

Cross-country
commuters
escape life's
turbulence amid
the smooth
surfaces and
quiet colors of
their master
bath retreat.

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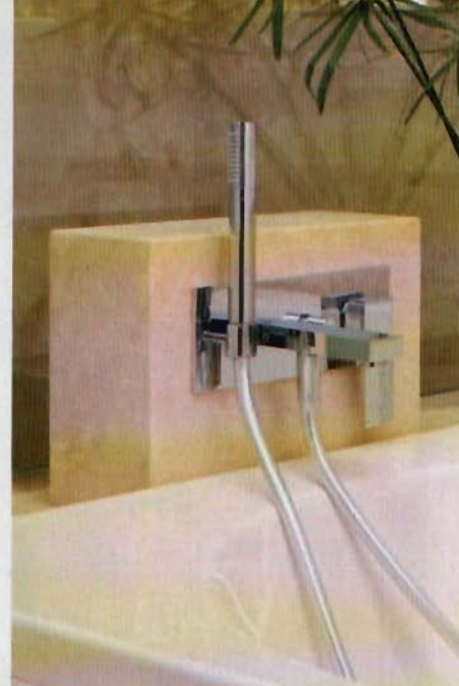
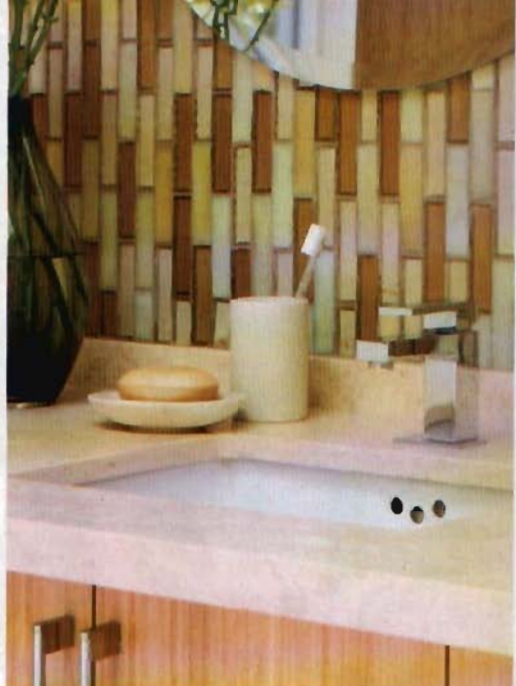
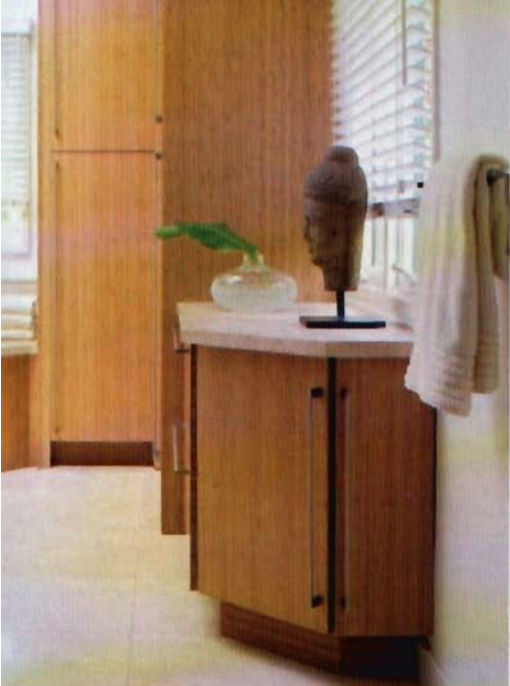


THIS PHOTO: A corner tub placed near the middle of the room keyed the redesign of Julie and Rich Cusick's calming master bath. Bamboo panels on the tub skirt add Asian feel.
OPPOSITE: Muted colors and natural materials set a meditative mood.

OF CALM

WRITTEN BY ANN WILSON PHOTOGRAPHER EDMUND BARR FIELD EDITOR LAURA HULL

KitchenBathIdeas.com



BICOASTAL BUSINESS TRAVELERS

Julie and Rich Cusick enjoy a respite from frequent flying between Los Angeles and New York: The California couple's remodeled master bath is a model of serenity. "The very first word the homeowners shared was 'Zen,' but they also wanted it to be sleek and contemporary," says Elina Katsioula-Beall, a certified kitchen designer (CKD) and member of the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA). She worked on the project with her late husband, DeWitt Beall, and Sarah Michalowski, also a CKD and NKBA member. "They wanted a meditation retreat—a place to decompress after their long flights."

The existing bath, part of the couple's 1960s hillside home in Universal City, was saddled with a too-big tub, too-small vanities, and structural challenges. The ceiling peaked at 12 feet, and neither plumbing nor windows could be relocated.

"The design was too symmetrical," Katsioula-Beall says of the old bath. "The challenge was to break up the symmetry but still have a balanced and harmonious feel. We met the challenge by using a corner tub. But instead of setting it in a corner, we placed it in the center of the room."

Shower and closet walls were removed to make way for a glass-enclosed steam shower next to the tub, which adjoins a bank of bamboo storage cabinets for a built-in look. The tub's travertine deck extends as a bench into the shower to further the one-component illusion. Across the room, the vanity wall was pushed back to hold deep bamboo cabinets capped with travertine countertops and backed by striking glass tile.

Tranquillity reigns, thanks to the minimalist approach and limited palette. "We didn't mix too many materials—it's all travertine, with accents of glass tile, bamboo, and glass walls," Katsioula-Beall says. "The materials all add to the meditative Zen feel Julie and Rich wanted. When you walk in there, you really feel like you're in a spa." ■■■

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TOP LEFT: A closet gave way to specialized storage for bath linens and cleaning supplies. TOP MIDDLE: Glass backsplash tiles set vertically mimic bamboo's natural pattern. TOP RIGHT: A block of travertine rising from the tub deck accommodates a sleek filler and sprayer. ABOVE: The tub deck segues into a bench for the glassed-in shower.

A modern bathroom vanity featuring two sinks, round mirrors, and a wood-grain wall. The vanity is made of light-colored wood with silver handles. The wall behind the vanity is covered in a pattern of vertical wood slats in various shades of brown and tan. A central white pillar separates the two sinks. The ceiling has two circular recessed lights. The floor is made of light-colored tiles.

The vanity wall was pushed back to allow deep cabinetry, exposing a structural post that separates the two grooming stations and holds back-to-back medicine cabinets.

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—BATH DESIGNER ELINA KATSIOLA-BEALL