

September 2018

# Kitchen & Bath Business

Kitchen & Bath Business  
SEPTEMBER

CABINETRY/BATHUBS/TRENDS IN MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KBIS

**KBB's 2018 Design Award Winners  
Turning Students into Professionals  
A Conversation with Designers of all Ages**

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF **KBIS**





## Before & After

# Changing History

**Dated, weighted bath gets a modern upgrade**

WHEN A COUPLE BOUGHT AN OLD MANOR HOME in Franklin Lakes, N.J., they knew the master bath would need a significant overhaul since no improvements had been made in quite some time. What the bathroom did have on its side were ample space and plenty of natural lighting.

Designer Aparna Vijayan of Ridgewood, N.J.-based Ulrich, Inc., was hired to transform the home's entire master suite – adding some pops of color, creating his-and-hers vanity areas, updating the platform tub and incorporating warmer surface materials.

### MARBLE MADNESS

While this natural material is one of the most sought after for master bathrooms, the previous layout was rife with heavy marble. It was used for the walls, floors and tub surround, and there was no break in tone.

“The homeowner wanted brighter, low-maintenance materials that stayed true to the overall look of the house,” said Vijayan, who chose a vintage Calacatta porcelain tile for the floor. “It has a honed, pillowed finish that looks like aged marble.”

The countertops are leathered quartzite, the shower walls feature oversized porcelain tiles, and the shower floor is made up of river pebbles for a spa look and feel. For a decorative accent in the shower, the designer installed a marble mosaic mural framed with a chair rail in the overall bathroom's accent colors.

### SHOWER & TUB TURMOIL

A giant platform bathtub from the 80s took up half of the former space and was even more dated with the heavy marble steps leading up to it. Vijayan replaced the bulky unit with a freestanding soaker tub, which left enough room for her to install a storage niche behind it on an angled wall – complete with glass shelves and lighting. She replaced the windows surrounding the

tub but kept their placement, and as there is a lot of privacy in this section of the house, she didn't need to use window treatments.

The previous shower area featured just one basic showerhead and a few body sprays. The designer transformed it into more of what she calls a “performance” shower with an added rainhead and handheld showerhead. She was able to boost the size with the tub elimination and added a built-in seat and some shower niches in the half walls to conceal all the toiletries. She brightened up the shower area with a frameless glass enclosure and better positioned it under the skylight.

**BELOW RIGHT AND ABOVE** The previous space was too heavy with the all-marble surfacing and the platform tub. Designer Aparna Vijayan replaced the bulky unit with a freestanding soaker with baseboard heat and chose more maintenance-free materials to lighten up the master bath.

The free-standing tub is positioned between the windows, and an angled wall was added behind it to house a mirrored display niche. The bright, open shower features a pebbled floor and a frosted door in Starphire glass.

All the bathroom fixtures are polished nickel, and the cabinets feature crystal knobs. The skylights and windows add streaming sunlight for reflection.

**BY CHELSIE BUTLER**







**LEFT** The mirror frames create the symmetry between the his-and-her vanities despite hers being larger than his. The designer chose matching mirror frames over the sinks and used those to break up the rest of the mirrors over the makeup section.

The new layout features a wider doorway to the main bathroom, and the toilet room gives off a more modern feel with its herringbone-patterned porcelain floors.



“When you are in there, you get a nice sense of light from above, as the enclosure does not go all the way to the ceiling,” said Vijayan, who explained that before this was all closed up. She also added two LED lights in the shower.

#### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

The high-gloss laminate vanities were highly dated with their polished brass fixtures, and they did not match up with the character of the rest of the house. The clients wanted separate areas for their various needs – his requiring less counter space. Her L-shaped vanity includes a makeup area, but her sink section matches his exact configuration to maintain symmetry across the aisle.

“All kinds of storage were considered,” said Vijayan. “I added more drawers for makeup organization, space for trash and plenty of outlets for small appliances.”

The custom maple cabinets with a pewter glaze incorporate soft-close, full-extension features that make the deeper units more accessible, as does their 36-in. height. Each vanity area incorporates wall-to-wall beveled mirrors with frames that were milled from the same cabinet material.

According to the designer, the former polished marble countertops were susceptible to makeup stains and astringents. She replaced those with hardy quartzite, which she says is very forgiving to water marks and etching.

#### **TOUCHING UP THE TOILET**

In the original design, the toilet was in its own room and was separated by a hallway in the master suite, which the clients appreciated. Vijayan removed some walls and enclosed the now-generous space in frosted glass panels that rest on knee walls, much like what she says one would do with a steam shower enclosure.

“This gives some diffused indirect light from the bathroom skylights and windows to the area and gave the toilet room a more airy feel without being enclosed by full walls,” she added. “I also absorbed the space from an odd niche at the former bathroom’s entrance into the toilet room to make it more spacious and open instead of the boxy little area it used to be.

## **SOURCES**

**DESIGNER:** Aparna Vijayan, Ulrich, Inc.;  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Peter Rymwid

**CABINETY:** Wood-Mode;  
**FAUCET & SINK:** KOHLER;  
**FIREPLACE CLADDING:** Brandywine Fieldstone;  
**HARDWARE:** Top Knobs;  
**SHOWER FIXTURES:** KOHLER; **SHOWER FLOOR:** Earth Pebble mosaic tile; **TOILET:** TOTO; **TUB:** BainUltra; **TUB FILLER:** California Faucets;  
**WINDOWS:** Pella

#### **ADDING LIGHT & COLOR**

The former bathroom was all one hue – boring beige. The new palette includes white countertops with brown veining, and the stone-clad wall features the room’s accent colors of rust, gray and brown. The shower is clad in complementary tones, and the whole room is now a pale blue-gray.

According to Vijayan, the natural light in the former space was great, but the artificial light was lacking. She incorporated eight LED high hats and added a decorative chandelier. The vanities each boast their own sconces with color-corrected lighting for specific tasks.

The designer only encountered one challenge in this master bath renovation. An existing brick chimney could not be removed, even though it protruded into the space. Since she couldn’t overcome this obstacle, she chose to make it a design feature instead.

“I clad the chimney with stone, and while this is not a functional area, it does create a nice backdrop,” said Vijayan. “The new bathroom didn’t need to be completely modern; it looks like it has been there forever.”



1

## What's Hot

# What's Hot in Tubs



2



3

4



1. Designed by Piero Lissoni, **BOFFI's** Faroe Bathtub boasts a generous size achieved through Cristalplant – a technological material that is velvety to the touch and able to maintain its features over time. This new design features a rounded rectangle shape and is available in matte white or white and gray.

2. The Elara Plus Bath from **JACUZZI LUXURY BATH** features three massage seats that provide tailored hydro massages to key muscle groups. The Lounge Seat offers a full-body treatment, the Waterfall Seat envelops the body from above with a neck-massaging waterfall, and the Blissful Back Seat relaxes sore back and lumbar areas.

3. The Ashburn small-cast iron bathtub from **DRUMMONDS** is a freestanding roll-top unit based on an 18th-century bateau bath. Measuring just 59 inches long, the Ashburn is made to order using a traditional process that involves casting the raw metal, shot-blasting and enameling through a lengthy dry-frit process, which produces a durable, snow-white enamel.

4. Inspired by a centuries-old Milan opera house, the Scala Tub from **BAINULTRA** is a contemporary version of the traditional clawfoot unit and is notable for its modern metal feet and elongated oval silhouette. Crafted of durable acrylic, the tub is available in glossy white or the UltraVelour matte finish, and the clunky metal feet and coordinating armrests are offered in eight different finishes.

5. The new 66-in. Elise 230 from **MTI BATHS** is an organically-shaped bathtub with a small footprint. With the same shape and proportions as the larger 72-in. model, this latest version of the Elise meets the desire for more compact tubs and is offered in white or biscuit with a matte or gloss finish.

6. **VICTORIA + ALBERT** expands on the popularity of its Barcelona Collection with two new freestanding tubs: the Barcelona 2 (shown here) and the Barcelona 3. What's new is the void space underneath both tubs, which conceals waste plumbing, making them a smart choice for remodeling projects where the tubs can be installed without disturbing existing flooring.

7. **GRAFF's** MUSA Tub, made of a composite material that combines 75 percent of dolomite minerals with a unique resin, is a durable and natural-looking piece with a modern slant. Designed by G+Design Studio, MUSA features an integrated overflow system and is available in a gloss-white or matte-white finish.

8. The Lotus Bath Collection is the creation of Nathie Katzoff, who was trained as a shipwright and is now the lead designer and founder of **NK WOODWORKING & DESIGN**. Custom built to the same standards as the company's fine furniture and stairs, the completely water-tight bathtubs are offered in three sizes. Each is then finished with a specialized clear composite barrier for durability and longevity.

9. At 59 inches, the BW-04-L from **BADELOFT** fits in the same footprint as a standard tub and is made of a stone resin that offers the same look and feel as natural stone but at a fraction of the cost. The Badeloft tubs also come in traditional glossy and matte finishes and are 100 percent eco-friendly using completely non-toxic materials.



5

6

9

8



7



# ORGANICALLY MODERN

A 25-year-old space with a narrow layout becomes a contemporary oasis

## BATHROOM SECOND PLACE

OUTDATED SPACES OFTEN HAVE SO MANY ISSUES that it is better to start with a blank palette. For budget reasons, the majority of these types of redesigns have to stay within the same footprint. This is what challenged designer William Burke of Longwood, Fla.-based S&W Kitchens, who had a client looking for a completely new, Zen-like look in their quarter-century-old bathroom.

The space was terrible to begin with, but the main challenge was making the room seem bigger than it really was," said Burke.

### ADDING LENGTH AND HEIGHT

Before the redesign, the space sported outdated oak cabinetry and a giant corner tub. Once the bath was gutted, Burke was left with a narrow floor plan and a ceiling that only reached about eight feet high. Using 20/20 to create 3D perspectives and then AutoCAD for the specific construction details, he eliminated one vanity and removed the old shower enclosure and tub, replacing them with a freestanding tub and a walk-in shower.

"The shower didn't come together until we were standing in the space with the client and realized that a centered plumbing wall would give us the height we were looking for," said Burke.

This wall is in the center of the bath and extends from floor to ceiling, giving the door-less shower – which is now a wet space – some additional privacy. The frameless glass panels on either side of the wall surreptitiously help define the space.

"We wanted to take the eye away from the fact that the room was narrow," said the designer, explaining that he used travertine marble in a vertical mosaic pattern on the wall to emphasize height as well. "I think the tile detail added the weight needed to offset the open feeling of the shower."

### NATURAL AESTHETIC

According to Burke, when clients ask for a spa-like space, he uses more organic elements. The vanity – which he found at KBIS 2018 – is made of walnut wood with white-painted cabinet fronts. This streamlined piece further adds to the modern look of the bath with its contemporary concrete countertop.

Made by a local fabricator, the 3-in.-thick countertop includes a 30-in.-wide ramp sink with a slot drain in the back and two faucets. The sink also highlights the look of the running water from the faucet, which flows into the slot drain at the back of the sink rather than directly into a drain. Behind the vanity, a backsplash of travertine marble echoes the shower wall and further enhances the illusion of height in the bath.

### PERSONAL TOUCHES

A Zen-like space calls for calming hues, but sometimes a pop of color can make a design stand out.

"I get the most comments on the piece of artwork the client selected to go over the tub," said Burke, referring to a bright and colorful painting of birds.

After starting with a fairly modest budget, the client ended up adding at least 50 percent more than what he thought he would spend to the project. With that, the team was able to tile another whole wall in the toilet room, as well as create a fun and innovative entrance.



**ABOVE** The freestanding tub was a natural alternative to the giant corner tub that occupied the space previously and added desperately needed floor space to the bath.

**BOTTOM RIGHT** "Aesthetically, I love the look of the shower plumbing wall and the way the combination of the floor and wall tiles offer a pleasing complement to each other," said Burke.

"The room on the other side of the shower is a theater," said Burke. "Adjacent to the shower, we built a tall cabinet that looks like a linen closet, but it's actually a door to the next room."

This secret entrance was further customized by Burke and his son, who make fishing lures as a hobby and used some of those to accent the face frame of the door. The result is the organic and modern aesthetic – with the luxury of a customized look – the client was looking for.

This year's judges were impressed with the budget-friendly project that kept a thoughtful process in mind. ●

## SOURCES

**DESIGNER:** William Burke, S&W Kitchens;  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Rickie Agapito - aofotos

**CABINETRY & MIRRORS:** White Square;

**COUNTERTOPS & SINK:** Price Concrete Studios;

**FAUCETS & TUB FILLER:** KOHLER; **TILE:** Crossville;

**TOILET:** TOTO; **TUB:** Victoria & Albert

