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Get inspired by three remodeling projects that illustrate the impact of a well designed master bath

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By Lisa Sloan

*t*he master bath is typically the largest, grandest bath in the house, so it stands to reason it should receive star treatment. As the room where most homeowners prepare for and unwind from their day, it should be a place that both invigorates and soothes — a refuge from the stresses of the workaday world.

Trends in bath design continue to embrace roomy showers, clean lines, neutral colors, natural materials and well-organized spaces, among other things, but style and selection of amenities is, in the end, a deeply personal choice that should be customized to suit your lifestyle. Read on to discover how three local homeowners worked with professionals to achieve the master baths of their dreams.



Home Location
Clarendon Hills

Design

Diana Burton, Drury Design
in Glen Ellyn

WHAT THEY WANTED

The homeowners had completed several remodeling projects on the first floor of their 1980s-era home and were keen to update the second floor, in particular the master bath, which was overpowered by a large Jacuzzi-style bathtub. The couple sought a roomy shower and a more functional floor plan, plus a contemporary spa-like aesthetic.

HOW THEY ACHIEVED IT

Working with designer Diana Burton, of Drury Design, they gutted the room, and borrowed a bit of space from the nearby bedroom to allow for reconfiguring the layout. “Just adding that small amount made a big difference, and I don’t notice the missing space in the bedroom,” says the homeowner.

The tub was eliminated in favor of an extra-large shower with frameless glass doors that, along with the existing skylight, make the room feel open and airy. Floating hickory vanity cabinets paired with quartz counters, wall-mounted fixtures and mirrors featuring built-in lighting also contribute to the room’s sleek, clean look.

In addition to the elimination of the tub and the expansion of the shower, another big change to the room was relocating the toilet to a separate water closet, which allows for more privacy.

One of the room’s more striking features is a teak wood ceiling. “I really wanted a wood ceiling like some I had seen online,” says the homeowner. “Diana helped us find something that would look good and function well in the space. It’s one of my favorite things about the room.”

Tile selections were in the same gray color family but in a variety of formats and textures, including a heavily textured tile used on the shower walls and sink backsplash. The neutral tiles and natural wood tones contribute a sense of calm to the room. “The home has a mid-century modern feel to it, but they wanted a little more of an Asian spa feel for the bath,” Burton says. “It was a very dramatic transformation of the space.”

“It’s just gorgeous,” the homeowner says of the finished project. “I feel like I’m on vacation every time I step into my bath.”