

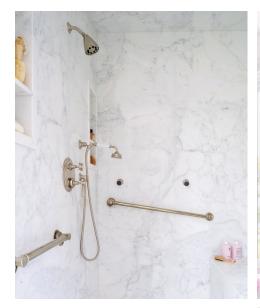


DESIGNER INSIGHTS: SMALL-SPACE HACKS

A bath doesn't have to be grand in size to feel spacious. Here's how interior designers Caren Rideau and Michele Trout made the most of this bath's square footage.

- Keep the room open. Dual vanities, the tub, and the shower sit flush against opposing walls, making a U configuration. The layout makes the bath appear spacious but not empty. "It's easy to move around in but not over-the-top big," Rideau says. "It's still inviting."
- Create built-in storage. Rideau took a foot from the water closet to create a recessed linen closet. "When a closet is not protruding into the bath, you get a more spacious look," she says.
- Design around windows. "We had a view straight out to the Pacific Ocean," Trout says. "The room is flooded with sunlight."
- Employ metallic finishes. The material's reflectivity can maximize the natural light and make a space feel airy.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: In the roomy shower, the design team implemented grab bars to accommodate aging in place. Inset shelving creates a high-end look while keeping the shower clutter-free. A sleek faucet in a nickel finish acts in ensemble with the bath's other soft-but-luxe features. "I like using small patterns on bathroom floors," designer Caren Rideau says of the decorative marble. "The more grouted it is, the less slippery it is." A bouquet of pink peonies stands out against the bath's gentle palette but echoes the vibrant nature just past the window. The twin mirrored medicine cabinets are made from nickel, complementing the finish of the light fixtures, faucets, towel holders, and pulls.















ABOVE: Dual vanities give the room a sense of symmetry. The two pieces, dressed in the same marble as the rest of the bath, blend into the surrounding stone. White cabinetry and clean-line hardware and sconces achieve a low-key glamorous look. "The homeowners are not overthe-top, so we didn't want to make the bath over-the-top," Rideau says. "The bath is understated for how luxurious it is."

HOW DOES A DESIGNER SHOW RESTRAINT WHEN AN ENTIRE PORTFOLIO OF RESOURCES IS WITHIN REACH? When the owners of Arizona

Tile, John and Eileen Huarte, enlisted designers Caren Rideau of Kitchen Design Group and Michele Trout of Bonesteel Trout Hall to transform rooms of their newly built home, the primary bath became an opportunity to display the couple's products. The designers relished the endless possibilities but were wary of going too far. They clung to the ethos that less is more.

The Huartes wanted their ocean-view bath to feel spacious, accommodate twin vanities, and have grand but relaxed features. "You could really dress the bath up," Rideau says, "but the challenge was maintaining the elegance and stature it deserves."

Simple sophistication started with Calacatta marble, which appears on the vanity countertops, on the tub surround, and inside the walk-in shower. On the marble floor, a subtle diamond pattern adds visual interest. For contrast, the design team painted the wood panels cladding the tub a soft blue.

In keeping with the bath's muted palette, Rideau and Trout chose classic polished-nickel fixtures and simple recessed medicine cabinets above the vanities. Tailored sconces with white linen shades flank the medicine cabinets. Overhead, an oversize pendant grabs attention."The large sphere sets the tone for the whole space when you walk in," Rideau says. It's unfussy but chic—which is just what the Huartes ordered. Resources begin on page 92.

The space was not exceptionally large, but I wanted a bathroom that would feel as spacious as possible.

the plan

The design team created an airy-feeling retreat complete with dual vanities, a walk-in shower, a water closet, and a tub positioned below a pair of windows to take advantage of ocean views. Storage features, including a recessed linen closet, keep the bath uncluttered.

