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Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

COTTAGESGARDENS.COM | DECEMBER 2022

INNOVATION IN DESIGN AWARDS



BATH DESIGN



winner
**CARDELLO
ARCHITECTS**

Every room needs a focal point, and in the case of this bathroom, the freestanding tub, set on a virtual island of graphic marble, assumes that role in the space. The reason this room is so alluring is that, as Cardello Architects boldly admits, “We prioritized aesthetics.” But they did not do so at the expense of function. “Some of the unique challenges of this design were in executing both form and function,” the firm adds, “though we designed the fixtures to function without shower doors, as they would have impeded the desired look of the entire bath.” The existing room in the home was expanded and split into two distinct areas with his and hers vanities. Vintage brass fixtures were chosen as a way to provide a strong contrast against the otherwise light hues in the room. The spacious shower, whose glass wall is secured by an upright portion of marble, is composed of a Tadelakt plaster (essentially a lime wash treatment) rather than more traditional tiles as a way to maintain a cohesive aesthetic.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BROWN

BATH DESIGN



finalist RIVERSIDE DESIGN

In this primary bathroom by Michele Rudolph, two seven-foot-wide by five-and-one-half-foot high windows frame unimpeded views of a park-like reservoir. Depending on the season, magnificent specimen red maple trees appear to grow just beyond the edge of the deep tub and the glass-fronted steam shower, a kind of room in itself. A subtle soft-blue marble, defined by a discreet veining, fosters a prevailing serenity and spa-like feel to the room. While soaking in the spacious tub, the user has the option to view the outside foliage and meadows or watch a sleek mirrored television mounted to the wall, the reflective surface of which acts as another kind of window to the outdoors. A charcoal-hued heated floor grounds the space and allows all of the elements to stand out. Rudolph configured custom vanities that cleverly conceal storage areas and electrical outlets. A large vanity mirror always keeps the natural site in full view.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL BIONDO



finalist OLIVIA CHARNEY INTERIOR DESIGN

For years, this barn was used as a garage and giant storage bin, but the young family now residing in the Southport house just adjacent to the freestanding building, wanted it to function as a pool house for them and a guest house for visitors. Because the building lies within the town's designated historic district, it was necessary that its footprint not be enlarged and that the structure had to look as it always had, even though it required significant structural repair. In reconfiguring the interiors, especially the bathroom, Olivia Charney salvaged as much of the existing wood as possible, using old floor joists, for instance, to fashion the bathroom mirror stand, as well as vanities and doors. Now incorporating two full baths, the building's most inviting one is accessible solely from the exterior, off of an open porch/cooking area. While the structure overall, and the bathrooms in particular, feel modern and bright, the use of the antique woods and iron hardware keep the barn connected to and grounded in its original context.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AMY VISCHIO



For more information, see Resources.