

CELEBRATING THE STYLE OF SOUTH LOUISIANA

# HOUSE

*and home*

PART III OF THE  
2009 DESIGN AWARDS  
WINNERS

**RUSTIC &  
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HACIENDA  
IN HUB CITY

MASTER BATH  
MAKEOVERS



# Bathing Bliss

Sumptuous design elements elevate the bathroom from a practical space to a luxury destination.



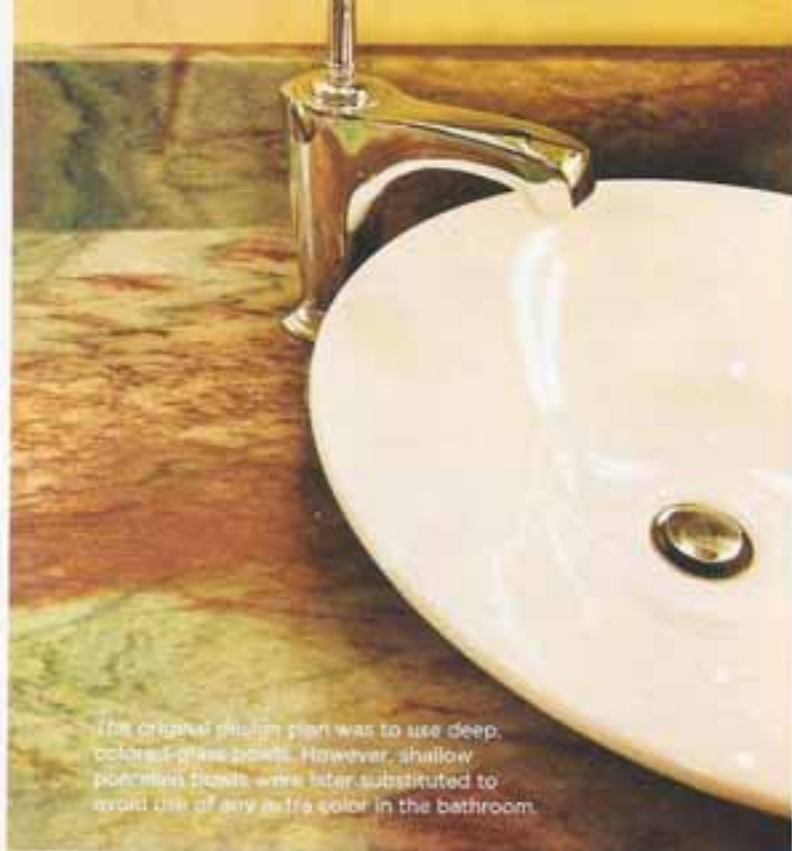
This cabinet was made to look as if it was once a stand-alone piece of antique furniture that was converted to a vanity, but it was entirely custom built by Blackwater Design in Lafayette.

The coffee area is a transitional space between the master bedroom and the entrance to the bathroom. The homeowners can enjoy their morning coffee and utilize the mini fridge underneath.

This mahogany stands smartly against the natural travertine tile. Clifton Bolgiano describes the crystal chandelier reflected in the mirror as "the dainty bling in the room."

While the tub may have the appearance of being shallow, it has been sunk under the floor to make it easier to get in and out. The tub surround is made of slab granite in earth tones.





The original design plan was to use deep, colored glass panels. However, shallow porcelain fixtures were later substituted to avoid use of any extra color in the bathroom.

Bathrooms are often hidden away in rooms and off of halls, and may not seem to be rooms worthy of lavish design details, pricey fixtures or top-quality materials. For some homeowners, luxurious appointments such as these might be deemed appropriate only for the kitchen, but not the humble bath or powder room.

However, many designers are taking a fresh look at incorporating unique elements and desirable amenities to one of the most important—albeit often overlooked—rooms in the house. As designer Ruthie Golden notes, “When you really think about it, the bathroom is probably the room used the most in the home, besides the kitchen.”

A real estate professional, Ruthie knows what it takes to please a client. Her husband and business partner, Rusty Golden, does most of the designing and decorating for the homes they build, but Ruthie says she adds “the cool factor.”

In one of their showcase homes, the Goldenes maintained an environmentally conscious green theme throughout the house. Many elements in the bathroom are eco-friendly, and the entire space was designed to create clean and simple lines and an environment reminiscent of a spa.

“You don’t see a lot of fuss,” Ruthie says. “Less is more. I think you have to be more creative to do less and still get the same result you were going for.”

To create the atmosphere of cool class, Ruthie chose a Camera marble for the floor and countertops. The marble was hand laid with Absolute Black marble inserts, which

also form parallel bands for contrast in the shower.

“Laying out the floor was the biggest challenge,” Ruthie says. “I wanted the black strips to be equally spaced apart, but I wanted them to line up in the shower. The shower alone took four days.”

The floor in the shower consists of river rocks, which are similar to the stones used for hot stone massages, thus enhancing the spa overtures. The cabinets are made of quilted maple with a barrel finish, a feature that Ruthie says adds a “movie star” quality to the room.

A cast-stone tub was purchased from South Africa, while the water fixture for the Kohler Laminar Flow tub was installed in the 10-foot ceiling to avoid the disruption of any visible fixtures. The flooring surrounding the tub and shower was “scored,” or slightly roughened, so that bath rugs would be unnecessary, thereby preserving the room’s minimalist décor.

“I didn’t want to present too much,” Ruthie says. “We wanted it to look cool, but the owner has to become emotionally connected so they can see themselves there.”

The other green components of the bathroom include on-demand hot water heaters, a dual-flush toilet and low-flow showerheads. The walls are colored with low-VOC paint, which releases less volatile organic compounds into the air, while the low-emittance glass windows are made with special layers to reflect radiant heat.

“The entire house is eco friendly,” says Ruthie. “Since it was built a year ago, it’s definitely ahead of its time for Baton Rouge. People are learning new things and trying them. The house did what we wanted it to do, which was teach.”



In an effort to avoid any textiles other than the Roman window shade, Baton Rouge design consultant William Evans selected this acrylic chair to maintain the clean lines evident in every aspect of this bath.



Lighting automated with motion detectors was installed under all of the vanities so that when the homeowner enters the room, lights turn on automatically.



This shower is outfitted with a rain head, square showerhead, a hand-held showerhead and body jets.

In another bathroom that takes its cue from the spa is a master bathroom designed by Baton Rouge design consultant William Evans. In fact, the designers says, a photo of a spa inspired the homeowner, who requested that Evans emulate the serene quality in the bathroom's final design.

In designing this bathroom, the granite was one of the first materials chosen. The granite, named New Louise Blue, was purchased from Triton Stone Group of Baton Rouge.

"The homeowner picked it out and was describing it to me over the phone, and I just wasn't sure about it," Evans says. "But after I saw it, I thought it was so beautiful."

The granite pulls in the chocolate-painted finish of the vanities and the porcelain white in the tub and bowl sinks. Evans chose a large, neutral travertine tile for the flooring, which was set in rows instead of diagonally.

"We didn't want to add another pattern into the mix," Evans says. "We also chose the acrylic chair so we wouldn't have to add upholstery."



A unique chandelier that appears to be a cypress tree branch with dangling icicles was found by Evans a year before he met the homeowner. He had been waiting for the right project to use it when he found the perfect fit in this bathroom.