



Spectacular Master Baths

Designing a luxurious, functional and relaxing space

by Wanda Perkins

Pablo Picasso was once quoted saying, "Everything is a miracle. It is a miracle that one does not dissolve in one's bath like a lump of sugar."

Although it's not likely you will dissolve into a lump of sugar in your bath or shower, you may undoubtedly agree that today's spectacular master baths are nothing short of miraculous. They offer homeowners a luxurious escape from everyday stresses while providing tranquil relaxation and ultimate convenience.

When it comes to creating and designing spectacular master baths, homeowners have endless options to choose from with equally lengthy wish lists. Customized storage, walk-in closets and laundry areas, high-end finishes, spacious spa showers, technology gadgets

and soaking and jetted tubs with great outdoor views are all design details today's homeowners' desire.

Whether you prefer a soaking tub or a jetted tub, choosing a tub and shower combination is both an important and personal decision. "Master bathtubs are now often smaller sized allowing easy access. Soaking tubs are quiet and permit the use of bath salts and oils," notes Lynne Shears, ASID & AIA Allied Senior Designer, Minnetonka, Minn.

The master bath shower can be an invigorating, pulsating experience or comparable to a gentle spring rain. "Homeowners are looking for spacious, custom walk-in showers, and steam show-



Stone accents on the bath vanity, tiled flooring and intricate tiled accents on dual vanity sinks and mirrors are simply exquisite. A footed tub is framed in rustic logs and complemented by a nearby wooden ladder towel bar.

Photo courtesy Paula Kovatovich, CKD, Interior Designer, The Hearth Room.



A corner jetted tub is positioned for great outdoor views. Clear block shower walls let light in and beautifully divide the bath space.

Photo courtesy Paula Kovatovich, CKD, Interior Designer, The Hearth Room.

A space with interesting ceiling detail and angular design details creates a winning master bath that is both functional and spectacular.

Interior Design :Walsh Design Group; General Contractor: Tomlinson and Sons, Inc. Photography courtesy Caulfield Studio..



His and her vanities with recessed medicine/mirror cabinets and a roomy, walk-in shower with recessed shampoo niche are perfect ideas for the master bath.

Architect: BHH Partners Planners/Architects; General Contractor: Tomlinson and Sons, Inc.; Interior Design: Lynne Shears, ASID & AIA Allied Senior Designer; Photography courtesy Caulfield Studio.

ers are becoming increasingly more desirable," explains Shawn Rud, Accent Contracting in Fargo, ND. "Two-person showers with multiple shower heads, body sprays, benches and rain showers are equally popular."

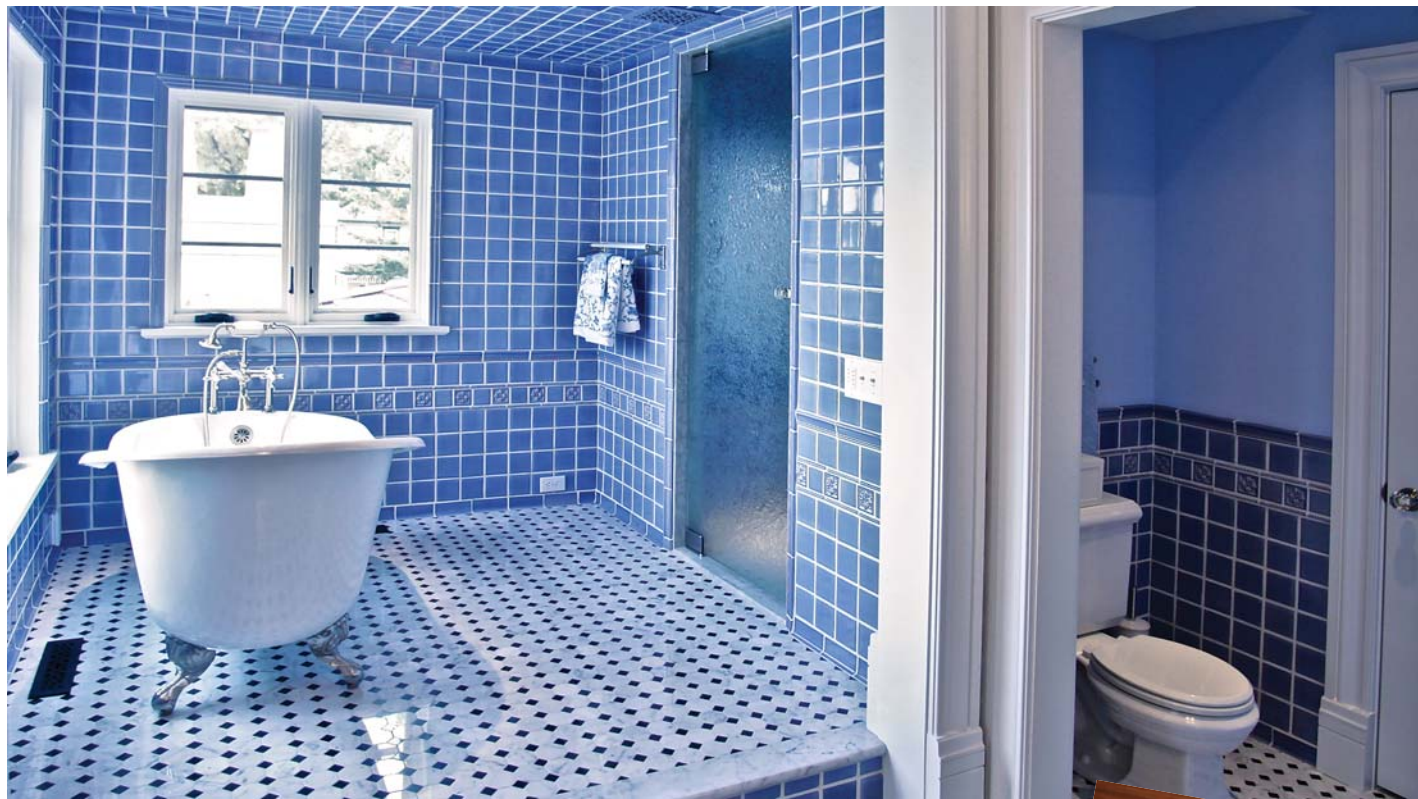
Keep in mind, when designing your magnificent master bath, finishing touches can make all the difference. Use decorative hardware like fancy glass pulls and doorknobs, or choose shells or pebbles for a lake home. Opt for a luxurious heated towel bar. Incorporate a variety of lighting elements for a dramatic effect. Select a rustic, modern or classic style to complement your preference and lifestyle.

"Always purchase quality name brand faucets over less expensive models. Delta features faucets with hands-free opera-

tion and a sensor that automatically controls water temperature," states Donna Boonstra, Custom Interiors & Co., Inc. "Incorporating tile is also a must. In-floor heating is a luxury you will not want to live without. Tile is easy to clean. It's resistant to water and humidity. Textured tile is perfect for a bath, because it's not slippery when wet."

"With today's technology, you can even heat granite countertops or shower seats too," adds Paula Kovatovich, CKD, Interior Designer, The Hearth Room. "Mosaic tiles add a splash of uniqueness and color without breaking your budget."

Storage is also an important aspect to consider in your master bath space.

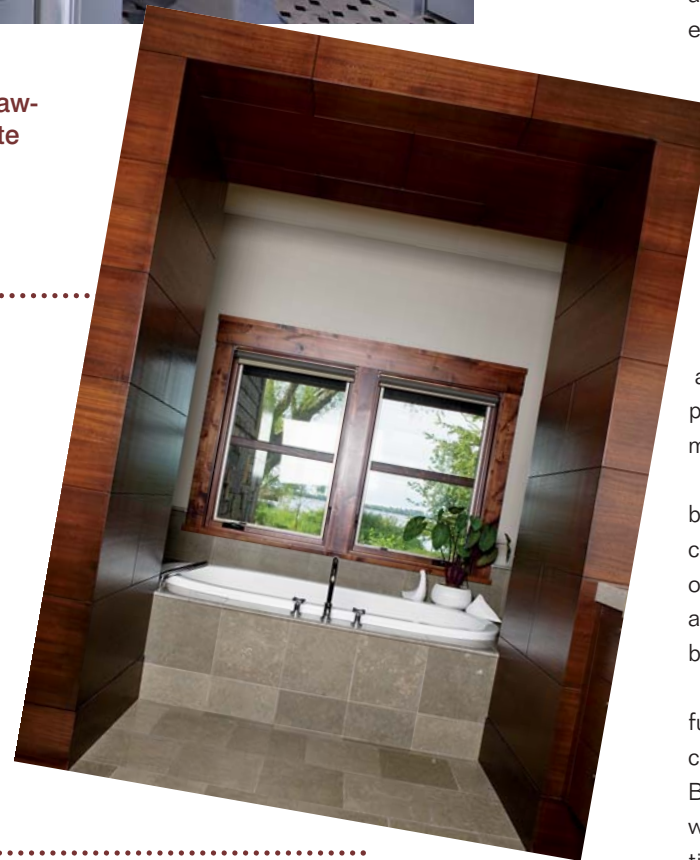


No need to feel blue in this floor-to-ceiling, tiled bath. It features a silver, claw-footed soaking tub, textured glass shower door that allows light to permeate the space, coordinating floor tiles and intricate glass door handles.

Interior Design by David Heide Design; General Contractor: Tomlinson and Sons, Inc. Photography courtesy Caulfield Studio.

Modern rustic describes this master bath with a fantastic view. Framed between custom mahogany cabinetry and natural limestone, the master tub welcomes the outdoors inside.

Interior Design by David Heide Design; Design Team: Walsh Design Group and Helenske Design Group; General Contractor: Tomlinson and Sons, Inc.; Photography courtesy John Forness.



Unique wall-mounted faucets and a tile backsplash and framed mirror create an ultra-modern bath experience. High windows and a clear block shower wall offer both natural light and interest.

Photo courtesy Paula Kovatovich, CKD, Interior Designer, The Hearth Room.



Connected walk-in closets with custom cabinetry, adjoining laundry rooms and tranquil master bedrooms provide the ultimate convenience. "More people are dedicating cabinet accessories and organizers for pull out hampers, hair dryers, ironing boards, flat-screen TV's and other bath necessities," Kovatovich continues.

Vanities should be functional as well as beautiful, and are available in an endless variety of sizes and finishes. "Master vanities typically include two sinks, if not separate vanities," Shears adds. "An added feature may include an outlet inside the sink vanity for hair dryers and the like and one inside the medicine cabinet for toothbrushes, shavers, etc."

Whether remodeling an existing bath into a spectacular master bath or designing and building a brand new one, there are several considerations for homeowners. Rud stresses the importance of first determining what your needs and wants are. "It is a good idea to plan a site visit with a reputable designer or contractor to examine the existing space," he explains. "Then, determine your budget. Bathrooms can run \$8,000-\$10,000 and upwards to \$25,000 and beyond for materials and labor. Visual computer images are often available allowing clients to preview the products they select prior to being implemented into their final design."

Creating an ultra-exquisite master bath space with all the latest design concepts includes both functional and luxurious details. Decide on the features that are most important to you, and how your budget will accommodate those goals. "Finally, consider the way your family functions in your present stage of life and customize your space accordingly," Boonstra concludes. "Most importantly, when designing a master bath, take the time to dream about your ideal space, and then design one that's perfect for you." H

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