



## a decadent *escape*

overseas opulence inspires the  
creation of an elegant master bathroom

By Stacey Lentz | Photos by Jim Schmid

TAKE ONE STEP into Tim and Natalie Parker's home and you know you're some place special. The color palette of the Ballantyne Country Club home is rich in color and definitely not your ordinary decorating scheme. It's one that Russian-born Natalie is proud of. "I am Russian and I love everything dramatic," she says. "I love golds and blacks and Egyptian colors like burgundies and blues. Everything dramatic appeals to me."

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OVERLEAF LEFT: The tub surround is comprised of polished black marble and gold-toned listello laid in a pattern that resembles rope. OVERLEAF RIGHT: A large crystal chandelier hangs in the recessed ceiling above the bathtub. ABOVE: The whirlpool tub and wall mosaic serve as the centerpiece of the master bathroom. OPPOSITE TOP: The double vanity features round undermount sinks, two-toned hardware fixtures and Volga Blue granite countertops. OPPOSITE BOTTOM: A walk-through shower, complete with three showerheads and a custom-built shower, is strategically hidden behind the bathtub wall.

### Renovation required

Natalie and Tim bought their five-bedroom, six-bath, 7,700-square-foot home about two years ago, but they didn't move in immediately. According to Natalie, there was a lot of work to be done. In addition to remodeling several areas of the home, including the kitchen and two other baths, Natalie tackled the master bathroom, which she says was really outdated, sporting 1980s fixtures and many brass features.

It took five months to get the house into move-in condition, but the results are stunning. And the room Natalie is most proud of is the refurbished master bath. "I started out by going through a lot of pictures and magazines," she says. "I had settled on an Egyptian color palette of dark blacks and blues, golds and beiges. We gutted the whole area and reconfigured it to our needs."



Now, the rounded tub and surrounding area are the focal point of the room. Above the tub, which Natalie describes as "enormous", is a mosaic featuring half moon, half sun artistry inlaid into a rich gold polished marble tile. The tub facing is comprised of a black tile mosaic with a rope-like listello stretching around the tub. While performing the tiling work, the installer incorporated small pieces of polished marble to break up the solid black surface, creating a truly customized space. A stunning chandelier hangs above the tub in a recessed ceiling, giving the room's focal point area dramatic lighting.

### Thinking outside the box

"Natalie is a very classy and elegant lady," says Teresa Campbell, Natalie's designer from Pineville based Tile Collection. "She wanted her room to be dressy and very custom. For me it's exciting when a customer comes in and knows what they want. This was definitely not the standard home we do every day. It was a little out of the box and that's what we excel at. Natalie conveyed to me what she was looking for and I was able to provide her with a vision. Once we had the half moon, half sun mosaic, we had a focal point and color palette to work from."

Behind the tub's mosaic wall is another almost hidden feature, a walk-through shower. The sunken area includes three shower heads for ultimate comfort as well as built in niches for soaps and personal items. There's also a seating area as well as a window near the ceiling for natural light.

The double vanity, with rich hardwood cabinetry, is topped with Volga Blue granite counters. The dark granite's flecks of blue color shimmer in the light, adding an iridescent touch to the bathroom. The vanity also features an oversized mirror that stretches to the ceiling and reflects the focal point of the room. There's even a lower countertop area, perfect for a seated makeup area.

The rest of the bathroom, complete with a separate toilet room, features a soft gold color on the walls with a clean white trim. The room is decorated with Egyptian style urns and vases that complement the area's rich color scheme.

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**ABOVE:** A lower countertop provides the perfect spot for a seated makeup area.

The room's polished gold-toned marble flooring blends nicely and is set off by small black diamond pieces of stone. But getting here wasn't as easy as Natalie first imagined. In the beginning of the remodeling process, she and Campbell ordered flooring from a supplier in Spain. When the floor arrived, the color was not what they imagined, as stone color lots often vary. So, as the installers waited, Campbell went into overdrive to keep the project on schedule. She scoured distributor after distributor until she found a stone Natalie would like. Then, she drove to the North Carolina warehouse and personally inspected the new choice to make sure it was what Natalie would want in her masterpiece bathroom.

"Once you get to know someone and start working together, you find out about their lifestyle," says Campbell "You are not doing what everyone else wants; you are doing what they want. And, at the end of the day, everyone else goes home except the homeowner. They have to close the door and be happy with their design. That's what it's all about." 🌿