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kitchen bathroom home

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bathrooms



Pampering plus

These spaces reflect a diversity of materials and themes — what they share is a sense of sanctuary and comfort



Ciao bellissimo

Classic Italian style meets modern convenience in this scenery-oriented, high-end master suite

The beauty of classical Italian architecture will never fall from favour – on the other hand, a bit of pampering modernity goes a long way too. In this indoor-outdoor master suite the two merge to opulent effect. The suite and the home around it were designed by Robert Hidey Architects, with Sherman Jones as project director.

“One of the most luxurious aspects of this suite is the open balcony,” says Jones. “With no near neighbours, the owners can exit the bathroom through the stacking glass pocket doors and relax by the outdoor fireplace, augmented by ceiling heaters, while taking in the views.”

“This house has an Italian rustic sensibility, seen in touches like the stone cladding that runs into the balcony, the shiplap ceiling and exposed wood beams, and ornate iron guard railings.”

The bathroom furthers the Mediterranean aesthetic, with classic deep archways – the first connecting to a walk-in dressing room and the second, symmetrically opposite, leading to the master bedroom.

Paonazzetto, a delicate Italian marble with an elegant veining, features on the floors and walls and continues outside as the balcony floor.

“The vanity cabinet face has a classic Roman

feel, too. However, this is topped with a durable engineered stone which in turn has a freestanding basin on it,” says Jones. “These are both modern inclusions. Even the vanity’s cantilevered effect is a fairly modern concept and there’s an instant hot water system hidden behind the scenes.”

This balance of the classic and modern is played out throughout the space. The mirror above the vanity includes a vanishing television and the shower stall is a contemporary picture of frameless glass. Of course the glass pocket doors that let the bather take in the scenery from the tub or the lounge are another modern touch.

Previous pages and facing page: Indoors and outdoors blur in this suite by Robert Hidey Architects. Stacking glass doors separate the master bathroom from the balcony.

Top and above: Rustic-look shiplap ceilings on the balcony are continued in the master bedroom. The grand master suite reflects a welcoming fusion of typical classical Italian elements and modern convenience, such as the stainless steel gas fires.

Architect, bathroom designer: Robert Hidey Architects; project director, Sherman Jones
Interior designer: Pacific Dimensions
Builder: CalAtlantic Homes
Cabinet company: Royal Cabinets
Tub, vanity, shower fittings, toilet: Kohler
Vanity countertop: Hanstone Alexandria
Basin: Leaf Vessel in white, by Kohler
Faucets: Oblo in chrome by Kohler
Hot water systems: Noritz tankless water heater, Metlund Demand system
Shower stall: Frameless glass from Residential Designer Services
Floor and wall tiles: Paonazetto marble, polished and honed from Bedrosians
Accessories: Seura vanishing tv mirror
Windows: Milgard

Story by Charles Moxham
Photography by Eric Figge,
courtesy of CalAtlantic Homes

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Left: A contemporary rectilinear black-framed dressing room door sits beyond one of the bathroom's two classical archways – an example of the design's marriage of the classic and the new. The ergonomic tub is oriented to the views beyond the glass doors while an in-mirror television offers another form of entertainment. The mirror is back-lit for effect and a towel shelf is tucked under the cantilevered vanity.