

# COME SHOWER WITH ME

A husband and wife's elegantly redone Ridgewood bathroom is a tribute to togetherness.

By Donna Rolando

Design by Anthony Albert Studios

Photography by Robert Granoff

**A Ridgewood family** wanted more than just a classic look for their outdated master bathroom. The husband and wife's redo had to fit their lifestyle, with his-and-hers features, notably a shower designed for two. The couple's vision also called for a freestanding tub, cutting-edge with its dramatic frame but practical too—after all, who can resist a soothing soak at the end of a hard day?

All of this might have seemed a tall order, but not with Anthony Albert Passanante, owner of Waldwick-based Anthony Albert Studios, doing the family's home makeover. A certified master kitchen and bath designer, Passanante knew just how to give this bathroom its own unique style: classic elegance with a



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The serenity of white makes this master bathroom, complete with freestanding tub, a sanctuary for a Ridgewood couple who wanted practically his-and-hers everything, while the Carrara marble creates a splash of visual interest across the floors and counters. His-and-hers custom vanities, built for max storage, make short work of the couple's morning routines.



touch of contemporary. He took a monochromatic white palette, seen in the textured wallpaper and custom vanities, and added contrast with the blue-gray veining of Carrara in the floor tiles and countertops. The marble is genuine, the designer's preference. "Everything in there is a natural material," he says. "Organic is soothing."

The star of the bathroom is undoubtedly the two-person shower enclosure with its hexagon-shaped, mixed-marble mosaic (from Mediterranean Tile in Fairfield), cascading off the walls for grand effect with the vaulted ceilings. "I felt the bathroom needed a wall of art, and to me, that's a wall of art," says Passanante, a member of the American Society of Interior Designers.

"It's the focal point," says the homeowner, Suzanne. "I love it."

The frameless shower doors mean that none of the drama gets lost. "It's not your typical door," explains Passanante. "Most have hinges. It's a pair of doors on a sliding mechanism that slide away from each other." Each of the two shower heads at opposite ends of the enclosure comes with its own faucets, because only some like it hot.

"It has cut our get-ready time in half because we each have our own space," says Suzanne. As a bonus, the beauty of the tile is also reflected in the mirrors that are illuminated with dual sconces over each vanity.

Another showstopper is the slender Victoria & Albert tub with filler,

from Hardware Designs in Fairfield, which fits the space well. "I love to take a bubble bath in the tub under the windows and just look out," says Suzanne. "I'm in a house full of men [her husband and two school-age boys], so that's my spot." The grid pattern on the nearby trio of windows is repeated throughout the colonial to create harmony, the idea of Glen Rock architect Xiomara Paredes, who recommended Passanante for the redesign.

The his-and-hers vanities also take lifestyle into consideration. Besides giving both spouses spruce-up spaces, Anthony Albert Studios designed the vanities to provide as much storage as possible, with upper cabinets, complete with handy outlets for toothbrushes and more. The marble countertops are a splash of color against the white cabinets, and the Kallista sinks offer a distinct shape for added interest.

If it seems as if everything is perfectly positioned, such as the vanities spaced out just right on either side of the tub, that's no accident—it's Passanante's technique for giving the room a sense of calm. "Visually, from a design standpoint, everything is symmetrical," he says. The shower is also centered between the tub and windows. And for privacy, the toilet is tucked away next to a linen cabinet that matches the vanities.

"To me it's a one-of-a-kind bathroom," says Passanante. "You hardly ever see a shower designed like that."

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This page, right: Dual sconces directly over the vanities' mirrors create a "clean, custom look," says designer Anthony Albert Passanante, while also capturing the shower's wall of mosaic art by way of reflection. Opposite page, left: The master's design uses symmetry to put all the room's elements in their proper place, including the tub, which fits perfectly between the two custom vanities. Opposite page, right: With a hexagon marble mosaic in a waterfall effect, this two-person shower offers what Passanante calls "a wall of art," which the frameless shower doors really show off.

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