



A floor-to-ceiling stacked-slate wall adds texture and visual interest. The spoon-shape bathtub is ergonomically designed to ensure a comfortable soak.

Cutting-Edge *Calm*

Innovative design
and behind-the-
scenes technology
morph a master bath
into a contemporary,
revivifying retreat.

BY AMBER DAWN BARZ | PHOTOS STACEY BRANDFORD | FIELD EDITOR KRISTI S. ZIMMETH



Opposite: A window seat provides extra storage and a sunny place to enjoy a morning brew. **Above right:** Contemporary faucets attach to the wall. The rectilinear backplates and marble backsplash tiles play up the shape of the large trough sink. A narrow stone shelf above provides additional storage and display space.

Step into this modern retreat and the stresses of today's digital world drift away. Ironically, technology is one of the reasons this bath appears so tranquil and appealing.

Soothing music envelops the senses, thanks to a surround sound system. Diamond-cut crystal uplights, recessed into the timer-activated heated floor, generate soft, sensual lighting.

An organic-shape, ergonomically designed tub encourages long, luxurious soaks. "The tub was at the top of my wish list," homeowner Richard Perng says. "Some people think they are unnecessary, but a soaking tub is part of my Asian heritage. A long soak helps clear my mind after an intense workday."

A spectacular glass-enclosed steam shower offers rain-style showerheads and precisely placed body jets to relax tired muscles better than a practiced masseuse. A drying zone next to the shower, another amenity common in Asian-style baths, is equipped with glass shelves for storing towels and displaying accessories. A heated towel rack installed next to the drying area lends additional opulence.

Across from the shower, a wall-hung vanity seemingly floats. Ample counter space and a large rectangular sink with two faucets make the area as comfortable for two as it is for one. A seat built below the window provides storage for spare linens.

Tucked into a corner beside the vanity, a separate water closet, equipped with a second sink, allows for privacy. Two wall-hung televisions—one in the



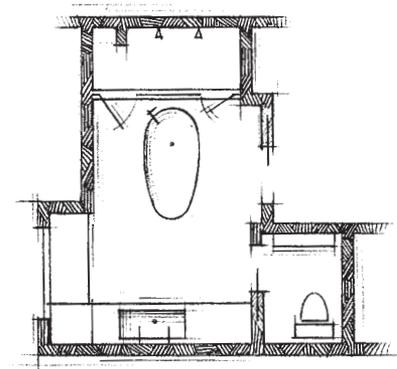
water closet and one in view of the shower and tub—enable a check of the day's events.

The open layout, created by tearing out an interior wall and moving the bath entrance, lends an airy, spa-like ambience. "Prior to the renovation, you had to close the bedroom door in order to open the bathroom door," designer Nathalie Tremblay says. "I couldn't wait to solve that problem."

The sophisticated black, white, and gray color scheme, used throughout the home, encourages relaxation. Natural surfaces, including a marble-tile floor and a stacked-slate wall, lend subtle warmth.

"It's like having my own spa," Richard says. "I travel a lot, and this bath is comparable to the nicest hotel bath I have seen. The uncluttered, Zen atmosphere is even better than I imagined."

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The vanity is made from riftsawn oak and stained a dark charcoal gray that allows a touch of the wood's grain to show through. The open cubby below the vanity is painted high-gloss white, creating eye-catching contrast.







“Edgy and modern, this bath also contains the five age-old elements of feng shui: earth, wood, fire, metal, and water.”

Nathalie Tremblay
designer



DESIGNER INSIGHTS

Green Scene

Designer Nathalie Tremblay, who created this technologically advanced bath space, shares her tips for making high-tech and energy-efficient choices.

- **Low-voltage fixtures.** Recessed light fixtures in both the ceiling and the floor are low-voltage and attached to electricity-conserving dimmer switches.
- **Heat-saving timers.** The heated coils that warm the floor are also low-voltage and are set to go on and off at specific times of day via a built-in timer.
- **Energy-conserving insulation.** Installing new insulation in the attic and exterior walls reduces heating and cooling costs.
- **Water-saving amenities.** The toilet, faucets, and showerheads throughout the bath are certified low-flow fixtures.

Opposite: The focal-point tub is dramatic and rejuvenating. The marble-and-glass shower is spacious enough for two.

Top right: The freestanding tub faucet complements the bath’s modern styling. A separate spray extends the full length of the tub. **Top, far right:** This beautiful display is part of the drying zone that serves as the entrance and exit point between the shower and the rest of the bath. **Above:** “The stone wall adds a masculine touch and makes the homeowner feel very comfortable in the space,” designer Nathalie Tremblay says. **Above right:** A niche in the shower keeps soaps and shampoos handy. **Right:** Swarovski crystal floor lights provide beautiful mood lighting and sparkle like firelight. Trapezoidal floor tiles give traditional marble tiles a modern edge.



Ultimate Luxury

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