

Relaxing Retreats

By Lisa Sloan



Find inspiration in four stunning master bathroom makeovers

After a year spent sheltering in place, the importance of a highly functional at-home retreat is clearly evident. The master bath, a room where most of us bookend our days, can be just such a place, so it's no wonder that it's one of today's most sought-after remodeling projects.

Current trends in bath design include spacious, glass-encased showers; clean-lined, functional cabinetry; light finishes and muted colors, among other things. But ultimately, style and amenities are a matter of personal preference.

Read on to discover how four west suburban homeowners worked with local designers and contractors to reconfigure and refresh their master baths.



Balancing Form & Function



HOMEOWNERS

Ron and Rosanna Grutzmacher, Warrenville

DESIGN

Brian Hogan, Hogan Design & Construction in Geneva

WHAT THEY WANTED

Damage from a roof leak prompted Ron and Rosanna Grutzmacher to remodel the master bath in their Warrenville home, but they were happy to have an excuse to give the room a dramatic update.

"It was too narrow, the shower was in the wrong place, and there was wasted space when you first walked in the room," recalls Rosanna. The master closet was also accessed via the bath, but it was

"small, dark and not very functional," Ron observes. They hoped to make both spaces more user friendly and visually appealing.

HOW THEY ACHIEVED IT

The couple worked with Brian Hogan, owner of Hogan Design & Construction in Geneva to reconfigure and revive the bath. They relocated several elements, bringing the toilet forward and creating a separate water closet in the wasted space near the entry, which freed up room for a larger shower beside the tub in the former toilet space. The opposite wall now features expanded cabinetry, including a glass-fronted linen cabinet across from the shower.

The new, larger shower has a glass door and a large glass panel on one side, which admits light and affords views of the outdoors from the adjacent window, making a dramatic difference in how it feels. "Walking into the old shower was like walking into a telephone booth and there was no light coming in," recalls Ron. "Now it's all lighter and brighter."

Another design choice that helped visually enlarge the room, was the decision to lower the vaulted ceiling and replace it with a unique groin vault ceiling. "It's very unusual to use in a house," says Hogan, noting that the style is more commonly seen in churches. Though the ceiling is now lower, "the room feels bigger and warmer," Rosanna says.

The design also included improvements to the closet, which now features custom cabinetry with a multitude of drawers and shelves that have allowed the couple to eliminate dressers in their master bedroom.

The couple now love the look and function of the room. "It's amazing what a difference it makes to change around a few things," says Rosanna, who appreciates now having everything she needs to prepare for the day in one connected space.