



WHERE TO FIND IT



Photos by T. OPDYKE III / Special

The small showroom at Unique Refinishers is packed with refinished tubs, pedestal sinks, counters and bath hardware. Many people buy old-fashioned tubs to give flair to their new homes.

That antique tub is just a shopping trip away

By H.M. CAULEY
For the Journal-Constitution

Not every old house (or faux old house) comes with a classic claw foot tub, but thanks to Ron Kott, that can be easily remedied.

For more than 40 years, Kott's Gwinnett County firm, Unique Refinishers, has been salvaging claw feet and giving them new life. Most of the work is done in the company's Sugar Hill shop. Kott's crews also handle commercial projects, such as refurbishing old tubs for Marriott Hotels across the country. But he'll also come to your house and put a new look on a dingy bath.

"Sometimes, particularly in an older home, it's easier for us to come in and re-glaze the tub than to replace it and have to rip out good tile work," said Kott.

What you'll find

The lower level of the Sugar Hill offices is a small showroom where buyers will find a selection of refinished tubs and pedestal sinks. "We get them from around the country, from homes being torn down and from people who just bring them in," said Kott. "We work with a broad network of people to find them."

Many of the old tubs arrive with chipped finishes and rust stains. Re-glazing gives them a new shine. Buyers also can have colors applied to the outside of the tubs. A refinished, five-foot tub costs about \$795.

"Originally, the outsides of the tubs were black, raw cast iron," said Kott. "Everyone painted the outside what color they wanted and only the inside was white porcelain. Generally, they painted



A claw foot tub (above) awaits re-glazing at Unique Refinishers.



Antique-styled faucets and hardware (left) are part of the Unique Refinishers stock.

the bathroom whatever they painted on the outside of the tub. But we can do any color."

Along with tubs, the company re-glazes counters and cabinets and repairs tile work. Having one re-glazed at home is about \$495.

The shop also sells antique plumbing fixtures made of solid brass. Prices range from \$100 to \$500.

Best-sellers

The claw foot tubs lead the way, followed by the sinks.

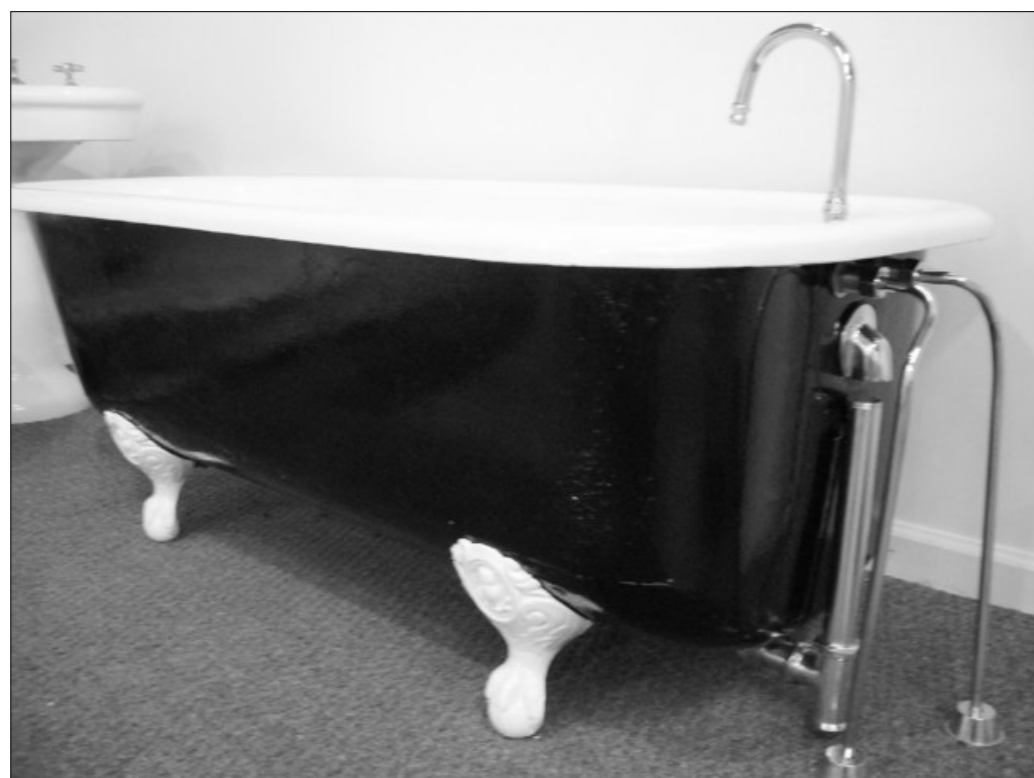
Trends

More buyers are looking

Unique Refinishers

5171 Nelson Brodgon Blvd., Sugar Hill
770-945-0072
uniquerfinishers.com
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays

for the old-fashioned tubs to give flair to their new homes, said Kott. "They like that antique look, whether they're restoring an older home or moving into a brand new house with a 1920s look. And it's a conversation piece."



A refinished claw foot tub, with a black exterior, is one of many available at Unique Refinishers.

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HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Get an outdoors feel — even while inside



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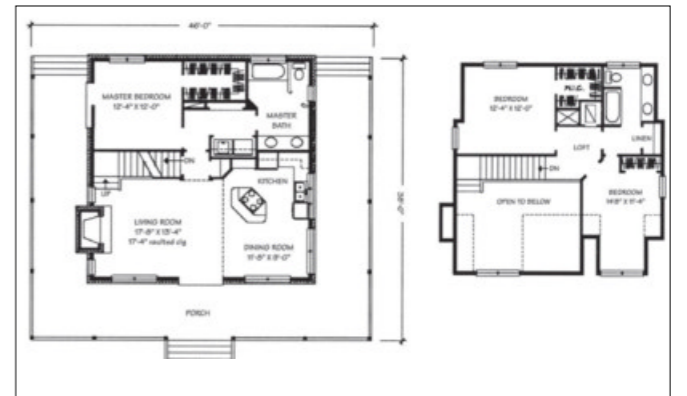
A wraparound porch and a master bedroom with access to the porch accent this home's spacious areas. Featuring plenty of windows, this home would be an outdoors-lover's dream.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

What better way to take in the great outdoors than on the delightful wrap-around porch of Plan RLA-411, by Homeplans, part of Move.

Bright windows flank the impressive living-room fireplace and overlook the front yard, creating an airy space. Four more windows light the dining room, which flows into the spacious island kitchen. There, a casual snack bar and ample counter space make meal preparation a snap.

The master bedroom has porch access and a deep walk-in closet. Just steps away, the private master bath offers a garden tub and a dual-sink vanity. Overlooking the living room from a central loft, the upper floor hosts two additional bedrooms, one with a sunny dormer.



RLA-411 DETAILS:

- Bedrooms:** 3
- Baths:** 2
- Upper floor:** 568 sq. feet
- Main floor:** 911 sq. feet
- Total Living Area:** 1,479 sq. feet
- Exterior Wall Framing:** 2x4
- Foundation Options:** Standard basement

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