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BESPOKE BATHROOMS

Three designers, three bathrooms, varying styles that all create a soothing sanctuary for homeowners

BY MARTHA BREEN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LARRY ARNAL

Bath renovations are, in many cases, the most personal of home improvements, simply because the bathroom is the most personal of rooms. It's here that you are at your most private; it's perhaps the only place where you can completely escape from the outside world.

Renovating your bath is the perfect opportunity to completely indulge your own tastes and needs, even if you share it with other family members—whether you crave comfort and safety, pampering, or a room of your very own away from the demands of a hectic life.

The three stunning baths here are all special because each one was designed specifically for its individual owners' desires and tastes. Perhaps you'll find something here to inspire your own custom-tailored refuge.



SLEEK AND MASCULINE

Designer **Evelyn Eshun** was tasked with making the main bathroom in a contemporary home more masculine than its original pink-and-mulberry colour scheme, since it would primarily be used by the couple's 13-year-old son, and to replace a rather imposing corner tub and shower with two separate fixtures, without physically enlarging the room.

Removing the space-hogging corner tub immediately freed up space. Eshun replaced it with a sleek glass-walled shower, and lined its inner walls with 24x24-inch tiles in a more masculine, matte-finish pale grey. For design zing, there's a horizontal "racing stripe," about one-quarter down from the ceiling, of tiny ½-by-1-inch glass mosaics.

The new open feeling was further enhanced by oversize 18x36-inch porcelain floor tiles that resemble polished cement, and by floating the vanity above the floor. With its quarter-cut walnut face, and a grey quartz countertop that tones with the floor tiles and rich grey-toned walls,

it's almost exactly the same size as the old vanity—but its combination of drawers and cabinets allows for more (and better organized) storage.

Choosing just the right shape of tub, which went on the wall directly opposite the vanity, required a bit more thought. "Oval tubs are beautiful, but they take up more room," says Eshun, "and we didn't want a rectangular one, because the corners can be sharp. Then we found the perfect combination: a tub with straight sides and round ends." To give the tub wall a bit of presence, another wide-racing stripe, this time vertical and in an off-black matte porcelain tile, runs from the floor up to the ceiling directly behind the tub.

Though the room hasn't grown in size, it feels much larger, thanks to cleaner, more neutral tile work and a more intelligent use of the room's limited space. After all, "The bath is where you are at your most private," says Eshun, "so it's very important to make it functional and comfortable."

SOURCES CONTRACTOR: Ideal Management COUNTER: Blumar Marble & Granite GLASS SHOWER: The Glass House HARDWARE: Upper Canada Specialty Hardware FLOOR TILES: Stone Tile PLUMBING FIXTURES AND ACCESSORIES: Casaroma SHOWER AND WALL TILES: Dot CEILING TILES: Tycos Tile Inc.

