

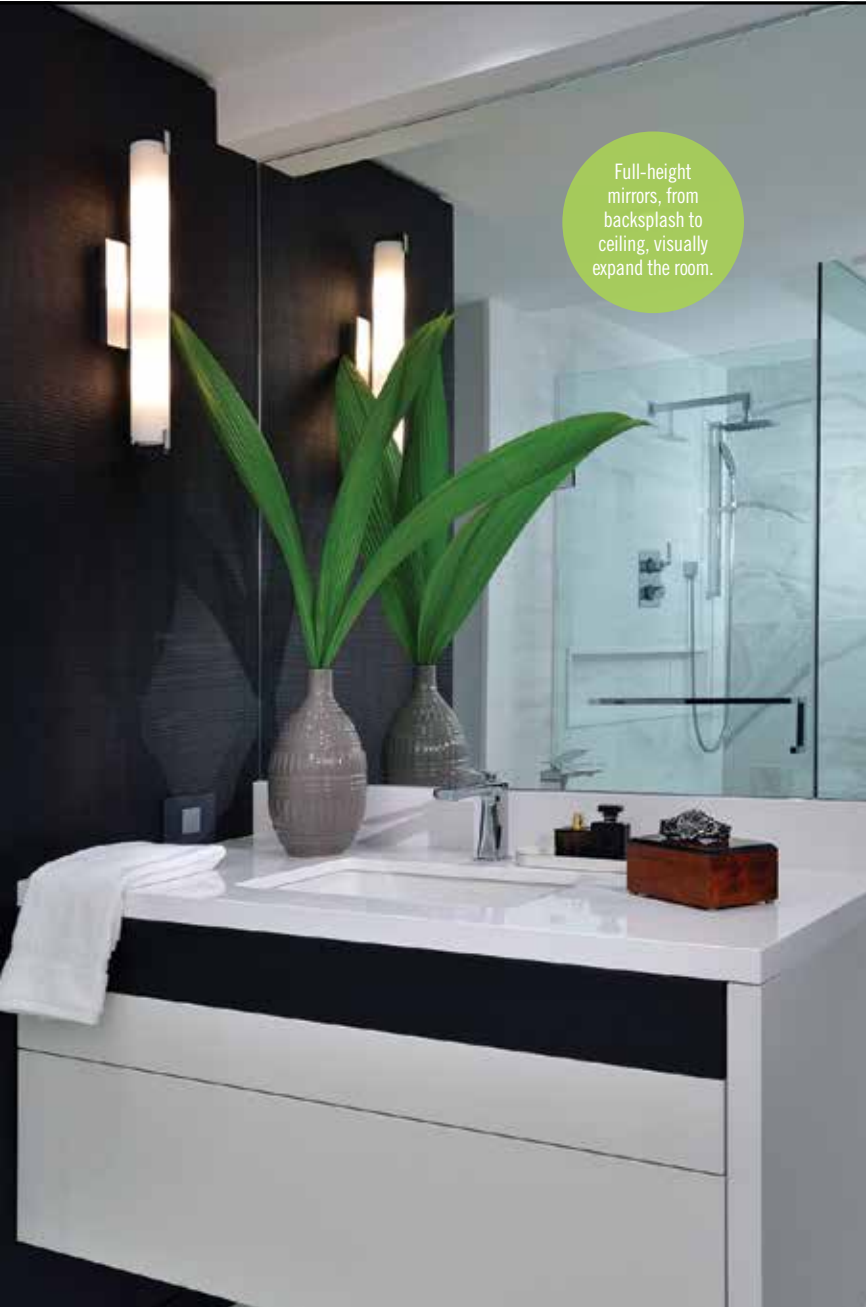
a FRESH START

Lost in the '80s, this lakeside condo ensuite now boasts sophisticated 21st-century finishes

Overlooking the shores of Lake Ontario in downtown Toronto, this condominium was originally built in the early '80s, and featured finishes that were considered luxurious back then. Though the client appreciated the dated luxury, which was present in the master ensuite bathroom when he bought the property, he wanted the home to express his sophisticated lifestyle as well as provide him with added functionality and modern amenities.

The first step was to glean all the information possible to understand the homeowner's needs for the space. Every room had already been stylishly updated and decorated with a modern and masculine style. The final frontier was the master ensuite, which meant the luxury look of the '80s had to go to match the rest of the home.

BY EVELYN ESHUN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY LARRY ARNAL



Full-height mirrors, from backsplash to ceiling, visually expand the room.

CONDO COMPLICATIONS

The challenges of renovating in a condo are multiple, including the inability to easily move plumbing fixtures, install pot lights and freely work during certain hours. These restrictions are even more challenging when tasked with a short timeline. In this case, the massive transformation had to happen between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., within a six-to-eight week time frame.

Tradespeople normally begin at a jobsite as the sun comes up. As the job proceeds, it is critical to schedule, in proper sequence, the various installations. For instance, one can't install a faucet until the counter is completed and the tub can't be installed until the flooring is fully installed.

The timing of trades can bring a whole job to a halt if not executed correctly. Any number of things can happen to delay progress: damaged product, a sickness in the crew, a major holiday. Despite the challenges, we squeaked in under the wire and completed this project successfully.

COLOUR AND CONTRAST

My goal was to pay attention to the pleasures of mind and body when designing this lavish bathroom. The homeowner's active and luxurious lifestyle prompted me to choose exotic finishes such as high-lacquered paint and smoked eucalyptus wood for the vanities and a floor-to-ceiling storage tower, which brings a wonderful element of texture to the generally smooth and sleek space.

The original plan for the tower was to have a laundry bin available in the bottom half and shelving above; however, a plumbing stack tucked along the wall did not allow for this. Plan B was to create a generous amount of storage in the tower with shelves, and plugs for various grooming tools.

Contrasting the variegated texture of the storage tower with the gleaming high-gloss white finish of the floating vanities created the dramatic and contemporary look we were after. Adding LED-rope lights under these floating vanities

TIPS

- A lever faucet offers easier access when you have a full face of soap.
- Install extra plugs to accommodate additional bathroom gadgets.
- Put your lights on a dimmer for those relaxing time-outs in a soothing tub.
- A vanity with full pullout drawers provides easier access to all your products.

amps up the wow-factor dramatically in this gentleman's ensuite. The option to dim and alter the colour of the light glowing from under the vanities allows for control of the ambiance of the space.

The first element chosen for the renovation was a generously sized 36x24-inch imported Italian tile. Subsequently, the colour scheme was inspired by the tiles that provide the illusion of movement and emulate the look of a solid slab, which would have been a more costly and challenging installation choice. The centrepiece of this bathroom is a freestanding tub with very simple lines atop a platform, created in order to redirect some plumbing.

WATER WORKS

The shower remains in its existing location and flanks the tub area. To make it feel more contemporary, a linear drain was used on the shower floor and a five-foot-long linear niche was created to amplify the horizontal elements of the design. Of course, a bathroom discussion always includes the toilet, which has been discreetly hidden in a room of its own.

This renovation had its challenges but our design solutions successfully transformed the '80s bathroom into a contemporary and classic space that adds value and enjoyment to the homeowner's daily life. ♦

SOURCES
 Accent wall tile: stone-tile.com
 Floor Tile: tycostile.com
 Countertops: apexcustom-fabrication.ca
 Aquabronze: aquabronze.com
 Faucets: aquabronze.com
 Millwork: Custom through Evelyn Eshun Design Inc.; evelyneshun.com



Put the lights on a dimmer for those long, soothing soaks in the tub.



Toronto-based accredited award-winning designer Evelyn Eshun. For almost two decades, Evelyn has concentrated on and is known for her custom-designed residential projects throughout the GTA. evelyneshun.com

Evelyn Eshun will be at the R&D booth at the Fall Home Show at the Better Living Centre. Eshun will give tips on how to optimize a small space during her stage appearances on October 3 from 6-7 p.m., and October 4 from 2-3 p.m.