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BRILLIANT BATHROOM DESIGNS

BATHROOM DESIGNS OF THE PAST CERTAINLY HAD A UTILITARIAN PURPOSE, personal cleanliness being the desired end result. During the last decade, however, more and more homeowners have chosen to design bathrooms that not only offer basic services such as showers and sinks, but also luxuries that mimic the most upscale spas. The six designs on the following pages are retreats that add stylish flourish to this practical room, proving that form and function can coexist in the tightest of quarters.





Trio of Sophistication

STEVE HERMANN ACHIEVED A DESIGNER'S HAT TRICK WITH THE COHESIVE LOOK OF THREE BATHROOMS

WRITTEN BY ASHLEY GRIFFIN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY TIM STREET-PORTER

WHEN DESIGNER STEVE HERMANN APPROACHED THE BATHROOM DESIGN FOR THIS 1960S mid-century modern Hollywood Hills retreat, he followed his traditional approach for home design. "I stage each room as if it were a scene in a movie," he says.

For this home, themed with what Hermann calls a "sexy cool" vibe, he focused on creating clean lines and open space in each of the rooms. "The whole house had the sexy bachelor look in mind. If I had to pick a movie, it would have to be one of the James Bond films," he says. "The Bond films always were set in dramatic architectural homes that accented James' particular lifestyle. I wanted these rooms to make you feel sexy and sophisticated. It was about creating a look that made its owner seem like a man about town."

Using his talented eye for design, Hermann carried this aesthetic through the entire home, including the master bath and the two additional guest bathrooms. Within the bathrooms, Hermann utilized touches like wood paneling on the walls to tie the rooms' designs together; at the same time, he embraced subtle changes in the design from bathroom to bathroom—such as a switch of one stunning sink for another—that act to distinguish the rooms as separate entities.

Nevertheless, these designs were not easily achieved. Each bathroom also presented Hermann with a smaller-than-desirable square footage within which he wanted to create an open, airy feel. To overcome this design hurdle, Hermann created a crisp, clean-lined space using sleek, functional pieces and light color schemes. Thus, the resulting bathrooms both look and feel larger than they really are.

The home's two guest bathrooms, where texture-rich, artistically minded focal points create dramatic results, perhaps best represent the airy ambience achieved by such a clean design. In one, a curved wooden Agape sink acts as the room's stunning centerpiece. "The countertop is made of wood and so is the sink," says Hermann. "This creates an interesting juxtaposition as most people don't think of wood as being a watertight material. But people forget that wood has been used for years as a ship-building material and can be completely watertight."

Because the homeowner was young, single, and without a family, Hermann used interesting pieces such as this sink to push forward with an adult-focused design in both guest baths. Additionally,

Hermann knew the auxiliary bedrooms and bathrooms would be utilized only by temporary guests and likely did not need to address storage as an issue. For these reasons, the design and pieces used in the rooms became as artistic as they are functional.

This reasoning explains his choice of sink for the second guest bath. Because of the room's small size, Hermann



ABOVE: Designer Steve Hermann created a crisp, clean-lined space using sleek, functional pieces and light color schemes. In one of the guest bathrooms, he chose a glass sink made in Italy by Agape. OPPOSITE PAGE: In the other guest bathroom, a curved wooden sink, also made by Agape, acts as the room's stunning centerpiece. (For photography of the master bathroom, see pages 16-17.)



had to limit the focal point to one piece and—in keeping in the tradition of the other guest bath—he again used the sink as the room’s *pièce de résistance*.

“It was a natural solution to pick sinks that grabbed your attention and were out of the ordinary,” he says.

In this room, he used another Agape sink from Italy, this time made of glass instead of wood. “I love the Italian manufacturers as their products are so clean-looking yet combine function with a little whimsy,” he says. Additionally, Hermann added a wood-paneled wall in each room to further tie the two designs together.

Unlike the home’s guest baths, Hermann approached the master bathroom with its functionality and amenities in mind. He wanted it to have ample storage for the owner but also maintain an aesthetic that was in line with the rest of the home’s clean look. Thus, he added a substantial sink and vanity for storage but kept the rest of the room’s design streamlined and simple.

Within this room, he also used a twist on the wood-paneled walls found in the home’s guest baths.

“I like wood paneling because it creates texture and depth to a room, [but] I try to change small details in each room so that they offer something different than the last bathroom you saw,” he says. “This room had a long wooden cabinet, so I did not feel it necessary to reintroduce wood paneling into this space.” Rather, Hermann used the cabinet coupled with a wood-trimmed mirror to create texture in the master bath without making it into an exact replica of the guest bathrooms.

This use of wood here, in a different form, also points to the way Hermann has created a fluid design throughout the home. In each of these bathrooms, he engaged light-colored wood accents and paneling as well as a common color palette with mild variations. The end result is a stunning, cohesively designed set of bathrooms that all fit with the sexy, sophisticated theme that echoes throughout the home. ■