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BATHROOM

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Inside and out

Like a cabin in the woods, this master suite has a close connection with nature

Bathrooms typically have an internal focus, being the most private rooms in the house. But, as this project shows, when privacy is not an issue, there's a lot more scope for forging an intimate link with the outdoors.

Architect Nils Finne of Finne Architects was contracted to redesign the 1950s house, which sits on a densely wooded property. Because the trees provide plenty of privacy, Finne says there was an ideal opportunity to explore a theme of transparency, both through the house and to the outdoors.

"In positioning the bathroom within a fully glazed room it seemed like we were returning the bathroom to its natural state. Whether you are in the shower or at the vanity, the feeling is of bathing outdoors."

Finne says that as well as introducing fully glazed walls, he rearranged the rooms, and added a sliding glass door between the master bedroom and bathroom. A subtle patterning on the door provides some screening without losing the sense of transparency.

For uniformity, the cherry wood vanity continues the style of the kitchen cabinets. Custom CNC-routed cabinet panels reminiscent of woven wood add a strong textural element and are another visual link with the trees beyond. Steel-framed mirrors suspended in front of the windows, and the freestanding bathtub heighten the sensation of being part of the outdoors.

The link with nature is further enhanced by the fossilized French limestone vanity tops and flooring. To add a little sparkle, there are narrow strips of glass tiles in both the floor and the tiled shower walls.

"I also mixed matte and gloss wall tiles in complementary tones to create an intense abstract pattern," says Finne. "It's a jazzy element that offsets the softer harmony of the material palette in the rest of the room."

Right: Au naturel – with its fully glazed walls and wooded setting, this bathroom is about as close to nature as you can get. The association is reinforced by the wood construction of the house, wood ceilings and paneling. Clerestory windows in the master bedroom allow glimpses of the tree canopy and the stars at night – much like a campsite in the woods.

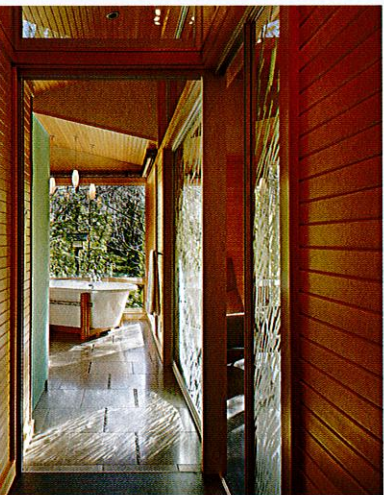




Architect: Finne Architects (Seattle, WA); design principal – Nils Finne AIA; project manager – Brad Gassman
Builder: Schultz Miller
Bathtub: Winston by Zuma
Vanity cabinetry: Custom cherry with CNC-routed finish
Vanity top: Pompignan limestone, supplied by Quarry SE
Basins: Starck 3 by Duravit
Faucets: Avalon from California Faucets
Shower fittings: Hansgrohe Raindance
Main flooring: Pompignan limestone tiles, supplied by Quarry SE
Shower stall flooring: Tiles from Ann Sacks Tile & Stone
Lighting: Bruck pendant
Wallcoverings: Custom Douglas fir panels
Ventilation: Fans by Panasonic
Towel bars: VRI Series in twisted blackened steel, designed by Nils Finne
Blinds: MechoShade with custom laser-cut steel valance designed by Nils Finne

Story by Colleen Hawkes
Photography by Ben Benschneider

➔ See kitchen story online at Trendsideas.com/go/28653



Preceding pages: The cherry wood vanity incorporates textural panels of CNC-routed wood. Mirrors are suspended in front of the glass walls.

Above and right: Supported by a cherry wood stand, the freestanding tub is the pièce de résistance in the bathroom. A custom-designed steel rail with fretwork matches the steel valances at the top of the windows.

Far right: Narrow glass tiles are inset in the limestone floor and tiled walls.

