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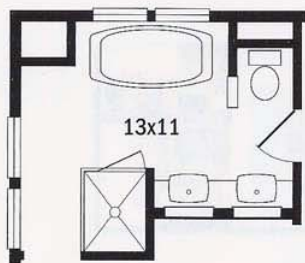


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MIXING MODERN AND TRADITIONAL
ELEMENTS, THIS DREAMY MASTER BATH
OFFERS LESSONS IN THOUGHTFUL DESIGN.

writer GRETCHEN WESTDAL *photographer* SUSAN GILMORE *field editor* HEIDI PEARSON





OPPOSITE: Open storage under the vanity makes the bath feel more spacious and offers a handy spot for towels. **ABOVE LEFT:** Flush-mount showerheads maintain a streamlined look in the shower; in-wall radiant heating keeps things cozy. **ABOVE:** The patterned wallcovering in the master bedroom inspired the bath's calming, neutral color palette. **FAR LEFT:** The sleek tub filler includes a built-in sprayer. **LEFT:** Recessed medicine cabinets boost storage at the vanity.

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an the design of a room showcase the latest trends and yet still appear timeless? Absolutely, say custom home builders Rocky and Gigi DiGiacomo. They've proved it time and again with the beautiful, livable spaces they create, such as this luxurious master bath retreat in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Part of a 4,200-square-foot zero-energy home—featured as one of the “Dream Homes” in the 2011 Twin Cities Parade of Homes—the bath effortlessly combines clean, modern lines with traditional finishes. It also boasts another unconventional pairing: budget-friendly fixtures and splurge-worthy materials. “In our experience, fixtures are not the place to splurge,” Rocky says. “Pick a single line for all plumbing fixtures. Then spend the money on finishes: stone and tile. This is a good rule of thumb, especially when a tile shower or bath is the showpiece of the bathroom.”

In this bath, the DiGiacomos used inexpensive, classic subway tiles for the flooring, then went all-out with the vanity's marble top and backsplash and the gorgeous gray-green glass tile in the shower. “Glass tile lends a surface quality like few other finishes,” Gigi says. “But it is expensive. By placing it in areas with minimal square footage, we have spent our dollars well.”

At the heart of the room, a freestanding tub makes a dramatic focal point and supports the clean-lined aesthetic. Gigi's tip for achieving similar results? “Ask yourself what kind of space you want to live in—formal, cozy, eclectic, simple? Homing in on a look that feels right to you from the start helps you prioritize and wade through the many design decisions.”

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Takeaways

- 1** Traditional and modern design elements mix more harmoniously when lines are clean and simple.
- 2** To stay within budget, use expensive materials in areas where square footage is at a minimum.
- 3** Utilize space under a sink or behind a mirror for additional storage.
- 4** A neutral color palette creates the feeling of openness in a smaller space.



OPPOSITE: Combining the traditional look of marble with a modern vessel sink offers an up-to-date yet timeless design aesthetic. **THIS PHOTO:** Glass shower walls and large windows over the focal-point tub keep the bath feeling light and airy. In the floor, the design team incorporated what they call a “must-have”—radiant heating.