

What's Hot









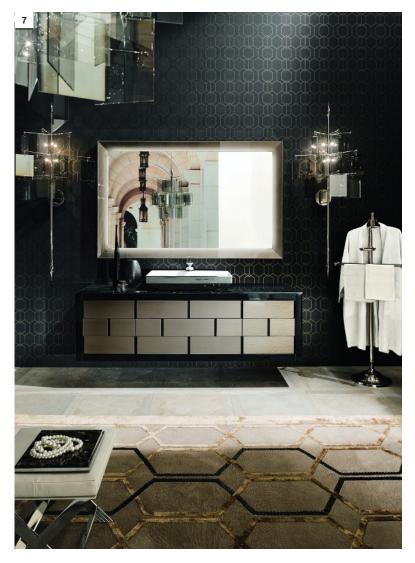
Bathroom Storage Solutions

- 1. From Hastings, the Open Collection of vanities features matte white cabinets with drawer fronts in 36 colors in matte or glossy finishes or 10 wood finishes. The insides of the open boxes can also be color specified.
- 2. Designed by Italian design studio Meneghello Paolelli Associati, the Mandello 114 vanity combines Victoria + Albert's Englishcast material with beech timber frames and integrated storage. It is available in anthracite or piano black.
- 3. BRANDY from Ryvyr is a 30-in.-wide single vanity and coordinating mirror. The vanity is painted in soft gray with a darker glaze hand-applied to the carved recesses at each side, and three soft-close drawers enhance the similarity to fine furniture.
- **4.** The contemporary Zoe vanity from **Ronbow** boasts a unique cutout finger pull and a reveal counter top. Two sizes and finishes are available.
- 5. The Lirico series by Lacava is a range of white porcelain single- or double-bowl lavatory tops available with a selection of wood consoles or wood vanity bases. A variety of turned or curved legs is available for the consoles, or the vanity can be wall mounted or installed with turned legs.
- 6. With the introduction of the double-drawer unit, the modular design of the Adorn vanity from Robern is more customizable. Along with push-to-open or slow-close drawers, the vanities are available in nine glass and four overlay colors, along with six digital wood and two digital marble patterns.





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- 7. The RITZ Collection from **Mitage** pays homage to F. Scott Fitzgerald and the period of Italian influence. The collection features lacquered fronts and decorated glass tiles.
- 8. The Quick Ship Cultured Marble vanity top program from WOLF Home Products includes 72 new design, color and faucet options, as well as a rectangular bowl shape. Other elements include a wear-resistant topcoat and an all-in-one design for easy cleaning.
- **9.** With details like integrated LED lighting and beveled edges, the Levanto Collection from **Villeroy & Boch** appears to be floating. The handle-free fronts emphasize the design.

- 10. The white and gold Avantgarde Brillante vanity from Topex Design is 38 inches tall and is shown topped in white solid glass. It is available in glossy black or white, with silver or gold legs, and can be custom ordered to most sizes.
- 11. Hardware Resources has added a modern gray finish to its Chatham Shaker Vanity Collection. Equipped with coordinating satin nickel hardware, the vanity is available in three sizes with a top drawer fitted around the plumbing.
- 12. The Palmer Vanity from Thompson Traders features a variation of the Milan sink in an antique satin gold, handhammered, 18-gauge finish. The vanity boasts an added faucet deck and a shortened bowl size.







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PIZZAZZ PUTTING ON THE

BORING MASTER BATH TRANSFORMS INTO SPA-LIKE SPACE WITH AMPLE AMENITIES

BY CHELSIE BUTLER







HEN A COUPLE in Arlington Heights, Ill., wanted to take their dated bathroom to the next level, they took a familiar route. Having worked with Airoom Architects and Builders on two previous projects, the couple again chose the firm to fulfill their master suite dreams: create a spa-like ambiance, add more closet space, and incorporate a breakfast bar.

"Since they were previous clients, they were familiar with our approach, which is why they came back to us," said Marty Meadow, one of the project designers.

The former bathroom was long and narrow, and the sink and dated whirlpool tub were connected with a

builder-grade granite material that expanded from the tub deck to the vanity countertops. The standard cabinets lacked spark, and the shower – with its cheap glass doors – was small and uninspiring.

Creating the Spa-Like Ambiance

THE DESIGN TEAM replaced the whirlpool tub with a freestanding soaking tub that is larger in size but takes up less space without the tub deck. The former shower with its one showerhead is now a his-and-hers space that boasts a ceiling-mounted rainhead, multiple body sprays, a handshower,

double-glass entry doors and a teak fold-down bench for comfort and accessibility.

Because the basement had been renovated five years earlier, some upgrades to the original builder system had already been made to accommodate the additional plumbing necessary for the renovation.

"To accommodate plumbing and installation of the rainhead, a soffit wrapped in dark brown marble was built under the barrel-vault shower ceiling, and we added indirect lighting to accent the shape," said Gina Bon, a member of the design team.

Other luxurious design elements include etched-copper sinks and oil-rubbed bronze faucets atop vanities that flank the tub. Coppery glass tiles line the arched shower ceiling.



ONE OF THE homeowners' musts included the addition of a breakfast bar so they could have their morning coffee together while getting ready for their day. It is located between the bedroom and master bath but features the same wood and marble as the vanities and countertops as the bathroom to unify the two areas. The bar serves as a coffee station and also offers a hidden refrigerated drawer.

The team used the former walk-in closet to accommodate the additional space needed for the breakfast bar. This transitional area is a pathway leading into the new closet – made possible through a large addition to the second floor – and also features a safe room.

Challenges and Solutions

AS WITH ALL renovations, this one too came with its own set of challenges, as some of the issues with the previous design flowed into the new plans. Working within the long and narrow space was alleviated by the removal of the former walk-in closet.

They also designed the floor tile pattern on a 45-degree angle to create the illusion of a wider room. The team removed a small linen cabinet and built-in towel shelves to make room for the larger shower, and to incorporate more storage in

LEFT Exterior-grade, waterproof lighting was used in the shower shelf/niche for ambiance and practicality.

The spa shower includes a rainhead, held-held shower-head with a slide bar, three body sprays and a standard showerhead.

BOTTOM RIGHT A matching breakfast bar with a coffee maker and undercounter refrigerator sits just outside the main space.







this area, they created a built-in shelf/niche along its entire length.

To spruce up the former flat, 8-ft. ceiling, the team demolished the existing ceiling joints, finished the area with drywall and designed a barrel-vaulted ceiling above the shower for a more spalike feel to the enclosure.

To add more light to the space, they added a skylight to the ceiling, which also creates the illusion of volume. The existing dark cabinetry was replaced with a light-colored palette in cherry wood, and the vanity mirrors are flanked by sconces. They were able to keep the existing tub window and its great view of the outdoors.

The homeowners own a metal stamping company, and because they had used copper sinks in the kitchen, Bon suggested a bronze metal sink in the bathroom to keep continuity throughout the home and to pay homage to their business.

"This material requires care and maintenance, but they were comfortable with that – having already used a similar type of material for their kitchen sinks," she added.

The \$80,000 renovation incorporates everything the homeowners wanted in a master bath, and they were a helpful part of the process.

"We always have our clients create an idea book of looks and concepts they like before we start the design process," said Bon. "From looking at theirs, I understood that they liked warmer color tones, natural stone and specific details, such as heavyedge ornamentation on cabinets.

Their affinity for European design can be seen in the master bath, including botanical prints on the metal sink and elaborate detail and edging on the marble countertops. According to Bon, the checkerboard pattern on the floor is a classic and Old World look that has been used for centuries throughout Europe, so it was definitely a fitting choice for the project.

"The couple travels on a regular basis, and this is evident all over the house through their collection of fine art," added Meadow. "They had been collecting inspirational photos in the classic European style for their new master bath."



SOURCES

DESIGN TEAM: Gina Bon, Calina Gobis & Marty Meadow, Airoom Architects and Builders; PHOTOGRAPHER: Sherie Cervantes

BENCHES: Teakworks4u; **CABINETS:** Crystal Cabinets; **countertops**: Crema Marfil Polished Marble; FLOORING: Crema Marfil Polished Marble and St. Laurent Polished Marble; **GLASS** TILE: Oceanside Glass; HARDWARE: Jamestown; LAVATORY FAUCETS: GROHE; MEDICINE **CABINET:** Robern; SHOWER COMPONENTS: GROHE; SHOWER DOORS: Euroview; sink: Link-O-Sink; TOILET: Kohler; TUB: Victoria + Albert; TUB FAUCET: ROHL