

Perfect Balance

FUNCTION COMBINED WITH BEAUTY CREATE A SOOTHING RETREAT IN SUMMIT

WRITTEN BY REN MILLER
PHOTO BY PETER RYMWID
DESIGN BY VALERIE GRANT

When the owners of a 1970s Summit home decided it was time for an update, the master bathroom was one of the prime targets. They wanted to devote more space to the bathroom and turn it into a quiet retreat.

The bathroom update was part of a first-floor renovation that included an addition that also would allow for a new kitchen/mudroom/laundry area. The owners called on interior designer Valerie Grant of Valerie Grant Interiors in Summit to oversee the project. Grant reconfigured two existing bathrooms into one 10-by-11-foot master bathroom and his-and-her walk-in closets. “The clients wanted spa-like luxury, so we designed the room with function and Zen-like beauty in perfect balance,” Grant says.

Instead of a soaking tub, the owners opted for an oversized glass shower. And what a shower it is. It features multiple shower heads and sprays and a state-of-the-art steam unit. The shower’s back wall and ceiling are poured

glass tile; the other walls are glass. “That combination blends seamlessly with the honed Silver Wave travertine tile on the floor,” Grant notes. She designed a niche on one wall of the shower that blends flawlessly with the tile design while providing space to store bathing products.

The large custom vanity is crafted of light oak with a Blue de Savoie marble countertop and two sinks. “Custom designed teak mirrors adorn the iridescent Tiffany glass-tiled vanity wall,” the designer adds.



A mix of textures and restful colors combine with a standout shower in this new master bathroom in a 1970s Summit home.

As a natural balance to the glossier finishes, Grant designed a teak ceiling. Recessed lighting brightens the room without detracting from the natural aesthetic of the wood planks. The water closet is a discreet area separated by a privacy door.

“To maintain an experience of serenity,” she says, “we kept the accessories to a minimum, relying instead on the organic elements of the design as well as the truly organic beauty of the outside view.”

SOURCES design, Valerie Grant Interiors in Summit; architect, John James Architect, AIA, in Maplewood; builder, Romano Construction in Warren; tile and countertop, Mediterranean Tile in Fairfield and Bernardsville; cabinetry and mirror, Heartland Woodworks in Flanders; teak ceiling, Romano Construction; window treatment, designed by Valerie Grant Interiors, Hartmann & Forbes fabric; sconces, Visual Comfort; bench at window, homeowners; wall color, “Gray Owl” by Benjamin Moore.

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