

Serene Surroundings

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Photos by Jim McGuire

*Charlotte couple
creates a luxurious
master bathroom
inspired by nature*

When designing a flawless home, it's important to consider your current lifestyle as well as your plans for the future. As we all know, life changes from one minute to the next, so when Matt and Crystal Creasser designed their custom home a few years ago, their eyes were focused on the future.

Crystal has a degree in interior design while Matt and his mother, Elaine, opened the Tile Collection, a Charlotte-based tile and granite supplier and installer, about 14 years ago. Crystal's mother went to work for the Creassers a few years later, and immediately developed a *continued >*

bathroom
TRENDS

Below: The air jet whirlpool tub serves as the focal point of the Creassers' nature-inspired master bathroom.



friendship with Elaine. Through the persistence of their mothers, Matt and Crystal met and eventually married.

It was around this time that Matt purchased a piece of property on the shores of Lake Wylie, and the couple started to design their new home. With their combined experience, they were confident they could create a home with character and function, especially when it came to the design of the master bathroom.

The basic elements

The master bathroom has taken on a much more important role in the overall design of a house. It now serves as a retreat and the Creassers' goal was to create a space where they can relax and be pampered. While discussing what they wanted to include in the first-floor bathroom, Crystal says she insisted on a separate tub and shower. The air jet whirlpool tub and large glass-enclosed

shower sit side-by-side, with the water closet tucked behind a door to the left of the tub. As she thought about their future plans, Crystal demanded the shower have one more important feature. "I wanted the double showerheads because I knew we were going to have kids and it makes it a lot easier to squirt kids down," she says.

In fact, shortly after the house was finished, Crystal gave birth to their

daughter, Kylie. While she used to work full-time as a nurse at University Hospital, Crystal now spends most of her time at home with the toddler, who is arguably the shower's biggest fan. "She loves the shower and even has her own showerhead," Crystal says with a laugh. "If her shower isn't on, she just stands there the whole time until we turn it on. She's always liked the water."

A natural décor

Since the home sits on the water and features a view of the lake from the master suite, Matt and Crystal wanted to include those characteristics in the bathroom. To bring elements of the outdoors indoors, they decorated the space in nature-inspired colors and added plenty of ambient light.

continued >

bathroom TRENDS

Below left: The large vanity features two undermount Kohler sinks and a marble countertop with swirls of beige and green.

Below and bottom: Mosaic tiles are inset into the walls of the oversized, glass-enclosed shower.



Marble with swirls of beige and green top the double sink vanity and tub deck. The sage paint on the walls brings out the green hues in the marble, while the glazed wood vanity blends nicely with the beige and stone colors.

The massive beveled-edge mirror reaching to the ceiling behind the vanity brings depth to the space. Large, 17x17-inch porcelain tile in natural stone cover the floor, tub surround and two walls of the shower. The tiled walls are inset with small emperador marble accent pieces.

To physically warm the bathroom, Matt suggested radiant heated floors. "I wasn't completely sold on the tile, I always had carpet, but Matt said 'no, we're going to have heated tile,'" Crystal adds. The entire main level of the house, with the exception of the carpeted master bedroom, features heated floors.

Inspired by the tropics

Crystal's love of the beach can be seen in accents scattered throughout the house, which is reminiscent of a Florida vacation home. Lush plants, white planta-

tion blinds and a beautiful painting depicting palm trees and the ocean surf help transform the bathroom into a tropical paradise.

The idea was to create an extravagant space where the couple can escape from the everyday stresses of life. While this might be a daunting task for some, it was just part of the job for Matt and Crystal. 🌴



RESOURCES

Cabinetry:

Eudy's Cabinets

Flooring:

17x17-inch rectified edge porcelain tile

Countertop:

Marble

Sinks:

Kohler

Lighting:

Ancient Stone by Minka

bathroom TRENDS

Below left: Exotic flowers scattered throughout the space bring warmth and color to the bathroom.

Below: Porcelain tile with a natural stone look covers the floor as well as the walls surrounding the tub and shower.

Left: The door leading to the water closet can be seen through the beveled-edge vanity mirror.

