

As seen in



House Beautiful:
Big Ideas
December 2010

BATH OF THE MONTH

Greenwich, Connecticut

Interview by
CHRISTINE PITTEL
Photographs by
JULIAN WASS

As light and ethereal as a cloud,
this waterfront bath is pure dreaminess.

Bath by PETER MARK AND ELIZABETH NEEDHAM



"I use simple materials in nice ways and it comes across as quality," says Peter Mark. The vanity by Christopher Peacock is topped with Italian Linen marble, to match the floor. Savoy sink and .25 faucet by Waterworks. Vintage knobs by Restoration Hardware. Ruhlmann Style sconces from Urban Archaeology flank a trifold mirror. OPPOSITE: The .25 Freestanding Oval tub by Waterworks has clean, sculptural lines.

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CHRISTINE PITTEL: It looks as if you could float across the Atlantic in that tub, like the children in a fairy tale.

PETER MARK: It's such an interesting shape, isn't it? Like an eggshell, chopped at an angle. My wife, Liz, chose it. This is her bathroom.

Is it deeper than normal?

ELIZABETH NEEDHAM: Yes, it's a real soaking tub. You can have water up to your shoulders.

PM: We looked at a bunch of tubs—cast iron, claw-foot—but they all added weight to the room. This one subtracted it.

And you set it at an angle. Why?

PM: Again, to lighten the room. When you see it at an angle, it looks more ethereal. We also placed it to face the best view. We have a truly spectacular spot on Long Island Sound, and we wanted to keep everything simple so it wouldn't detract from the view.

It's hard to do anything different with a vanity, but this feels traditional and yet modern.

PM: We didn't want a big, bulky built-in, so it's a simple freestanding table, basically, with teak slats on the bottom. It was made by Christopher Peacock Home, and we worked with one of their designers, Kathy Conroy, on it. We put the same marble we used on the floor on the countertop and backsplash.

Is there a medicine cabinet behind that mirror?

PM: No. I really have a hard time with medicine

cabinets. The invisible ones always seem to fall apart. And Liz really didn't need one here, because there's plenty of storage in the vanity.

I see how you've limited the materials. And then you add one unexpected detail. What's that border running around the room?

PM: A white pebble mosaic. It's on the floor of the shower, too.

EN: We were concerned that it would feel uncomfortable on your feet after a while. But it's great. And I just love that line of tiny little pebbles on the baseboard tiles.

We wanted it to feel like you're on the water, but not with brass and sailboats and shells, because that's kind of obvious. This is a little more subtle, but it still gives you the feeling of the beach.

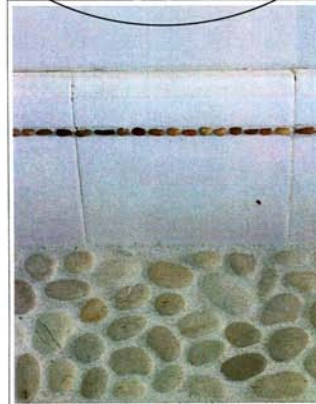
Does the glass shower ever leak?

PM: No. The glass is sealed with silicone to keep it watertight, and there's a clear plastic gasket on the door. And if some water happened to get out, it's not the end of the world. It won't hurt the marble on the floor. I wanted big 4-by-5-foot slabs, so you see very few seams.

So what's your greatest luxury, besides that view?

PM: Probably the radiant heat under the floor. Marble can be quite cold. We designed and built this ourselves, and clean and simple was the goal. Our tastes have evolved over the years, and everything we do gets simpler and simpler. ●

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SHELL KES

"I'm not someone who buys a lot of expensive bath products. I like Dove soap. It has a light, pure scent, and it has an interesting shape... kind of like the tub."



DOVE BEAUTY BAR; DOVE.COM.

ABOVE LEFT: Glass walls make it feel as if the shower takes up less space. Fixtures from the 25 collection by Waterworks. LEFT: More texture. A border of stone—interlocking Bali pebbles in White Timor by Ann Sacks—rims the room, along with a baseboard of ceramic tiles with coral pebble detail by Waterworks. BELOW LEFT: "I saw a towel-warming drawer in a hotel and thought it would be great, but I have to admit I rarely remember to turn it on," Elizabeth Needham says. Dacor 24-inch warming drawer. Towels by Garnet Hill.

GET THE LOOK...

Tub, sink, faucets, shower fixtures, and baseboard tiles by Waterworks: 800-899-8757.

Vanity and cabinets by Christopher Peacock Home: 203-862-9333.

Interlocking Bali pebbles by Ann Sacks: 800-278-8453.

Towel-warming drawer by Dacor: 800-793-0093.

Knobs and pulls from Restoration Hardware: 800-910-9836.

PRODUCED BY DAVID M. MURPHY
STYLIST GREGORY BISSONNETTE
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A cluster of pearls, dresser jars, and an antique silver tray glimmer in the master bathroom. OPPOSITE: "I love bathrooms that feel like rooms rather than just a place to bathe," Smith says. "They should inspire romance. This is an homage to the ceremonial bath, a place to relax and reflect and contemplate simple pleasures." Instead of a built-in vanity, she used a George III-style secretary bookcase from Robert & Robert. The freestanding Empire tub is by Waterworks.

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