



CLEAN LINES

Elemental materials and inventive designs coalesce in contemporary bathroom masterworks. South Florida professionals reveal the mediums and methods behind their artistry.

BY ELIZABETH RAHE

Modern and industrial, this Jupiter Hills bathroom showcases the clear advantages of metal and glass in contemporary design. The slate textured-porcelain floor creates a unified appearance, from the clear-glass enclosed shower to the frosted-glass enclosed water closet room to the sliding-glass courtyard doors. Corian-topped maple vanities provide a touch of warmth as well as much-needed storage and towel racks. One challenge in this efficient, compact design was where to hang the bath towels. Interior designer H. Allen Holmes manufactured the solution: a stainless-steel and glass room divider within an arm's reach of the tub and shower.

H. Allen Holmes Inc, Interior Design, Tequesta
Mitchell O'Neil Architect, Jupiter
Sargent Photography

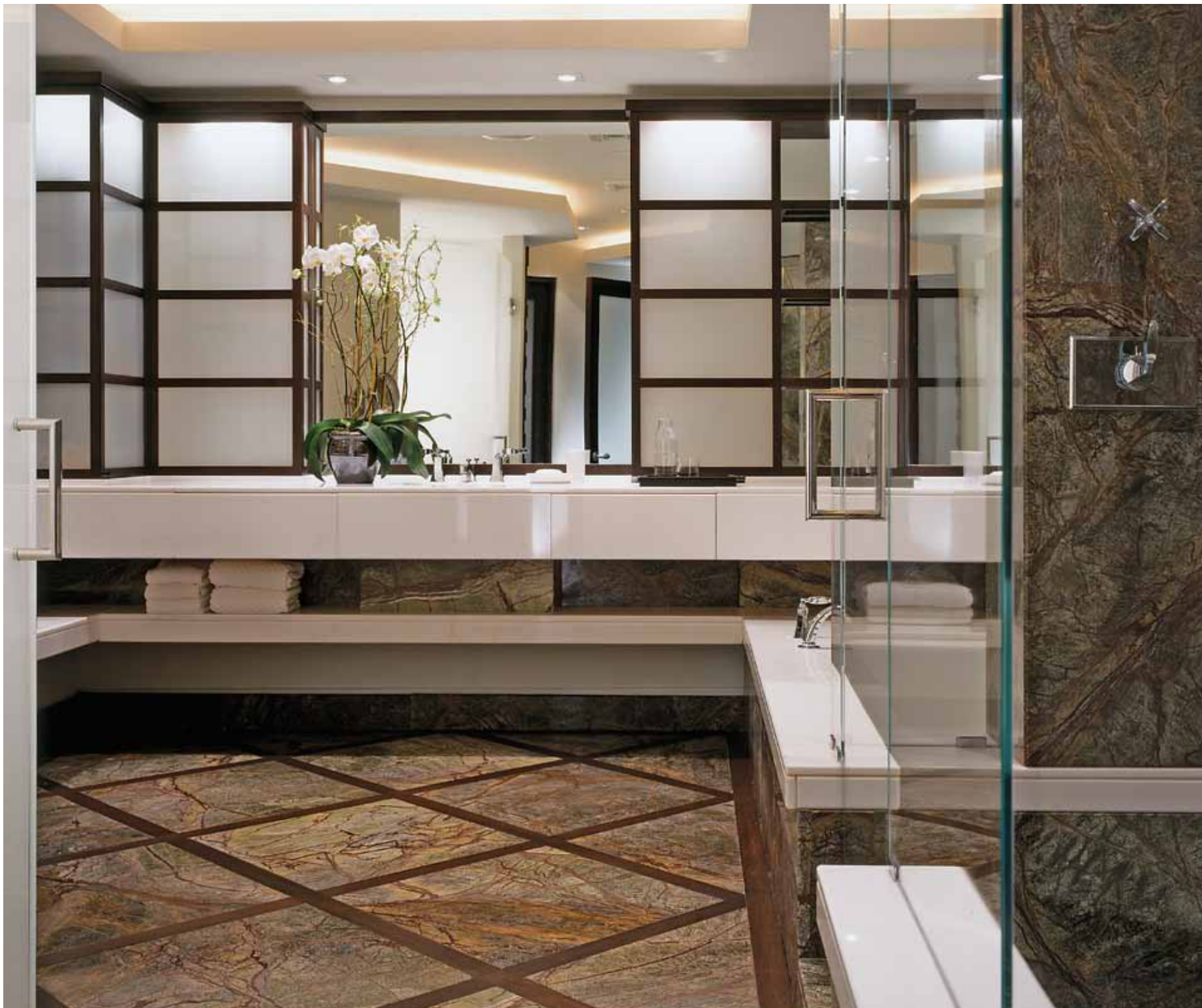
A ceremonial air suffuses a grand bath encased in Jerusalem stone and crowned with a cross-vaulted ceiling in this western Boca Raton home. “We approached the design of this home like a historical structure being renovated,” says Mitch Kunik of Affiniti Architects. The ceiling is painted to match the walls and floor, fostering the appearance of a stone-carved Roman bath, he says. Indirect lighting accentuates the architecture and fosters a contemplative mood. The elongated proportion adds to the Romanesque feel and provides for separate his and her areas with a shared bath and frosted-glass enclosed shower. The deep, rich wood cabinetry and doors provide high contrast, and niches harbor a precious few accents.

Mitch Kunik, Affiniti Architects, Boca Raton / Michael Wolk, Michael Wolk Design Associates, Miami
Brantley Photography



The oval or the egg...which came first? In this 8,000-square-foot Trump Grande condo in Sunny Isles, the oval-shaped powder room ordained an egg-inspired design. Michael Wolk achieved the oval and the egg by coving the walls and ceiling and then casting nearly all the elements in white – except the yolk, of course, in the form of a golden yellow bath mat. Elliptical fixtures mimic the architecture, including the custom lacquered-wood cylinder vanity and Eclipse sink, which resembles a hard-boiled egg half awaiting its deviled center. A full-length mirror in one alcove balances the vanity and mirror across the room. The door was the most challenging aspect, Wolk says, because it had to be flat from the hallway while continuing the egg-shaped inner sanctum. The answer: creating a curved plywood form for a plaster finish.

Michael Wolk Design Associates, Miami
Dan Forer Photography



Shoji screens and Thassos marble fashion a pearlescent focus for the Asian-themed bathroom of a Palm Beach penthouse. “The client wanted her bathroom clean but exotic,” says interior designer Louis Shuster. “We took part of the hallway and closet to make it more gracious and grand.” Shuster chose the pure white Thassos marble for the vanity, shower and even the bathtub. He sequestered the bathing area via a frameless wall of tempered inch-thick glass. The dramatic vanity presentation has a very functional side – screens slide to reveal medicine chests, and an under-counter shelf provides additional storage. For the floor he chose large squares of celadon and chocolate-brown Rainforest Green marble set in mahogany planking, which completes the geometry of the room.



Efficient yet elegant, the penthouse his-side bathroom fulfills some basic requests. “The client wanted his bathroom to have a masculine look, and he stressed practicality, low maintenance, storage and good lighting for shaving,” Shuster says. Thus, a frameless wall of acid-washed glass, requiring minimal care, defines the open shower. Shuster chose dark wenge wood for a tall étagère flanked by dual vanities, which feature Calcutta Gold marble countertops and stainless-steel sinks. A divider of wenge wood and acid-washed glass panels separates the vanity area from the toilet and shower. Chocolate granite lines the floor, and frosted-glass subway tiles cover the walls. Finally, for a shadow-free shave, halogen fixtures illuminate the vanities, aided by high-hat lighting recessed in the ceiling.

Shuster Design Associates, Wilton Manors
Sargent Photography



Spot color, smooth shapes and a few captivating accessories create simple harmony in this bathroom by Cindy West Ray. The client, “a younger, hip, worldly woman from Europe,” wanted a fresh, beach-house feel for her oceanfront condo apartment in Palm Beach. Ray employed the same honed marble from the flooring and walls to craft the minimalistic vanity, which features an open niche for storage. Red-leather bins tucked underneath serve as eye-catching towel holders. White Agape spoon tub and sinks are made of Exmar, a quartz-stone composite with a smooth matte finish. Across from the vanity, clear tempered glass encloses a glass-tiled shower. Red coral images, embroidered on linen and framed in black, accent the clean, highly functional design.

Cindy Ray Interiors, Inc., Palm Beach
Troy Campbell Photography

An abstract work of art draws the eye, but its gallery – a Lauderdale-By-The-Sea condo bathroom – is also striking in its simplicity and form. Toby Zack chose antique white Crema Monaco limestone for the vanity wall as well as the floors throughout apartment. The custom floating vanity, crafted in wenge wood and stained a rich chocolate brown, features deep drawers and straight-line Sugatsune pulls. “The hardware is very important to me,” Zack says. “I wanted it clean and simple and extra long to accommodate the heavy drawers.” The Crema Monaco limestone counter holds rectangular white vessel sinks with straight Dornbracht faucets. An expansive Robern mirror opens at both ends and in the middle for storage and access to electrical outlets. The mirror does double duty reflecting the dramatic painting, a piece from the owner’s art gallery in Montreal.

Toby Zack Designs, Fort Lauderdale
Lapeyra Photography





Ancient meets contemporary in a renovated bathroom that makes the most of narrow parameters. Marc Thee of Marc-Michaels Interior Design created this exotic setting in his own Venetian Isles residence, enlisting a Thai Buddha to preside over the space. Beneath the existing granite slab counter with its contrasting granite vessel sinks, he positioned an Asian-style wooden chest for storage. He retained the coral stone floor of the mid-century home, adding a teak grid over the stone in the shower. However, the coral and glass block on the back wall gave way to black-concrete porcelain tile, which offers a dark backdrop for the sunlit brilliance of Buddha and the adjacent geometric artwork.



Recurring rectangular forms engender a sense of order and symmetry in this Delray Beach master bath designed by Marc Thee and Jeff Strasser of Marc-Michaels Interior Design. Floor-to-ceiling maple cabinets bookend a floating double vanity topped with Rainforest Brown granite. The handsome yet understated woodwork allows the beauty of the stone to provide the most intriguing detail. An off-center window prompted an inventive solution: semi-sheer drapes across the wall, which let the light filter in while forming a unified, textured backdrop for a mirrored folding screen. The rectangular mirrors on the screen and behind the vanity promote a sense of space and light.

Marc-Michaels Interior Design Inc., Boca Raton
Sargent Photography