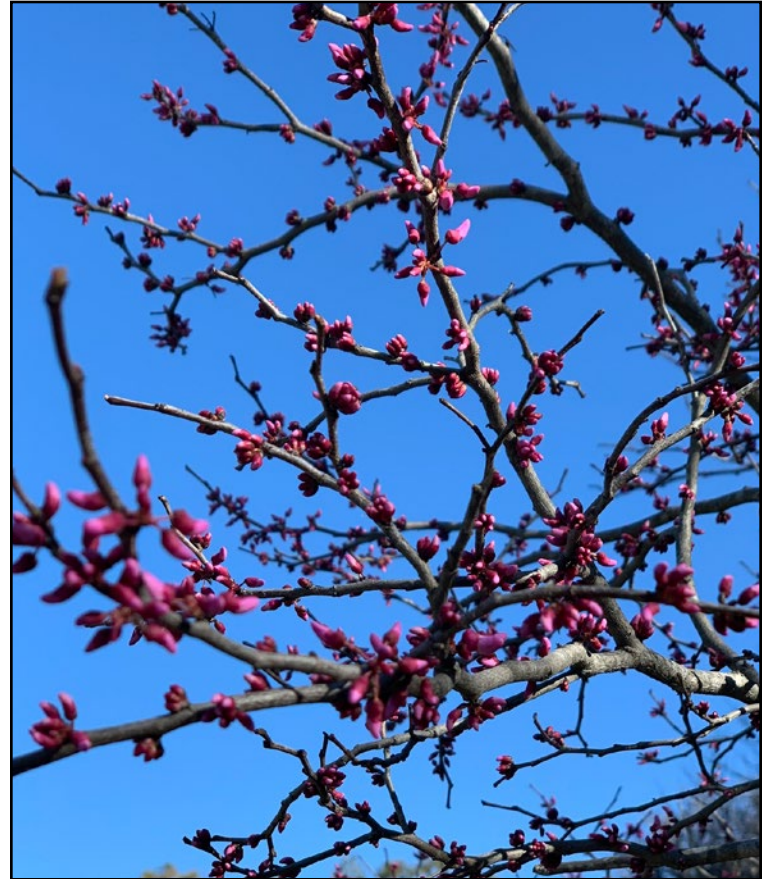


Photo by Amber Brumfiel

Dark pink buds are starting to appear on the bare branches of Piedmont's Eastern Redbud trees.

By Amber Brumfiel

The groundhog may have seen its shadow this year, but spring is in the air as you look at the flowering trees in Piedmont's urban forest. There are beautiful examples all around town, including the cluster of Eastern Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*) that greet you at the entrance to Witter Field and Piedmont Park at the intersection of Wildwood and Prospect Avenues.

Nominated by former resident Lisa Kieraldo, these cheerful trees were designated as Heritage Trees in 2019.

Dark pink buds are just starting to appear on the bare branches of these trees. Considered long lasting, the showy blossoms will last for a few weeks once they fully bloom. Green leaves will then start to appear.

The Eastern Redbud is the state tree of Oklahoma. This deciduous tree has heart shaped leaves and some varieties around town have stunning fall colors that add to their enjoyment as small garden trees. The Eastern Redbud is sometimes referred to

as the Spicewood Tree because its bark and green twigs are sometimes used as seasoning for wild game.

The Piedmont Park Commission is accepting nominations for 2021 Heritage Trees through March 19. The Heritage Tree program is an opportunity for Piedmont to recognize its distinctive trees. The community is invited to nominate trees growing on public property, such as parks, medians, and streets. Nominated trees will be considered based on their aesthetic, educational, or historical merits. The chosen trees will be announced at the Park Commission hearing on April 7 and honored at this year's virtual Arbor Day celebration on April 30.

To nominate a tree visit the City's website, <http://www.ci.piedmont.ca.us/> and complete the downloadable form. For more information, contact Parks & Projects Manager Nancy Kent at [nkent@piedmont.ca.gov](mailto:nkent@piedmont.ca.gov) (510-420-3064).

Amber Brumfiel is a member of the Piedmont Park Commission.

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