



[DREAM HOME SPA]

New York interior designer Vicente Wolf (right) brought his trademark talent for sensual minimalism to bear on this Long Island home spa bathroom (opposite). One of his key moves was to modify the ceiling in order to bathe the space in indirect natural light.



Sun Bathing

A DESIGNER USES NATURAL LIGHT TO BRING OUT THE ELEGANT GEOMETRY OF A HOME SPA BATHROOM BY GARY WALTHER PHOTOGRAPHY BY VICENTE WOLF

"I LOVE TO YIN AND YANG THINGS," SAYS NEW YORK INTERIOR designer Vicente Wolf, referring to the round tub and slim pole shower in this 960-square-foot suburban Long Island home spa bathroom. "It makes each element shine stronger."

This logic underpins the entire room, which was done just last year when the couple who own the house became empty nesters. Thus a frilly gilt Georgian mirror shares space with a wall-mounted flat-screen television, positioned so that it's visible from the bath. An Indian marble bench with muscular Mogul-style legs stands near the smooth poured-concrete tub. And the walls are hung with art (the couple are avid collectors of contemporary works), which contrasts with the very notion of what belongs in such a room—"elements ▶



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SUPPLIER CONTACTS

Bathtub Clodagh Zen,
www.clodagh.com

Bathtub fill and control Vola
floor-mounted swivel spout
(090FM70) and one-handle
mixer (VOL16 2500),
www.vola.dk; available
through Hastings Tile & Bath,
www.hastingstilebath.com

Paint Benjamin Moore Classic
Color No. 625 (Feather Green),
www.benjaminmoore.com

Lavatory Vitraform oval basin
under-mount installation in
clear frosted finish,
www.vitraform.com

Lavatory hardware Water-
works Opus faucet with crys-
tal egg handles (OPLS02-K) in
matte-nickel finish,
www.waterworks.com

Shower column Hansgrohe
Axor by Philippe Starck,
www.hansgrohe-usa.com

Stone bench VW Home,
www.vw-home.com

Wall sconces Baccarat
Zenith, www.baccarat.com



The fussy curves of a gilt Georgian mirror and a pair of Baccarat crystal sconces (opposite) play nicely off the abstract ones of a poured-concrete tub designed by Clodagh and a fill by Vola. The doors of the storage unit beneath the vanity counter (above) are faced in shagreen (left). Through the door in the background is a small gym.

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that aren't associated with bathrooms," says Wolf. A Damien Hirst oil painting adorns the wall behind the vanity, and a Cindy Sherman photograph hangs just inside the entrance to the suite.

Wolf had some key elements to work with going into the project. Part of the space was already a bathroom, so the plumbing was there, as were the skylights, although Wolf changed the line of the ceiling to play up their presence. "The idea was to create a light well and bathe the room rather than have directional sunlight coming in as before," he says. He did the shower/bath area walls in painted glass and the floor and vanity wall in chaste limestone to heighten the pearly luminescence of the space.

To give light the leading role, Wolf kept the layout simple. "I love showers that are rooms," he says, referring to the 103-square-foot semi-enclosed space that contains the tub and shower. The floor slants slightly so that water runs down to a pair of drains flanking the shower column. Opposite this area is a double vanity backed by a mirrored wall, and running behind it is a slim hallway—"an allée," in Wolf's words—that connects the master bedroom and a small gym.

Solid-core doors ensure that the spa suite is acoustically as well as architecturally secluded. "The bathroom is that one room in which nobody bothers us—the room we can escape to," says Wolf. Which leads him to a larger thought, the idea that it's privacy that makes a home spa bathroom an instance of bona fide luxury. "It's true luxury because it's being done for yourself," he says, "not for showing off."

Vicente Wolf Associates, Inc., 212-465-0590 or www.vicentewolfassociates.com

Wolf consciously furnished the space with items that are not normally associated with the bathroom, like the boudoir chair (right), "in order to create an environment that has the sense of a sitting room," he says. The bath side of the room is all curves, but the shower side (opposite) is all straight lines. The shower column is from Hansgrohe's new Axor line, designed by Philippe Starck.

