

Bathroom Bliss

Farmhouse style meets modern comforts in a reimagined master bath.

BY JENNIFER SPERRY | PHOTOS BY ERIC ROTH



When interior designer Barbara Elza Hirsch bought her 1880s farmhouse in Acton, Mass., she knew certain rooms required revamping, and the master bathroom fit the bill. "It had been renovated but in a way that clashed with the home's architecture," Hirsch explains. "It was modern and cold, with flimsy materials," she adds.

An interior designer and principal of Elza B. Design Inc., Hirsch is adept at infusing newly built spaces with vintage appeal. "I'm a big proponent of mixing old and new. That's what we do in Europe," she relates, noting her French heritage and dual citizenship. "I wanted to create something that felt steeped in history but didn't want to replicate a period bathroom. I'm not interested in that when I design; I'm

interested in living in my time."

Stripping the room back to its bones allowed Hirsch to start from scratch with materials and finishes of her choosing. Her largest hurdle was finding a vanity to match the one she envisioned in her mind: "I couldn't find what I wanted anywhere, so I sketched some ideas," she says. The builder on the project, Somerville-based Morse Constructions, fine-tuned and executed her draft.

Painting the vanity an interesting color—Benjamin Moore's "Smoky Mountain," which Hirsch describes as "the color of the ocean when there's a storm"—contributed to the room's organic farmhouse feel. A discreet bead lends a quiet elegance to what would have been Shaker-style door panels

while clear glass knobs err on the side of refinement.

Hirsch surrounded this statement furniture piece with a variety of old-world design choices, including the Carrara marble countertop, slate flooring, and rustic weathered wood-framed mirrors from West Elm. One of her favorite finds was the Schoolhouse Electric bronze double sconces, complete with hand-blown funnel-shaped glass shades.

Brizo sink faucets with cross handles and thoughtfully selected accessories complement the room's farmhouse personality. "They all have different meanings," says the designer. "I found the tea cup at an antique store. My son bought the glass bowl that I fill with cotton balls at a garage sale when



A simple wood framed mirror adds a rustic touch to the bathroom.



The overhead shower by Delta uses less water, making the bath sustainably designed.

he was a boy. And the handheld mirror is an antique that my mom used when I was little."

For the walls, Hirsch picked Benjamin Moore's "Stoneware," which "has a tiny bit of sun in it but in no way looks yellow," she describes. "It's like a creamy white with a hint of butter."

True to her word, Hirsch also embraced modern amenities and opted for TOTO's sustainable Aqua dual-flush toilet and a spa-like shower experience. Overhead, a rain

showerhead employs Delta's H2Okinetic technology, which provides the indulgent feel of more water while using less through larger droplets and enhanced stream control.

The frameless glass shower reveals an accent wall of recycled glass tiles in hues of robin's egg blue, pale greys, and stormy greens. "The evanescent colors create a very restful, very Zen environment," she contends, while adding, "A glass walk-in shower is a great way to give the impression of a larger room."

Hirsch's ability to play with materials, colors, and textures, without jarring or overcrowding, is evident throughout the space. "My design work is all about see-sawing between old and new and creating an equilibrium that works," she summarizes. "It's about finding just the right balance." *NOEL*

Jennifer Sperry is a freelance writer living in Massachusetts.

For Resources, see page 72.

DESIGN DETAILS, PAGE 18

BATHROOM DESIGN & CUSTOM VANITY
Elza B. Design Inc.,
elzabdesign.com

BUILDER
Morse Constructions,
morseconstructions.com

SINKS & TOILET
TOTO, totousa.com

SINK FAUCETS
Brizo, brizo.com

PLUMBING FIXTURES, SINKS & TOILET
Sourced from Designer Bath and Salem Plumbing Supply, designerbath.com

SHOWER GLASS TILE
Sonoma Tilemakers,
sonomastilemakers.com

RAIN SHOWERHEAD
Delta, delta.com

LIGHTING
Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.,
schoolhouseelectric.com

TILE
A&B Marble & Tile Design,
abmarbledesign.com

ABSOLUTE GRANITE & DESIGN
Absolute Granite & Design,
absolutegraniteanddesign.com

KITCHEN HISTORY, PAGE 32

ARCHITECT/BUILDER
Carpenter & MacNelle
carpentermacnelle.com

KITCHEN CABINETS, ISLAND, COUNTERTOP & FLOORS
Carpenter & MacNelle
Woodworking
carpentermacnelle.com

PAINT
'Blackened' (wall & cabinetry) by Farrow & Ball,
farrow-ball.com

'Quahog 440' (island cabinetry), 'Main Sail' (pantry) by C2 Paint, c2paint.com

BACKSPLASH & COUNTERTOPS
Cumar, cumar.com

RANGE
Wolf, subzero-wolf.com

WALL OVEN
Miele, miele.com

REFRIGERATOR & FREEZER
Liebert,
liebert-appliances.com

SINK
Rohlf, rohlfhome.com

FAUCET
Perrin & Rowe,
perrinandrowe.co.uk

LIGHTING
Restoration Hardware,
restorationhardware.com

BATH PAINT
'Pointing' (wall color), 'Panna Gray' (trim & cabinetry) by Farrow & Ball,
farrow-ball.com

FLOOR TILE
The Tile Source,
tilesource.com

VANITIES
Carpenter & MacNelle Woodworking,
carpentermacnelle.com

VANITY COUNTERTOPS
Cumar, cumar.com

TUB
Sunrise Specialty,
sunrisepecialty.com

SINK
Kohler, kohler.com

FAUCET & TUB CADDY
Restoration Hardware,
restorationhardware.com

MIRROR
Sourced by client, made to order from D.R. Dimes and Co.,
drdimes.com

SCONCES
Hudson Valley Lighting,
hudsonvalleylighting.com

NEWBURYPORT LIGHTING COMPANY
Newburyport Lighting Company,
newburyportlighting.com

ANTIQUÉ WINDOW
Northeast Architectural Antiques,
northeast1.com

TOWEL BARS
Restoration Hardware,
restorationhardware.com

Jeeves Model D Straight Towel Warmer by Amba Products,
ambaproducts.com

CAMP CENTRAL, PAGE 42

ARCHITECT
Historical Concepts,
historicalconcepts.com

DESIGN TEAM
Aaron Daly, principal, Registered architect
Christopher Carrigan, AICP, Nina Meyer

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Robin Lipchurch Allen, ASID
912-234-5786

CONTRACTOR/BUILDER
TDC Custom Homes, LLC
Edwin Clark, 912-313-0968

FLOORING
Garden State Tile, gstile.com

PAINT
CertaPro Painters,
certapro.com

WINDOWS/DOORS
Marvin Windows and Doors,
marvin.com

LIGHTING DESIGN
Historical Concepts,
historicalconcepts.com

Robin Lipchurch Allen, ASID,
912-234-5786

FURNITURE
Sysaro, sysarofurniture.com

APPLIANCES
Livingood's Appliances and Bedding,
livingoods.com

ART
Cas Fine Art, casfineart.com

COTTAGE KITCHEN, PAGE 46

ARCHITECT
Roger Wells RWells Design, LLC,
rwellsdesign.com

BUILDER
Brent Stocker,
Stocker Woodworks,
stockerwoodworks@comcast.net

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Heather Wells Inc.
heatherwells.com

CABINETS & HARDWARE
Crown Point Cabinetry,
crown-point.com

COUNTERTOPS
Louis Mian Stone,
louisian.com

Milroc Heirloom Floors,
Holliston, MA

FIXTURES & FAUCETS
Rohlf, rohlfhome.com

SINK
Kohler, kohler.com

LIGHTING
WAC Lighting,
wacighting.com

Simon Pearce,
simonpearce.com

RANGE, OVEN & HOOD
Wolf, subzero-wolf.com

REFRIGERATOR & FREEZER
Subzero, subzero-wolf.com

DISHWASHER
Bosch, bosch-home.com

PAINT
Farrow & Ball,
farrow-ball.com

KITCHEN CLASSIC, PAGE 54

ARCHITECT
McKee Patterson, AIA, Austin
Patterson Diston Architects
apdarchitects.com

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Kyle Timothy Blood,
Kyle Timothy Home,
kyletimothy.com

BUILDER
Nordic Custom Builders,
nordiccustom.com

CABINETS
CJS Millwork, Stamford, CT,
cjsmillwork.com

COUNTERS & BACKSPLASH
Vermont White Granite Tops, Mt. Vernon,
NY, granite-tops.me

KITCHEN SINKS
Rohlf, rohlfhome.com
Franke, franke.com

FAUCETS
KWC, kwcanerica.com
Waterstone,
waterstoneco.com

HARDWARE
Whitechapel,
whitechapel-ltd.com

LIGHTING
Chameleon,
chameleon59.com

REFRIGERATOR & FREEZER
Northland, northlandka.com

WALL OVEN & MICROWAVE
Miele, miele.com

RANGE
Wolf, subzero-wolf.com

DISHWASHER
Fisher Paykel,
fisherpaykel.com

ICE MACHINE
Scotsman, scotsman-ice.com

WINE FRIDGE
Marvel, agamarvel.com

RANGEHOOD
Broan, broan.com

KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL, PAGE 58

TRADITIONAL CABINETS
Crown Point Cabinetry,
crown-point.com

Jewett Farms + Co.,
jewettfarms.com

The Kennebec Company,
kennebeccompany.com

HARDWARE
Crown City Hardware,
restoration.com

COUNTERTOPS & SINKS
Vermont Soapstone Co.,
vermontsoapstone.com

SUBWAY TILE
Subway Ceramics,
subwaytile.com

APPLIANCES
Good Time Stove Co.,
antiquesstoves.net
Big Chill, bigchill.com

CONNECTICUT COUNTRY, PAGE 64

DESIGNER & BUILDER
Rafe Churchill, LLC
rafechurchill.com

FLOORING
Franklin Hardwood Floors,
franklinwood.com

PAINTING
Kesi Brothers Painting,
kesibrotherspainting.com

CABINETS
Nichols Woodworking,
shojwood.com/nichols

COUNTERTOPS
Rock Solid Marble & Granite,
rocksolidmandg.com
Brooks Custom,
brookscustom.com

APPLIANCES
Decker & Beebe, Inc.
deckerandbeebe.com

LIGHTING
PW Vintage Lighting,
pwvintageighting.com

WHITE WASH, PAGE 70

ARCHITECT
McKee Patterson, AIA,
Austin Patterson Diston Architects,
apdarchitects.com

INTERIOR DESIGNER
William Cummings & Bert
Heiberg, Heiberg Cummings Design,
hcd3.com

BUILDER
Bill Manderville, Tallman Building Co., Inc.,
tallmanbuilding.com

FAUCETS
Guerrin, peguerin.com

TUB
Maax Soaking
Tub, maax.com