

quiet escape



Smart amenities and soothing color create an inviting master bath with plenty of space for two.

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The centerpiece of this Arizona bath is a freestanding white acrylic tub with a backrest at each end for enhanced comfort. Sheer curtains and Roman shades lend privacy without shutting out sunlight.



ABOVE The husband wanted drawers and a closed cabinet in his grooming area. A lowered ceiling subtly defines the area and creates a feeling of intimacy. Recessed overhead fixtures illuminate this corner when natural light is low. **TOP RIGHT** Sconces supply soft lighting through white linen shades and make a stately bow to the home's traditional vibe.

ABOVE RIGHT To add a touch of elegance, the designers chose a polished-nickel finish for faucets and hardware. **OPPOSITE** A glass door opens into a 6×7-foot shower, scaled so two can comfortably use it simultaneously. The walls are faced with white subway tiles, which complement the marble mosaic flooring throughout the bath.

THIS RELAXING BATH RETREAT IS JUST OUTSIDE THE BUSY LIVING AREAS OF A PHOENIX-AREA HOME occupied by a couple and their three boisterous young sons. But it also sits at the end of a long planning journey that included a brief, unsatisfying detour into make-it-work territory.

When the couple first fell in love with the nearly 1-acre corner parcel, they figured they would try to make its existing home suitable for their family. But after living in the cramped 1960s house for some time, it became clear they needed to start from scratch. They moved into temporary



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quarters so the house could be razed and the site cleared for its replacement—a sprawling one-story, five-bedroom home designed by architect Jim Blochberger with plenty of input from the husband and wife on their needs and preferences.

The style that evolved inside the completed home was “fairly traditional, modest in its aesthetic but really young and family-friendly,” says Caroline Tyler DeCesare, who developed the design along with Nicole Grkovic. Remembering their regular design meetings, Grkovic says, “Our clients favored a soft, serene bathroom, kind of like a retreat, but they didn’t want anything too grand.”

Finding the right wall color became a major focus, and the issue was resolved when the designers suggested a robin’s-egg blue the couple found both soothing and flattering. Abundant light pours into the bath through windows and doors on one side, but privacy is assured with translucent linen café curtains on the windows and Roman shades on the doors, which open to a courtyard.

“This bath is designed the way we imagined our clients would use the space,” Grkovic says. “The wife wanted to be able to sit down and do her makeup,” so a stool with an upholstered seat became part of the plan. “The husband obviously didn’t have that need but wanted good storage,” she says, pointing out that he preferred drawers to shelves in his grooming area.

Recalling the design process and all the components her clients wanted to include, DeCesare says, “It was all about their comfort and their lifestyle. Good design is not about the parts; it’s the sum of the parts.”

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