

# Creating a CLASSIC

From stud to scone, Janice and Mark Tucker's new master bath exudes richly appointed elegance. Using architect Marc Phaneuf's conceptual plan, interior designer Jean J. Comb, ASID, and architect Kevin Hart created a space with the timeless charm of antiques and a modern, efficient layout.

Written by Sarah Arnold. Photography by Beth Singer. Field editor: Suzy Farbman.



*The whirlpool tub is the favorite bathing spot for Janice and Mark Tucker's three children, so designer Jean J. Comb specified special features for the marble surround above left, including rounded edges and a wide ledge so Mom or Dad can sit comfortably while watching the bathers. The tub surround has a hole cut near the faucet to provide access to the plumbing. "We were trying to decide what to use there [to cover the hole], and we thought about using some type of tray or planter," Comb explains. "But when we saw the sink in the hardware store, we knew it would be perfect." Ordered without a center hole, the decorative copper sink is ideal for soaps, floating candles, or towels, as shown here.*

*To take full advantage of storage space in the sideboard-turned-vanity, Mark customized the bottom drawer above right to open and close around plumbing pipes. All that's needed to prepare wood furniture for such a use is several coats of polyurethane to protect against drips, Comb says.*



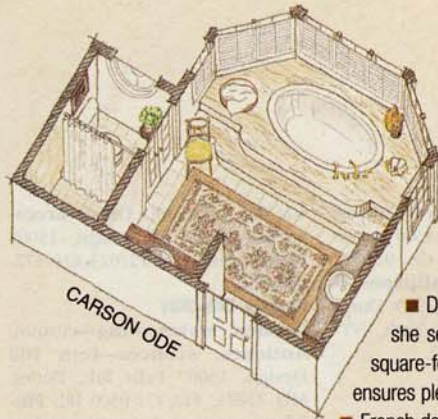
creating a classic



*To create a bright and refreshing bath, the remodeling team invited lots of daylight. Above the tub, a bay of windows overlooks a swimming pool, which reflects dappled sunlight onto the bathroom ceiling in the morning. In the shower compartment, architect Kevin Hart installed an oval window to give the space its own light source, add architectural interest, and echo the curved lines seen throughout the room. Comb dressed the lower portion of the glass-panel French doors with antique lace curtains to provide privacy without darkening either side. At night, sconces and recessed overhead fixtures illuminate the room.*



## bright ideas



### a quick tour

- Designer Jean J. Comb had the morning rush hour in mind when she separated Janice and Mark Tucker's vanities in their new 170-square-foot master bath. Putting the vanities on perpendicular walls ensures plenty of elbow room and eases traffic flow.
- French doors keep the shower/toilet area private.
- Facing the backyard, the master bath sits directly atop the breakfast area and shares its bay window profile. To make the bay a focal point in the room, Comb filled the space with a whirlpool tub that's partially sunken in a marble surround.



*With Janice's vanity in place on one wall, she and Comb found Mark a similar piece—a mahogany chest with clean lines and nearly identical hardware—at a local antiques market. The vanities are united by the needlepoint area rug, which cushions feet. For consistency, both vanities have a centered mirror, eye-level sconces, and similar brass faucets. Mark's vanity, however, features a clean-line oval mirror plus simpler sconce, sink, and faucet fixtures. Mark customized the chest to hold a sink, then added a board behind the apron to create a solid toe-kick that won't harbor dust bunnies. □*

If you're bathing, you don't want a spotlight. If you're shaving or applying lipstick, you don't want mood lighting. How do you get it right? Designer Jean J. Comb is careful about light fixture placement in bathrooms because every task calls for different illumination. Comb's rules to follow are:

- Avoid overhead lighting that creates shadows at the vanity. Always place makeup/shaving lights at eye level on either side of the mirror. These bulbs should be incandescent; for makeup application, especially, avoid colored bulbs or ones that cast a golden glow.
- Illuminate other areas with recessed or track lighting, which is unobtrusive but highly functional. These fixtures can be incandescent or halogen.
- Have separate controls for the recessed lighting and makeup lights, and give each a dimmer switch. Then, the bathroom can be bright for cleaning and dark for a hot, relaxing bath.