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2023

Surface Appeal

With all the tile and stone they could want at their fingertips, two designers dream up a subtly elegant bath.

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For John and Eileen Huarte, founders and owners of Arizona Tile, their primary bath was an opportunity to showcase some of their favorite products. "We knew we wanted to highlight our slabs," Eileen says of the Calacatta marble blanketing the vanities, tub casing, and shower and bathroom walls.

**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.



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 over-the-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.

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“The space was not exceptionally large, but I wanted a bathroom that would feel as spacious as possible.”
—EILEEN HUARTE, HOMEOWNER

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.

