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WRITER MARIROSE KRALL PHOTOGRAPHER PETER RYMWID DESIGNER TESS GIULIANI, CKD



Easy Does It

A designer sets a soothing mood while making waves in a Bergen County master bathroom

WHAT'S THE KEY TO MAINTAINING BALANCE while living a fast-paced lifestyle? For one couple, it's a master bathroom retreat that's tranquil, uncluttered and easygoing. These Ridgewood homeowners called in Tess Giuliani of Tess Giuliani Designs Inc. in Ridgewood, who understood their goals for a master bathroom addition. "They're on the go all the time," Giuliani says. "They wanted something very calm."

They also wanted the room to coordinate with the adjoining master bedroom, which features an assort-

ment of gray tones. Giuliani carried the calming color into the bathroom, beginning with the floor, where large, dark tiles create a solid foundation for the rest of the space. "It's like a man's gray suit," she says. The deep hue of the flooring is a prominent foundation for the primarily muted room.

The color gets a softer translation in the undulating tiles of the shower wall. The curved pieces call to mind softly bobbing waves with a subtly varied palette. "Because it's so textured, you get highs and lows," Giuliani points out.

The backsplash tile is also multi-toned. Its small strips add another dimension to a room arrayed in varied shapes and sizes. Giuliani finished the remaining walls in a coordinating but distinct light gray. The complementary tones create a calming effect. "I love the gray," the wife says. "It's very soothing."

KEEPING IT LIGHT

White cabinetry covers a considerable portion of the space, but the neutral tone ensures it's not intrusive. In fact, a floating vanity with LED lighting radiating from

beneath gives the installation a lighter-than-air effect.

Giuliani's design for the room is straightforward, minimalist and functional. "The wife wanted clean lines with a shower, just one sink, lots of natural light and a towel warming rack," she says. The homeowners also wanted ample storage. "Storage was a big thing for us," the wife says, "because we lacked it" before the addition.

The cabinetry fills the bill—even if the floating vanity surrenders some space. That was a technical and creative decision based on Giuliani's years of design work. "Vanities that go to the ground don't really maximize storage. The storage needs to be easily accessible and organized. It doesn't have to go to the floor," she says, adding that the suspended cabinet makes this bathroom look bigger and lighter.

Like the cabinetry, the toilet is simple and inconspicuous, but highly functional. "It's very clean looking because the tank is in the wall," Giuliani says.

The wife says this project "was about having a place that is a chic retreat." That goal has been attained in this space, which Giuliani describes as

"soft and contemporary. My objective is to always have this beautiful energy and this calmness. This is a tranquil sophisticated, uncomplicated room that invites you to immediately relax." **DKI**

Marirose Krall is a Red Bank-based writer.

SOURCES designer, Tess Giuliani Designs Inc. in Ridgewood; builder, Wennersten Design + Construction Inc. in Woodcliff Lake; toilet, Duravit USA Inc. in Duluth, Georgia; wall flush, Geberit North America in Des Plaines, Illinois; floor tile, Ona Natural shower wall tile and River Rock shower floor tile, Porcelanosa; shower bench and vanity top, DuPont Zodiaq Coarse Carrara through Stone Surfaces in East Rutherford; towels, Bloomingdale's; glass shower door, The Original Frameless Shower Doors in Coral Springs, Florida; glass backsplash tile and tile in shelving niches, John P. Fischer Tiles Inc. in Hawthorne; cabinetry, Wood-Mode through Ulrich Inc. in Ridgewood; door handles, Top Knobs in Belle Mead; walls, Benjamin Moore Aura Bath & Spa matte in Sidewalk Gray; ceiling, Benjamin Moore Aura Bath & Spa matte in Tundra; color consultant, Amy Wax in Montclair; Hansgrohe shower faucets and California Faucets vanity faucets, Hardware Designs Inc. in Fairfield; vases on vanity and table next to toilet, Wostbrock Home in Ridgewood.

Opposite: The cabinetry offers abundant storage, including space for two pullout hampers. The cabinets also have outlets for an electric toothbrush or hair dryer.

Above: A wall of waves embellishes one side of the large shower. The "floating" loo is a minimalist addition. Maintenance is not a problem; one need only remove the rectangular plate on the wall to access the tank.

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