

HOMES

Page B-4

FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

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McLean spa bath wins COTY for remodeler Michael Nash

■ After 22 years in the same house, retired seniors Sunder and Premila Raman decided it was time to spoil themselves

BY JOHN BYRD
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

A spacious master bath renovation in a circa-1990s center hall Colonial has won a "Contractor of the Year" (COTY) award for Michael Nash Design Build and Homes. The recently-completed McLean makeover was named the Washington-area's best residential bathroom in the \$25,000-\$50,000 category by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry metro DC chapter.

The winning solution successfully converts a 210-square-foot production-house master bathroom into an open, free-flowing spa bath with many cutting-edge amenities. The remodel features a walk-in shower and freestanding pedestal tub artfully situated on river rock flooring. Two custom-designed hanging vanities and several original built-ins provide functional accommodations smoothly integrated into a "transitional style" interior that balances textured surfaces, glass walls and a subtle interplay of colors and tones.

Acknowledging the honor,

Michael Nash president and founder Sonny Nazemian, credited his design and production team:

"This is an award about outperforming the limits of a budget," Nazemian noted. "We collaborate closely with our clients to achieve cost benefits-- exploring creative solutions that will maximize the investment. A COTY always tells me we're doing our job well."

For homeowners Sunder and Premila Raman who have occupied the four-bedroom Colonial for 22 years, however, the award is also an acknowledgment of many hours researching an ever-evolving catalog of contemporary design styles.

"We didn't add any square footage, yet the bathroom looks and feels substantially larger than its predecessor," Raman recalls.

"In the previous plan, there was a platform tub in the bay window that absorbed about half of the available floor space, yet the shower was too small. Once we starting looking at alternatives, we were ready for a more luxuriant space."

Thus motivated, Raman and her daughter spent hours poring over selected web sites and magazine-- even talking with neighbors who had recently remodeled.

It was on a friend's recommendation that Premila Raman wandered into the Michael Nash showroom on Lee Highway, and began browsing and talking with staff designers.

"The showroom is a great resource," Raman observes. "There

See HOMES PAGE B-5



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

A "transitional-style" spa bath introduced into a McLean residence has won a "Contractor of the Year" award (COTY) for Michael Nash Design Build and Homes. The remodeler converted a 210-square-foot builder-grade master bath into an open, free-flowing spa with walk-in shower and a freestanding pedestal tub.

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Behind two 7-foot glass walls, the new 3.5-by-7 open shower sits on smooth, river rock flooring visually linked to a freestanding pedestal tub. The small bench at one end is within easy reach of a hand-held shower nozzle. Overhead, the “waterfall” shower head offers assorted body sprays in varying pressures.

HOMES

Continued from Page B-4

are hundreds of displays and samples; I could wander around on my own gathering ideas and taking notes. There was no sales pressure, but when I asked for ideas, I received immediate assistance and very relevant suggestions.”

On this point, Nazemian notes that there are more “decision points” in a bathroom than any other part of the house.

“We’ve really concentrated on developing an exceptionally experienced interior design staff skilled at helping homeowners discover their personal style,” he adds. “It’s our combination of more purchase options and a seasoned talent that gets each new project off to an inspired start.”

For the Ramans, the larger question was: how successfully can a dated, production-house floor plan be transformed into a free-flowing postmodern design while staying strictly within the bathroom’s existing footprint?

“We wanted to replace the old shower with a much larger walk-in design that wouldn’t require a built-in curb to keep the water in,” the homeowner remembers. “We just weren’t sure if this was even possible.”

Nazemian adds: “To meet the new shower re-



Built-inside a bay window, the original platform tub consumed over half of the available floor space.

quirements, we removed the platform tub and introduced a subfloor that raised the floor about an inch. The shower is now lower than before, and the sub floor bevels slightly toward a linear drain, so there’s no need for a built-in lip around the shower.”

“Of course, this kind of change requires angles that are absolutely precise. Water is always the judge of whether a shower design works well.”

Tucked behind two 7-foot glass walls, the new 3.5-by-7, open shower sits on smooth river rock flooring that connects it visually to a freestanding pedestal tub. There’s a small bench at one end, the hand-held shower nozzle within easy reach. Overhead, the

stainless steel “waterfall” shower head features a range of body sprays with varied pressures.

The shower’s inside wall is finished in soft Brennero Pearl porcelain accented by a glass tile inset; cubbies designed to hold personal items are within easy reach.

For a still more leisurely bathing experience, the acrylic tub tucked into a three-window bay presents a restful view of the tree tops. Applause window shades can be easily adjusted to screen back light.

For personal use and privacy, the design team replaced the former double sink with a pair of floating vanities, each on a different wall.

Constructed of espresso-colored maple and featuring mission style cabinet facings and white quartz surfaces, the vanities present a clean, linear elegance in a room that is now refreshingly simplified and spacious.

Better yet, the end result fulfills the vision:

“Everything we were promised was delivered,” Premila says. “That’s a good feeling.”

For information call (703)641-9800 or MichaelNashKitchens.com

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The acrylic slipper tub tucked into the window bay offers a restful view of the tree tops. The Applause window shades can be adjusted to screen back light or heat.

Mom, Me and Junior: Insuring a multigenerational household

BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS (NAIC)

American households today are poles apart from those in recent years, as living arrangements continue shifting to accommodate adult children, aging parents, and the generation between them. This change, according to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), can impact your insurance needs.

“Longer life spans, decisions to marry later and the tight job market have forced many middle-aged adults to share their homes with family members across generations,” explains John M. Huff, president of the NAIC. “When there is an increased headcount under your roof, there are likely new insurance implications.”

Huff and the NAIC point to an “empty nest reversal” trend, in which baby boomers (and some in Generation X) have become responsible for housing an adult child and an aging parent - an arrangement that may require changes to insurance coverage.

In the case of adult children (“boomerang kids”), communicating expectations is essential, especially because housing an adult child can be costly. Some questions to consider, according to the NAIC:

- Will the adult child be solely responsible for health insurance?
- Will the adult child’s driving record result in a higher au-

“Longer life spans, decisions to marry later and the tight job market have forced many middle-aged adults to share their homes with family members across generations”

John M. Huff, president of the NAIC

tomotive insurance premium? Will the adult child be responsible for the additional cost?

- Will the adult child’s big-ticket items (e.g., electronics) result in a higher homeowner’s insurance premium? Will the adult child be responsible for the additional cost?

Moving in aging parents also requires consideration. According to the NAIC, questions to ask include:

- Is the aging parent covered by Medicare?
- Is the aging parent currently on insurance premium payments (including those for life insurance, if applicable)?
- Is the aging parent in need of long-term care insurance?

These questions, though at times unsettling, can help you as a homeowner in a multigenerational arrangement obtain insurance coverage that aligns with the needs of your house-

hold. If you anticipate moving in an adult child or aging parent in the future, keep these questions in mind as you prepare for the change.

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