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SUMMER 2023



five-star
REVIEW

A hospitality executive's primary bath has glamorous features worthy of a resort.

WRITER AND FIELD EDITOR *Lisa Mowry*
 PHOTOS *Jeff Herr*



OPPOSITE:
 "The homeowner loved the idea of an X motif, so we incorporated that into the cabinet design," interior designer Cynthia Masters says. THIS PHOTO:
 A freestanding tub in a classic oval shape has modern nickel fixtures. The wet room floor's basket-weave design is both intricate and slip-resistant.



TOP LEFT: Polished-nickel faucets and antiqued-brass mirror frames add interest to a muted color palette. TOP RIGHT: Glass-and-nickel sconces are an understated choice against herringbone-pattern tile. ABOVE: Custom furniturelike vanities offer plenty of storage and lend traditional style. The spacious wet room and its floor-to-ceiling marble are lavish scene-stealers.

AFTER A 30-YEAR CAREER IN THE HOTEL AND TOURISM BUSINESS,

Jennifer Stilwell had seen her fair share of awe-inspiring rooms. When it came time to renovate her and her husband Ron's Greenville, South Carolina, primary bath, she had an expert wish list ready to go: a spacious shower and tub, plenty of counter space, and a soft color palette. "I wanted a bath that was elegant with hints of glam, but not Hollywood glam—refined sophistication with honed marble and tiled walls," Jennifer says. "Something timeless."

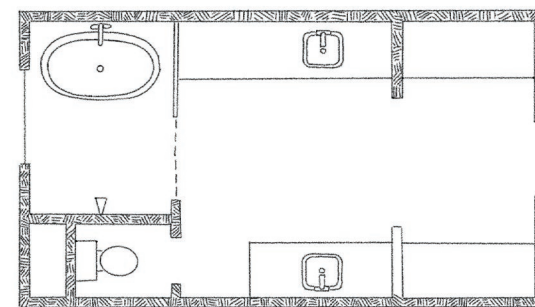
Interior designer Cynthia Masters considered Jennifer's must-haves as she dreamed up an open layout bath and selected varying materials that relate to each other. "We wanted a light and bright space with a bit of design dazzle," she says. Vanities with an X motif (a detail plucked from Jennifer's hospitality inspiration) anchor the room, backed by wall tile installed in a herringbone pattern. Marble flooring leads to the room's focal point: a wet room with a shower, tub, and floor-to-ceiling tile in a large format.

The tiles on the floor, vanity wall, and wet room walls are all gray Dolomite marble but in various permutations. "We used it in different sizes and shapes," Masters says. "We wanted to bring in texture without causing the space to become busy."

For a clean and crisp look, Jennifer and Masters chose white for the walls not covered in tile but realized the room needed a dose of color. "The blue quartzite countertops offer hints of blue, while the cabinetry, in a blue-gray hue, ties the finishes together," Masters says. Gold-tone accents, such as the mirror frames and chandelier, usher in warmth, while crystal knobs are cool, classic luxury.

The bath has become a refuge for Jennifer at the end of each day. Stepping into the space feels like she's swiped a key card to her own far-flung getaway: "It's what I lovingly call 'my happy place,'" she says.

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the plan

This 250-square-foot primary bath is a grand sanctuary. Along parallel walls, custom cabinets house built-in wardrobes, sinks, and a spot for the homeowners to sit while getting ready. A wet room encloses a shower and soaking tub. Its glass surround ensures natural light from the window fills the entire bath.



ABOVE: In part because of its dozens of teardrop crystals, this chandelier marries the grandeur of Art Deco with modern elegance.

DESIGNER INSIGHTS: ADDING A WET ROOM

Placing the shower and bath in a wet room gives the illusion of extra space and injects a dose of opulence, interior designer Cynthia Masters says. Here's what to consider if creating your own.

- **Let a tile floor unify the space.** Masters selected a basket-weave pattern because it was a subtle departure from the other flooring. "The texture also helps avoid a slip hazard that the larger 12×24-inch tile would have presented," she says.
- **Use as much glass as possible for the shower wall.** A frameless glass enclosure allows your view to extend to the end of the room.
- **Always invest in a handheld showerhead.** The fixture's mobility will make cleaning that much easier.