

Detailed Approach

Pattern and texture prove paramount in a classic white bath that stands out from the crowd.

BY ANN WILSON | PHOTOS EDMUND BARR | FIELD EDITOR LAURA HULL







"The details are simple but luxurious. They make the room feel that no expense has been spared."

Elizabeth Elliott designer

Left: Elliott opted for polished-nickel fittings, fixtures, and faucets. "Nickel is timeless and clean but has a warmth you can't achieve with chrome," she says. "It flatters the stone, and only looks better with age." Opposite: Covering just the lower half of the windows surrounding the sculptural tub, linen Roman shades contribute color and pattern, allow light to stream in, and let bathers enjoy both privacy and treetop vistas.

Properly customizing this Newport Beach, California, master bath required working in waves. Two designers layered their talents to fashion a fabulously furnished haven fulfilling the homeowners' every wish.

Elizabeth Elliott came first, working with architect Chris Brandon and builder Andrew Patterson to design the informally elegant home and its marble-clad master bath. "Chris and Andrew's homes are appealing and warm like a vintage Nantucket beach house, but they don't adhere to that style at the expense of contemporary features," Elliott says. "For the master bath, this gave us free rein to create a space that was gorgeous and luxurious, but also functioned efficiently."

Elliott points to the vaulted ceiling, the distinctive windows, the mosaic floor, the statuary marble on the walls, and the freestanding tub as classic elements that contribute to the bath's sophisticated appeal. Individual vanities, a makeup table, separate water closets, and a walk-in shower provide an air of refined ease for the homeowners. "The details are simple but luxurious," Elliott says. "They make the room feel that no expense has been spared, no detail overlooked. And, providing dedicated space for each user feels refreshing; there's no sharing, crowding, or sacrifice."

For the finishing touches, interior designer Stacia Dunnam infused some warmth and color into the mostly white space. She painted the walls gray and brought in beachy accessories. "We tied the bath to the master bedroom with the window fabric that has grays, beiges, and blues," she says.

Dunnam added personality with an antique wooden table beside the tub and custom seating at the vanity and near the shower. She hung artwork, papered the water closets' walls, and filled a builtin armoire with pretty towels and baskets. "The bathroom is classic and contemporary, but it feels like a spa-like a retreat in a vacation home!"

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Perfect Pattern

Designer Elizabeth Elliott shares tips for shaping a compelling monochromatic space.

- · Apply your imagination. Choose patterns that represent something meaningful or that can be interpreted in a number of ways. The circles on this bath's floor could suggest an infinity symbol, wedding bands, or even a game of Twister.
- · Blend thoughtfully. Combine simple straightline and round shapes with understated patterns to create designs that dazzle without being busy.
- . Be strategic. In this bath, each shape and pattern is given room to shine. All are positioned to draw attention around the room. Repeating patterns creates a sense of cohesion.

Top left: A rain-style showerhead supplements two other fixtures for a luxurious showering experience. Middle left: Polished-nickel mirrors add dimension to the vanity wall and can be angled to accommodate people of different heights. Bottom left: A contemporary linen fabric on the stool at the dressing table adds pattern and a rough texture contrasting with the piece's feminine shape and pearly nailhead details. Above: A built-in armoire provides both visible and closed storage for towels, grooming products, and other necessities.