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pacific

Influences from Asia to Washington state make this master bath as relaxing as it is practical.

written by KATIE STUHLER
photographer JOHN GRANEN
field editor LINDA HUMPHREY

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hen they want to relax, enjoy striking forest scenery, or simply do laundry, the owners of this Bellevue, Washington, home head to their master bath.

That wasn't always the case. The master bath used to be the least relaxing spot in the house. The room's tight floor plan barely accommodated a vanity, toilet, and shower, and the space lacked natural light. An unused adjacent hot tub room, accessible only through one of the closets in the master bedroom, wasted precious space.

Perhaps even worse, the bath was devoid of character. It didn't do justice to the rest of the house, a Northwest contemporary with Asian influences located in a private, parklike setting. "The rest of the home was more architecturally interesting than the master bath," says certified master kitchen and bath designer Marie Blackburn.

Blackburn's bath design merged the original bath with the window-lined hot tub room and the master bedroom closets. It also took advantage of the home's striking scenery, placing a large air tub on a honed limestone tile platform directly under three windows. "If you can sit in the bathtub and see the trees and the sky, it really changes the way you feel about being in the room," Blackburn says. A remote control skylight over the center of the room brings in even more natural light.

peaceful



FAST FACTS

LOCATION: Bellevue, WA
HOME STYLE: Contemporary
BATH STYLE: Contemporary

FUN FACT: Part of the bath used to be an unused hot tub room.

DEFINE YOUR STYLE. The vanity is an essential part of any bath. Get storage and style ideas at KitchenBathIdeas.com/kbi164.



The shower is wider on one end, thanks to the room's angled design. Small 3×3-inch limestone tiles with thick grout lines blanket the shower floor to prevent slipping; larger slate tiles cover the rest of the room.



The materials—all with a low-luster finish—capture the essence of the outdoors. “We brought natural styles from the outside into the room,” Blackburn says. Creamy porcelain tiles blanket some of the walls, while slate tiles run underfoot. Honed limestone tops cherry cabinetry, with mitered slabs that create a thicker look on the counter edge. Behind the vanity counters is a custom white bronze backsplash.

The owners’ wish for double vanities and a generously sized steam shower inspired Blackburn’s most creative move. Taking cues from the home’s exterior angles, she created an angle from one vanity to the other, giving one space for a dressing table. The tub and shower, separated by a glass panel, line the wall between the vanities. “The angle energizes the room with movement,” Blackburn says.

A private toilet compartment rests at the other end of the short vanity. Across from it, a cabinet conceals a side-by-side washer and dryer—an addition that saves the owners trips down several flights of stairs without sacrificing the bath’s beauty.

“Everything is right at their fingertips,” Blackburn says. “And they can be in there at the same time without getting in each other’s way. **KBI**

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ABOVE: The curve of the white bronze backsplash echoes the shape of the mirror, while the therapeutic air tub—on a platform of honed limestone tile—bathes in natural light. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Tall cabinets disguise laundry units next to a vanity and makeup area. **RIGHT:** A private toilet compartment, with a pocket door, houses a towel warmer.



TAKEAWAYS

- 1 Locating the tub and shower on an exterior wall floods the bathing areas in natural light.
- 2 At one end of the vanity, a lower counter offers a place to sit and get ready.
- 3 Shallow cabinets prevent the room from feeling crowded.
- 4 A washer and dryer add convenience to the master bath.

laundry ideas

RIGHT: Designer Marie Blackburn selected a washer and a nonvent dryer that easily tuck away in a cabinet where they don't interfere with the layout or beauty of the room. "The whole spa feeling would have been lost if they had to look at them," she says.

MORE EXAMPLES BELOW:

1. If you don't have space for appliances in your bathroom, a pullout hamper makes it easy to store clothes until wash day without messy piles littering the floor. **2.** Maintain the stylish look of your bath by setting a washer and dryer behind a sliding screen that keeps the appliances out of sight when not in use.



Add function and style to your bathroom with these great in-bath laundry ideas.