

serene dream

by sally finder-koziol photography by jon jensen produced by barbara mundall

An empty-nester couple coaxes calm, airy elegance out of a cramped bath in an outdated '60s ranch.



Soft light spills into the master bath through a wide window added over the soaking tub. An inviting chair offers a touch of texture and femininity.

THE ALLURE OF LUXURY BECKONED JOANNE MENASHE.

Husband Joe, however, couldn't hear it—not over the visual din of screaming purple walls. Standing inside a very small, very violet master bathroom, vying for elbowroom with a slab of vanity counter and ponderous tub/shower, doubt crept into his voice.

"I just can't see it," he said.

"It's perfect!" Joanne assured him.

"I knew if we wanted a one-level home in this neighborhood, we'd have to renovate," she says. "There was another bedroom on the other side of the wall. I knew we could do what we wanted."

What they wanted was an empty-nester haven in their hometown of Portland, Oregon. And this 1960s ranch would provide it—with some coaxing from the team at Mosaik Design.

"Originally, the bath was pretty bad," designer Erin Davis says. "It was all chopped up and tiny, and there were too many doors to the bath because it was shared with a second bedroom."

Plus, it lacked elegance. "It didn't fit with the clean-lined architecture of the home," designer Arlene Lord says. "It felt shoved thoughtlessly into a corner."

The bath needed some breathing room, everyone agreed, so down came the wall between it and the unused bedroom.

Initially, Joanne thought she would claim a good chunk of the square footage for a walk-in closet. "But Mosaik presented a plan with reach-in closets and a dressing area incorporated into the bath," she says. "It's turned out to be much more efficient."

The closets, clad in light-diffusing frosted glass, line the bath's long interior wall. They work hand in hand with built-in cabinetry on an adjacent wall to create a dressing area just steps away from dual sinks, yet shielded by the vanity area's partial wall.

Like the clothes inside, the closets are a perfect fit for the Menashes, thanks to tailoring by the staff at Portland Closets. "They literally got out the tape measure and measured all of our clothes," Joanne says. "I counted all our shoes, and they designed the drawers, cubbies, and hanging rods specifically for us. It's so easy to use."

Light flows into the space from expansive new windows—one above the built-in cabinet and another in the tub alcove, sited in the corner that formerly housed the combined tub/shower.

"We thought about a jetted tub, but instead did a soaking tub because Joanne wanted it to be very relaxing—not noisy," Davis says.





Frosted-glass doors on the reach-in closets enhance the bath's light and spacious feel. Homeowner Joanne Menashe loves the slim pendants illuminating the dual sinks. "The little cylinders are so sweet," she says.



ABOVE LEFT: Mirrored medicine cabinets are recessed into the wall that separates the vanities from the dressing area. Nickel pulls and towel rings complement the bath's ethereal palette. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Furniturelike built-in cabinets expand the rich storage space offered by the bank of closets. An adjacent sconce-lit dressing area makes the space a model of efficiency, says Joanne, who loves how the entire room is able to boast modern function and fresh, clean lines without being trendy in any way.

"The soaking tub is perfect after Pilates," Joanne says. "And the shower is big and beautiful, with tiled niches for soap and shampoo and a wonderful tiled bench. Sometimes you just want to sit there and let the water hit you."

The shower and a water closet fill the space once occupied by the long vanity counter. Dual sinks now sit face to face

in the middle of the room, separated by a hanging mirror that provides the perfect touch of privacy. "It keeps some of the romance in marriage," Joanne says.

It's easy to feel the allure in this master bath, where a restful sea of porcelain tile washes across the floor, over the tub deck, and through the shower, blending peacefully with the antique-white

woodwork and the frosted glass.

"It's clearly luxurious—classic, timeless. When I walk in here, I'm instantly calm," Joanne says. "It just feels good." ■

Designers: Erin Davis and Arlene Lord, Mosaik Design
For more information, turn to Sources on page 118.

