



Bathing in Luxury

BY NICOLE FONZINO



More and more homeowners along the Hudson River are taking their bathrooms to the next level, meticulously creating spaces that are not only relaxing havens for them, but also rooms for guests to genuinely marvel at.

Phyllis Harbinger, founder of Design Concepts/ Interiors, LLC, just completed two major bathroom transformations for clients living along the Hudson, projects that she and her team are eager to share. The notable design company was recently awarded the Best of Houzz award, which is presented to only the top 3 percent of design professionals in the industry. Located in Peekskill and Yonkers, NY, the two projects exhibit the evolution of bathrooms from bland, cookie-cutter layouts to extravagant spaces loaded with personality.

Harbinger, whose inspirations include nature and sights seen while traveling, says she tries to mirror the look and feel of her clients' homes when designing a project. For the Yonkers home, her creativity derived from the client's love of primitive art and contemporary style juxtaposed throughout the home. "We were inspired by the client's global style," says Harbinger. "The juxtaposition of the art and furnishings to the classical architecture provided an excellent jumping-off point for the design."

Think of the pleasure and satisfaction you as a homeowner could feel by boldly remodeling your bathrooms in ways that allow you to bathe in luxury and experience serious R&R on a regular basis. To gain some insight on how to do this, check out the two homes transformed by Phyllis Harbinger and her team below.

YONKERS, NY

Hall Bath

An outdated bathroom and an adjacent small-scale bedroom were combined to transform this hall bath space into a large spa oasis. Crisp

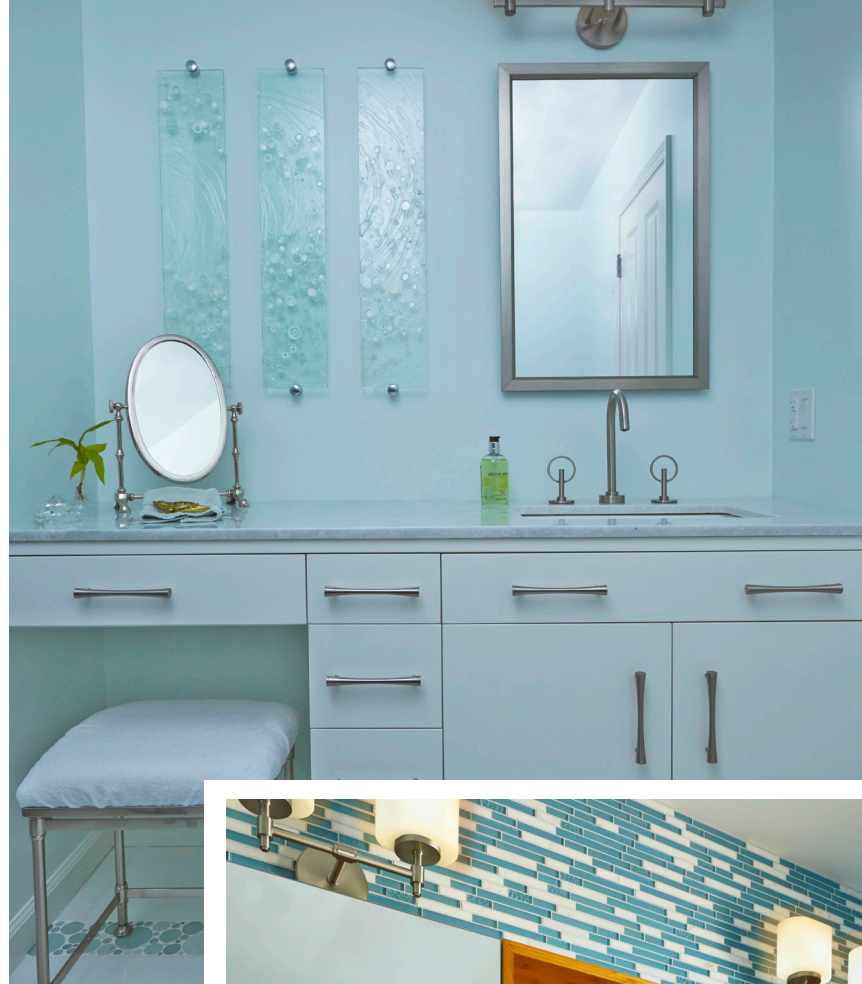
white trim contrasts with and highlights the cool and relaxing blue-gray walls, while the floor-to-ceiling draperies sparkle and add unexpected glam. A stunning freestanding asymmetrical tub is a work of art. "I am in love with the sculptural quality of the free-standing tub," says Harbinger. "It is equally at home with the other art in the space and yet it is the epitome of form and function." Polished marble sheaths the shower walls and floor while a beautiful weave "carpet" runs the entire length of the space. A beautiful dark-walnut vanity with a contrasting Michelangelo marbletop steals the show. The client's primitive art and sculpture collected during her travels add the finishing touches to completely pull together this hall bath.

Master Bath

This master bathroom went from being boring to beautiful. First, Phyllis and her team specified a square two-person tub and created a much larger integral shower. To highlight the client's eclectic treasures and primitive art, they designed a custom display cabinet with LED candles to help set the relaxing mood. This cabinet comes equipped with hidden storage units to keep bottles, bubbles and bath salts hidden so the bathroom always appears pristine and uncluttered. "This bathroom reiterates the client's love for primitive art on a larger scale. Somehow, because all of the other spaces possess primitive art, the bathrooms integrate and flow in harmony," says Harbinger.

Lagos azul tiles adorn the shower walls and floors, while a huge slab sits

“Bathe in luxury and experience serious R&R on a regular basis...”



atop the tub. A coordinating mosaic tile is found on the tub deck face, and a modern vanity fashioned out of sleek walnut has custom-made shelving units and a large mirror.

To bring more natural elements into the room, the team selected a “wood” porcelain tile for the floor, which provides the look of a real wood floor, but with the added durability and long wear afforded by using porcelain tile with staggered tiles to better replicate a wood. Hartmann&Forbes woven-grass roman shades adorn the windows, adding texture and color. The window is topped with an upholstered ikat fabric and studded with platinum square nail heads set at a diagonal.

PEEKSKILL, NY

Powder Room

When designing the powder room, the team wanted to create a “jewel box” in what was a “builder grade” powder room. A gorgeous pagoda top mirror in silver leaf makes a grand impression in both scale and design on the focal wall. The walls are wrapped in handmade silver leaf paper tinted in aqua to reflect more light in this windowless room. The vanity here was also custom made and finished in high-gloss black lacquer. The star of the show is, of course, the hand-painted porcelain sink, which bows to the Asian aesthetic that inspired the space. Azul cielo marble tiles continue the color story for the floor.

Spa Bath

This bathroom is the ultimate in a

compact spa experience. The linear quality of the tile design evokes bubbles and suds, and the focal point of the mosaic leaf pattern creates a deco panel on the back shower wall while glass floor tiles and a soothing shade of blue-green paint are counterbalanced by a pure white custom vanity and bench. The steam shower offers a wonderful bench in ming green. Harbinger commissioned an artist to create the hand-painted triptych on the vanity wall, called “Sea Foam.” The panels in this spa bath float on the wall in specially designed cleats.

Master Bath

Phyllis and her design team did a complete gut renovation of the master bath in this Peekskill home. The client’s ultimate idea of R&R is rejuvenating in a bath, so the team wanted to provide her with a freestanding tub. The original plumbing layout was not ergonomic, so they flipped the fixtures and were able to gain a greater space to establish a more functional and aesthetically

pleasing room. A chromotherapy oval tub creates sculptural impact and comes equipped with grab bars that still give a luxurious look. The shower and vanity walls are sheathed in a glass and Thasos stick tile mosaic, while the other walls have large-scale Carrera Bella tiles capped with glass liners at chair-rail height. Phyllis and her team went the fun route for the floor by adding a pattern in the stone. The custom vanity that floats on the wall is fabricated of bamboo, as is the coordinating medicine cabinet that brings warmth as well as modernity to the space.



