

MODERN CLASSIC

*Nostalgic architecture
and design features
give this luxuriously
modern master bath
old-fashioned appeal.*



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To keep natural daylight flowing freely through the large bathroom, homeowner and interior designer Lindsey Black opted for light, reflective surfaces like white tile, paint, and marble counters. With a private, tree-filled backyard, Lindsey felt comfortable leaving the windows undressed.



TOP: With the water closet, tub, and shower lined up along one wall, Lindsey worried the bath would feel like a boxed-in galley. To create definition among the features, she chose a freestanding tub and carved out space around it to fill with tile. "Seeing the tile go back under and around the tub gives it dimension," she says. ABOVE: Dark gray grout suits the pattern in the encaustic-cement floor tiles, but Lindsey also considered practicality: "No matter how much you seal it, white grout gets grimy," she says. Hiding in the drawers are electrical outlets so Lindsey and Josh can keep unsightly cords for razors and curling irons out of sight.

THE STORYBOOK ROMANCE OF A ROUND WINDOW

has appealed to Lindsey Black since she was a small girl. So when it came time to design the master bath in her newly built Memphis home, she had one priority at the top of the list. "It's just fun," says architect Michael Walker, who was happy to accommodate Lindsey's request. "It's something you usually see high up in a church or some special place, so it feels ceremonial over the tub."

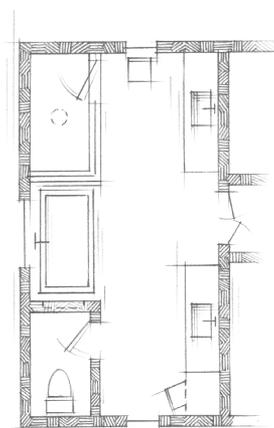
But Lindsey was careful to keep the bath from seeming formal. With a 1-year-old and 9-year-old and two full-time careers keeping them busy, she and husband Josh wanted a space where they'd be able to get ready quickly and wind down at the end of the day. "I wasn't going for a glam look," says Lindsey, an interior designer. "I wanted the room to be nice but feel comfortable."

To that end, she chose natural-finish walnut vanities that have a rich yet understated feel. Topped with marble counters, they mimic vintage washstands. Hexagonal tiles used in the shower and tub surround are another yesteryear reference, but Lindsey chose them in an exaggerated size to keep the look updated. Other of-the-moment touches include patterned cement tiles and polished nickel hardware. Above the tub, a chandelier made of capiz shells complements the low-key vibe.

To keep the look personal, Lindsey designed a shelving niche to display her aunt's antique perfume bottles, and everywhere there are homages—such as the brass-frame mirrors and the shape of the vintage cane chairs—to her beloved round window. "It captures views of the trees," she says. "I just love it."

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the plan



A galley-style layout positions the grooming zone and bathing zone directly opposite one another in this shared bath. One wall houses a steam shower and freestanding tub; another accommodates matching, furniture-like vanities. A mix of round and square windows floods the space with natural light.



LEFT: Knowing she wouldn't have room for a linen closet in the bath, Lindsey opted to make towel storage a design asset. "Those vanities are so big and heavy, the niches visually lighten them," she says. Though most of the hardware is shiny polished nickel, brass touches on the mirrors and sconces pick up the gold-tone flecks in the floor tile. "Mixed metals make a house feel special and custom," she says.

DESIGNER INSIGHTS: A BETTER BLEND

"By mixing tiles, you make a space feel more interesting and unique—and not like a tile showroom where you just picked one thing and went with it," says interior designer Lindsey Black. But how do you meld styles together? She offers these tips:

- **Choose one standout.** Prioritize a tile that catches the eye with color, pattern, texture, size, or shape. In Lindsey's bath, that's the encaustic-cement tile on the floor.
- **Gather support.** Lindsey opted for one other tile, a large hexagon, but you can choose several as long as they're neutral in color and texture. "Keep the others simple so they don't fight the main tile."
- **Complement the star.** Additional tile choices should reference the primary attention-getter. The hexagonal shape of the white secondary tile echoes the organic feel of the design in the patterned tile, and the dark gray grout Lindsey chose ties into the pattern's primary color.