

RIGHT According to the designer, the blush color of the vanity is a nod to femininity, but it also matches the oil painting she and her husband bought at a Paris flea market several years ago. The unit's easily accessible center drawers store items the couple uses often.

"My Aray pattern wallpaper and fabric designs from Design Legacy in the Cinder colorway make a graphic statement and almost read like an art installation on the walls and ceilings," said the designer.

BOTTOM RIGHT The designer chose black marble mosaic tile for the shower floor and ceiling, as well as porcelain tile in white with gray veining for the floor and shower walls.



Design With

A Pleasant Surprise

A wife creates a dream master bath for her husband while also keeping herself in mind

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HEN YOU ARE A DESIGNER IN CHARGE OF RENOVATING the master space you share with your better half, a few surprises may be in order. When Denise McGaha of Dallas-based Denise McGaha Interiors set out to do a complete update to hers, she created a design board and layout that her husband never saw until the project was complete.

"It was a gift to both of us, and it was time," she explained. "Part of the deal was that he was not allowed to go into that area while it was being renovated."

For the duration of the remodel, the designer and her husband had to move into the guest suite and ignore the other side of the house, and he was not allowed to see the finished project until the big reveal.

HIS & HERS

The new master bath needed major improvements in storage and lighting solutions. McGaha installed a vanity with deep drawers, and medicine cabinets over the sinks are lighted for make-up application and shaving. The lighting is also dimmable in this area for their individual needs in a shared space.

Although McGaha inserted her own style into the design of the master bath, she did include one element that was mainly for her husband: the steam shower.

"Installing that was a total surprise for him," she said, and explained that what they had before was lacking on many levels. "We had a walk-in shower without a door, and it was cold in there. My husband would turn it on ahead of time to steam it up as much as he could."

The new shower has a rainhead he can sit under, and it features aromatherapy for his allergies. It is easy to turn on from an app to get things nice and hot before entering.

SOURCES

DESIGNER: Denise McGaha, Denise McGaha Interiors; **CONTRACTOR:** JC Custom Remodeling; **PHOTOGRAPHER:** Stephen Karlisch

ACCESSORIES & PLUMBING FIXTURES: Rohl; **CABINETRY:** JIL Cabinets; **COUNTERTOP & TUB SURROUND:** Cosentino Silestone; **COUNTERTOP FABRICATOR:** Countertops, Etc.

FLOORING & SHOWER TILE: Crossville; **HARDWARE:** Addison Weeks & Emtek; **PENDANTS:** Currey & Co.; **MEDICINE CABINETS:** Roborn; **PAINT:** Sherwin-Williams; **ROMAN SHADE FABRIC & WALLPAPER:** Denise McGaha for Design Legacy; **ROMAN SHADE FABRICATION:** SFT Designs; **STEAM SHOWER:** Mr. Steam; **TUB:** Mirabelle; **WALLPAPER INSTALLATION:** Walls by Kacie

BY CHELSE BUTLER

"My goal was to create a haven for both of us, and this is an easy way to use wellness in our lifestyle without having to leave our home," said McGaha.

She chose a built-in tub over a freestanding model so her kids can come in and sit on the deck while she is getting ready in the morning.

TALKING TASTES

The designer paid special attention to creating a space that would cater to both their style and color preferences.

"Our home is very layered; we are collectors of art and objects, so it was important that the master bath be a designed space," she explained. "It is made for bathing but flows with the rest of the house. We needed a lot of color in there to make it ours – we are not afraid of it."

She incorporated an original oil painting into the bath that the couple found on their travels, which was her inspiration for the bathroom's bold black, white and blush color palette.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME

Aside from living in the guest suite for three months and not having access to the main bath or closet, McGaha said she had to make selections after hours and later on in the process to stay on track with her clients' projects. She also had to mind her budget and think about what price point would work in choosing such things as tile and fixtures. Because she could not talk to her husband about the project, it was also challenging to work through any issues that arose on her own, but the end result was a pleasant surprise.

"My husband talks constantly, but when he saw the new bathroom, he was in complete shock," said McGaha, who added that this was the best reveal she has ever done. "I had never given myself the level of design like I give my clients, but in this instance I put myself and my husband first." ●

