

Natural Rhythm



Statement tile in forest green plays off this Seattle bath's connection to the outdoors—and the eco-friendly design practices that inspired it.

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OPPOSITE: Honed quartz countertops are a less precious alternative to marble and avoid busying up the bath's design with veining. THIS PHOTO: Architect Paul Moon designed an extended vanity mirror fit for two by installing a solid mirror panel and flanking it with matching mirrored medicine cabinets.

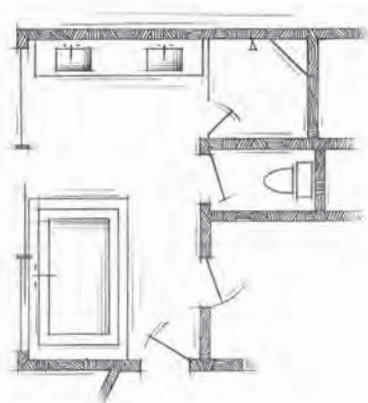


AS HE SKETCHED OUT DESIGNS and talked with his clients, architect Paul Moon knew right away what the central theme of his latest Seattle project would be. “These homeowners wanted a bath with contemporary and clean lines,” he says. “But we also wanted something that built off the sights and views, that let them feel connected to the fir trees, the lake, and the sunset outside.”

Rustic was not the goal—despite the bath being the most recent addition to a 1907 post and beam home. To let the environment speak for itself, Moon built a third-story addition onto a tower that houses a spa and yoga studio on lower levels. Building at such a high elevation lets views of nearby Mount Rainer and Lake Washington in through a wall of sliding panel windows—visible to the owners as they soak in their therapeutic tub or rinse off in their frameless glass shower. But the bath’s Zen-like energy is felt most strongly in an accent wall of green tile. “These tiles are handmade in the area, so every piece is unique,” Moon says. To balance the movement of the tile’s watercolor glaze, the designer chose honed quartz for countertops, in lieu of marble, and painted everything else white to match. Large bluestone floor tiles continue the deep gray terrain of the mountains outside—and are heated by solar panels that Moon had installed on the tower’s roof. It’s green design—done right.

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the plan



This bath almost appears to hover at treetop level. A floating double vanity and frameless glass shower minimize bulk along one wall, while a soaking tub clad in bright white tile takes advantage of spectacular lake and mountain views.



DESIGNER INSIGHTS: INSPIRED BY NATURE

Architect Paul Moon and his design team point out the small details that make a bath feel as organic as a natural landscape.

- *Never block a view.* When building an addition, especially one that is about referencing its surrounding environment, think first and foremost about what walls will receive sunlight and how to maximize window space. For privacy, add motorized shades that roll out from the windows’ moldings and disappear from sight when not in use.
- *Keep the color scheme simple.* “We tend to use fewer different materials, and we try to stick to a few basic colors, to make everything more consistent and not busy,” Moon says. Bluestone flooring, quartz countertops, porcelain tile, and dark-stained wood cabinetry are used in each zone of the bath.
- *Leave surfaces uninterrupted.* “We floated the vanity so the floor could continue into the shower and backlit the mirrors so at night, the space could softly glow,” Moon says. Low-profile hardware on cabinetry and integrated undermount sinks streamline the vanity’s design.

OPPOSITE: Because the bluestone floor tiles are so large, it wasn't possible to slope them down to a center drain in the shower. Rather than cut up the slabs, Moon opted for sloping the entire floor ever so slightly toward the back wall of the shower and installed a drain that spans the entire length of the wall to catch water as it trickles down.

THIS PHOTO: A four-panel sliding door was Moon's hack for creating a wall of windows. The two exterior panels on either end of the window are fixed, but the interior panels slide open when the homeowners want to bathe in the fresh air.

