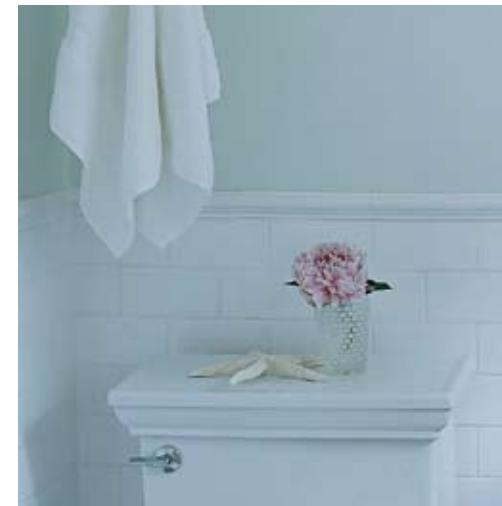


A large double vanity with square basins takes center stage in this quirky bath. Personality abounds in the mismatched mirrors, the pendant lights and beyond.



A DESIGNER WITH
ECLECTIC TASTE GIVES HER OWN
BATH A UNIQUE APPEAL



NEW-FANGLED CHARM

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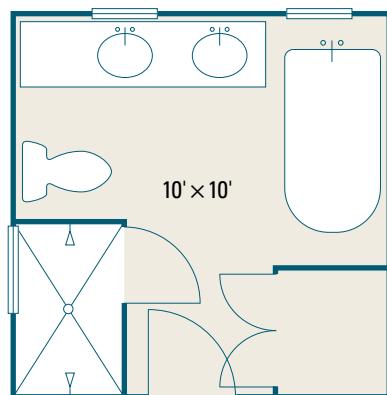
At first glance, Jane Seifert's master bath gives off vintage vibes. That is, until you spy a remote-control unit resting next to an antique shaving-brush holder or the flat-screen TV discreetly mounted beside the sink. According to Jane, the most charming bathrooms combine old-fashioned features with user-friendly materials and conveniences. It's a sentiment she wisely subscribed to when undertaking her own project: refurbishing the century-old cottage she shares with husband Michael Curley and daughter Grace on Boston's North Shore.



ABOVE: The two-headed shower has a floor covered with chips of Carrara marble. A narrow ledge provides a resting place for toiletries or a foot when washing or shaving a leg.

OPPOSITE: Placing the antique-style “telephone” fitting on the side of the tub—rather than at the end—guarantees no irksome head bumps during a relaxing soak.

BELOW: The room is long on personality and, more importantly, long on space, with room for a double-wide vanity and separate tub and shower areas.



“I wanted a vintage look with a modern edge,” Jane says. She took the 10×10-foot room down to the studs, then reworked the layout, placing fixtures along perimeter walls to net space for a furniturelike vanity with his-and-hers grooming stations, a walk-in shower, separate soaking tub, toilet area and concealed washer/dryer unit. “We kept the footprint of the room, but changed everything else,” she says.

While a subtle white-on-white palette suggests understated design, the room is full of surprises. The undisputed star is a double vanity that incorporates a problematic window, deliberately mismatched mirrors and a pair of unusual square basins Jane spied while scouting parts at a local plumbing supply store. “I knew I wanted a piece of furniture in the room,” she says of the custom-built unit, which also provides plenty of storage. Despite obvious touches of luxury, “not everything has to match or be expensive,” says Jane, whose sleuthing excursions are more apt to yield some quirky object or whimsical pairing that contributes to the room’s charm and pleasing incongruity.

As expected, texture takes on important role. Pale green walls the color of surf-pounded beach glass complement the all-white scheme. Creamy white subway tiles and a honeycomb-patterned tile floor grouted in a practical dirt-disguising gray hint of the past, yet are extremely hard wearing—an important consideration for a house so close to the sea. “I liked the crisp contrast of the gray Carrara marble against the white-tiled floor and brushed chrome fixtures,” Jane says of her choices.

A pair of windows admits welcome sea breezes and lend an open and airy feeling to the intimate space. A freestanding rolled-edged tub is strategically situated to allow the occupant to truly relax and enjoy the outdoor view. The elegant telephone-style fittings are mounted along the back wall, “so the tub spout doesn’t poke you,” Jane says. Above the tub, an expansive mirror of salvaged tin magnifies light, visually doubling the space.

Jane splurged on the dressy treatment for the shower floor: tiny chips clipped from a slab of Carrara marble. She conceded the impact was worth it. In fact, she admits that she loves everything about the elegant, well-edited space. “It’s beautiful, peaceful, clean and well-designed,” she says. “I wouldn’t change one thing.” ♦

FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ



design points

CHARACTER STUDIES

This bath favors an endearing style that recalls mid-20th-century urban dwellings—a sort of “retropolitan” look. Here are a few key characteristics:

TRY TO BE NEUTRAL Notice that permanent fixtures tend to be white or gray. In previous eras, as today, that made the house easier to sell, because who doesn’t like white?

ADOPT AN ACCENT The place to take a chance on color was with paint, usually on half a wall, as in this bath. Where these walls are green, however, they would more likely have been pink 50 years ago.

HONEYCOMB HIDEOUT Bathroom floors covered in 1-inch square tiles or a honeycomb of hexagons definitely evoke a time pre-NASA. That’s because prior to today’s alternatives, ceramic tile was a durable, water-resistant alternative to hardwood flooring—and it still is.