

Elegant Evolution

The most humble room in the home, the bathroom, is expected to have perfect plumbing and ventilation, decent lighting, and adequate storage – all in a space with the square footage of a closet. It's no wonder bathrooms are most often the targets of remodeling homeowners. When designer Ami Austin visited her client's existing bathroom, the only positive she saw was the openness of the floor plan. Otherwise, the lighting was poor, the fixtures and large Jacuzzi tub were out-dated, and the storage was strangely non-existent despite the size of the room.

During the renovation, the oversized bath and shower were removed from the window area and a steam shower and soaking tub were installed in place of a cluttered vanity. Imported rectangular Italian tile was laid in a brick pattern on the floor and wall in bathing area for a clean look, along with a rectangular bath and Emperador marble surround and shower bench. River rock and travertine tiles were used in the shower floor and ceiling, respectively.

To answer the client's needs for storage, custom vanities with plenty of drawers and cabinets were installed in a his-and-hers style. Natural illumination was incorporated from the skylights and windows, combined with recessed lights in the ceiling and vanities, a chandelier, and crystal lamps on the vanities. Pocket doors were added in the bath area for privacy and floor space, and the designer suggested custom cut rugs instead of a smattering of bath mats.

"Details are important to me," explains Austin. She chose beveled mirror and a curved Ogee edge to the marble vanity counters to reflect the elegance of the redesigned space as well as the ambient lighting. Custom faucets in the bath and sinks added to the personalized feel. "This dramatic makeover works with the flow of this elegant home and really brings tremendous value," Austin shares. Once a dark, dysfunctional bathroom with little privacy, this master bath is now modern, serene spa.

Design: Ami Austin of Ami Austin Interior Design

Architecture: Joey Hagan of Architecture, Inc.

Title and Stonework: Triton Stone

Marble: Julie and Corey Wade of Granite and Marble Services

Construction: Tim Walters of Distinctive Home Designs



Photo by Dale Cox