

New England Home

CELEBRATING FINE DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

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Fifth Anniversary Issue

Expansive Elegance

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**PLUS: 5 HOT YOUNG DESIGNERS
AND A SPECIAL FOCUS ON KITCHEN
AND BATH**



FORM MEETS FUNCTION

New England designers turn challenges into inspiration in a series of kitchens and baths that marry beauty and utility.

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MICHAEL LEE (3)



quiet palette of creamy whites, pale golds and light yellow for instant serenity. Because the room didn't get a lot of natural light, she installed a round window above the tub. "I love capitalizing on any light that comes into a room," she says. "It's so uplifting, and so necessary in the Northeast." A square frame within the round echoes the square mirrors inset in the doors of the four banks of closets she added to the room. Her client couldn't be happier. "Everything is under control," Susan now says. "And it looks so elegant."

ABOUT THIS BATH

Location Weston, Massachusetts

Designer Leslie Fine, Boston

What makes it special? A two-sided island vanity is the perfect solution to a bathroom challenged by an unusual layout

Extreme Makeover

Leslie Fine speaks frankly about her first impression of this bath. "It just wasn't very appealing," she says. The door opened onto an empty space that led to three other doors. Two doors led to little rooms with a vanity and toilet in each, and another room with the tub and shower was sandwiched in between. Pulling down walls to create a much larger, airier expanse was the first step. The next challenge was figuring out



where to put the new sinks. Both outer walls had a pair of windows—nice for natural light, but leaving no space for a vanity. After mulling it over, Fine settled on a center island with two sinks facing each other. Poggenpohl cabinets in Marsh Oak with brushed nickel hardware sit below a limestone counter. A stainless-steel-framed, double-sided mirror attached at the ceiling and anchored to the countertop hangs between the sinks. Narrow pendant lights trimmed with brushed nickel illuminate the island. That problem solved, Fine turned to the rest of the room. A custom-made built-in unit matches the Poggenpohl cabinetry and holds three pullout laundry bins. Limestone tiles cover walls and floor, while the shower walls and an accent wall behind a dressing table are outfitted in Zen mosaic tiles from Ann Sacks in blues and neutrals. Motorized window shades installed by Maverick Integration, a New Hampshire company that also took care of the new bath's audio, lighting and HVAC controls, offer privacy. The shades are hidden by simple off-white Ultrasuede box valances. "They finish the windows, but they don't scream," Fine says. Form meets function indeed. •

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