

MODERN CHINOISERIE | ONE ROOM: THREE LOOKS

SEATTLE HOMES

LIFESTYLES



Beautiful BATHS

✿ **INSIDE: 2007 Baths of the Year**

**Late-Summer Cookout
What Real Estate Buyers Want**

SEPTEMBER 2007

\$3.95US



seattlehomesmag.com





2007
BATH
OF THE
YEAR

design CONNECTION

The rapport between two homeowners and a design-build firm leads to an inspired master bath

WRITTEN BY SCHRAEPFER HARVEY PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID PAPAZIAN

After about 20 years each in the real estate business, Windermere agents Michael Nelson and David Updike have developed keen eyes for bathroom design. "We work in the real estate industry; we're critics," David says. Their *Seattle Homes & Lifestyles* 2007 Bath of the Year is the result of their sixth collaboration with J.A.S. Design-Build, which focused the pair's dedication to the midcentury modern design of their current 1956 Matthews Beach home on a new master bathroom.

Michael and David most recently worked with J.A.S. on two different remodels of their former Capitol Hill townhouse. The first was featured in *SH&L* in October 2002, and the second, an update for the dining room, ran in a before-and-after piece in *SH&L*'s October 2006 issue. A remodel of their current residence followed, while installation of a new master bathroom remained on hiatus for about a year. By the time the master bath project began in autumn 2006, the homeowner-design-build team's project history had established an important level of trust. "It's a pretty open conversation," says J.A.S. owner and lead designer Joe Schneider of the collaboration.

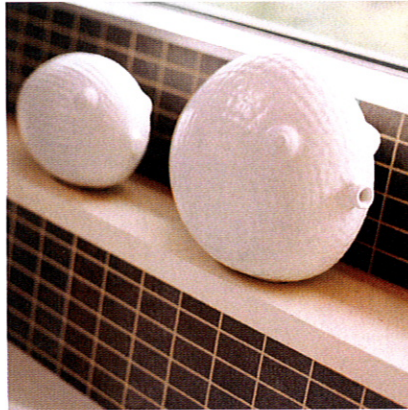
The rapport allowed David and J.A.S. designer Kim Clements a free association on the mid-century modern look. "I really wanted to reflect the character and sense of that time period," David says. They began their interpretation by installing Khaya mahogany custom cabinets, aluminum window wraps and yellow-hued terrazzo floor tiles that David held in the garage for the year between projects in the Matthews Beach home. Features that accent those base materials include a cabinet with etch-matte glass sliding doors, horizontal aluminum blinds, a glass-enclosed terrazzo-and-tile shower area, limestone counter tops and six lighting options, including LED step lights, under-vanity-mounted track lighting and an overhead Nelson pendant lamp—one of the homeowners' favorite elements in the bathroom. Though David and

J.A.S. DESIGN-BUILD AND HOMEOWNERS MICHAEL NELSON AND DAVID UPDIKE FOCUSED THE DESIGN OF THEIR MASTER BATHROOM PROJECT ON THE FEEL OF THE HOME'S MIDCENTURY MODERN ORIGINS. BENEATH A SLIGHTLY PITCHED, EXPOSED-BEAM CEILING, ALUMINUM-FRAMED WINDOWS ALLOW NATURAL LIGHT TO REFLECT OFF THE AZTEC YELLOW TERRAZZO FLOOR WHILE THE WALL TILE PATTERN CALMS THE EYES. THREE PIECES BY JEFFREY SIMMONS PROVIDE A CALCULATED SPLASH OF COLOR ON THE WALL OPPOSITE THE SUSPENDED, ALUMINUM-FRAME MIRROR.



Design Details
DESIGNER/BUILDER
J.A.S. Design-Build, (206) 547-6242,
jasdesignbuild.com

For resource information, see page 94.



Clements carefully considered the bathroom design, the owners credit serendipity for the room's coalescence.

Michael explains that the wall tiles, now one of their favorite elements in the room, came about in a fortuitous episode at the nearby Metropolitan Market. David had agonized for a while about what to put on the room's walls, Michael says. "I picked the terrazzo first; I latched onto the color," David says. "I just thought, 'We're going to make this work.'" Then one day he noticed the lines and color of the wall tiles in the grocery store, which he determined would continue the bathroom's midcentury modern effect. The sheets of tile became what "I definitely wanted in terms of the horizontal tile look—clean, understated design," David says with a nod of gratitude to the tile setter who aligned the sheets. The tile's slate color and straight lines accentuate the scattered hints of gray in the terrazzo and unite other elements in the room. "If you walked in and looked, you'd think it was planned to a T," Michael says.

Their quest for overall harmony in the look led to the room's faucets and fixtures, a curbless shower installed by Paragon Tile & Stone, and the floating mirror suspended above the vanity's two Lacava counter-top sinks.

"You want something to harmonize with the total look of the room," David says of the finishes. Low-key fixtures by Hansgrohe, aluminum wall sconces by Resolute and silver-tipped light bulbs fit the room's sleek and cohesive look.

Schneider, of J.A.S., admires the curbless shower most. The terrazzo floor tile's uninterrupted plane across the radiant-heated surface gives the room a seamless and organized feel, whereas the originally planned limestone curb would have obstructed the flow of the floor to the shower area. "It gave us a look that we really liked," David says.

The floating mirror partially obstructs the high north window, which Michael insisted remain in place to preserve the exterior of the home. David agrees: "We wanted to keep things as close to original as possible." The mirror stands out as an innovative solution to a construction space restriction and even contributes to the room's uniformity. The aluminum-framed custom mirror aids not only the look with a "logical extension of the aluminum window frames," David says, but also its spacious feel, by reflecting the natural light that enters the room.

From floating mirrors, seamless floors and aluminum wraps to uniform wall coverings, soft glowing step lights, under-vanity track lighting and Cascade Range and Lake Washington views, the elements of the bathroom combine to effect a feeling of being suspended in air. For Michael and David, the bathroom—its spaciousness, the shower, a look out the window—presents a calming, peaceful experience. "I think that's the surprising experience. Over time it all registers; you feel a connection," David says. ■

Schneepfær Harvey is a writer and editor based in Seattle.



OPPOSITE: HUES IN THE KHAYA MAHOGANY CABINETS AND SHELVES ADD WARMTH TO THE OTHERWISE WHITE, SILVER AND GRAY PALETTE OF THE COUNTER-TOP BASIN, FIXTURES, ALUMINUM-FRAMED MIRROR AND WALL TILES.

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE: CERAMIC JONATHAN ADLER FISH REST ON THE LIMESTONE LEDGE ABOVE THE TUB; UNOBSTRUCTED BY A CURB, TERRAZZO FLOOR TILES LEAD UNDER THE 180-DEGREE-HINGE-SUPPORTED GLASS DOOR TO THE TILED SHOWER AREA WITH NICHE STORAGE; DAVID UPDIKE AND J.A.S. DESIGNER KIM CLEMENTS CHOSE SIMPLE HANSGROHE FIXTURES.