

Spa-Like Serenity

A Minnetonka primary bath went from drab and dated to gorgeous and glam with clean lines and serene surfaces.

BY MADISON BLOOMQUIST



Nearly anyone who set foot in a home in the '90s knows this “before” bathroom: space-sucking corner Jacuzzi, beige-and-brown color scheme, dark corner shower. And these Minnetonka homeowners were sick of theirs. After years of updating small details in their classic-meets-contemporary house, they engaged interior designer Sandy LaMendola to finally give the space a more streamlined and zen feel. “It was pretty terrible before,” LaMendola admits. “It was dated and didn’t look like the rest of the house.” LaMendola swapped out-of-fashion hues for classic and calming grays; eked out a bit more space for a marble-detailed double-head shower; added glam accessories and furnishings; and, of course, sourced the pièce de résistance: a spa-worthy showpiece tub. “[The homeowner is] very aesthetically astute,” LaMendola says. “We wanted a real wow factor.”

/ NEW NEUTRALS

Designer Sandy LaMendola harbors strong feelings about gray: “It can feel cool and empty, and it wants to be nothing,” she says. But here, in different tones and textures, it sings. “We were in a richer, deeper gray family,” she says. Cozy-meets-glam furniture, including a pouf (from Francis King), and textiles, like the Legacy Looms rug, add warmth.



2 DOUBLE DUTY

The homeowners wanted to leave their previous double-vanity setup behind in favor of two separate getting-ready zones—complete with a makeup station and storage for her (shown at left) and a beverage fridge for him. Her brushed white oak custom vanity and Francis King vanity stool warm up the shimmering Kate-Lo backsplash tile and a window shade by Zoffany (from AJ Maison).

3 SHOWER WITH LOVE

An eye-catching glassed-in shower feels larger—even though it's barely bigger than the original (above right)—thanks to stately tiled towers (from Tile X Design). “We also changed the orientation of the showerheads, which made a big difference,” LaMendola says, noting that subtle details can completely transform a small space.

4 COMMON THREADS

When LaMendola and one of the homeowners shopped for tile together, LaMendola noticed the homeowner was drawn to organic textures and stones that still had a clean, contemporary feel. “They have a really soulful feeling about them,” LaMendola says. She pulled in the natural look within the shower’s floor tiles (from Kate-Lo), inset shelf (Tile X Design), and marble bench (Terrazzo and Marble Supply). LaMendola paid close attention to the direction and size of tiles to keep the look cohesive, not busy.



“We wanted to balance feeling wonderfully relaxed and elegant all at the same time. It doesn’t feel jumbled—just very soothing.”

—SANDY LAMENDOLA, DESIGNER



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