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## HOME REMODELING

# Masterpiece Master Bath

ALEXANDRIA SOLUTION WINS COTY AWARD | BY JOHN BYRD

A comprehensive master bathroom renovation in a circa 1980's center hall Colonial has won a regional "Contractor of the Year" (CoTY) award for Michael Nash Design Build and Homes. The recently-completed makeover to a home in the Mt Vernon Estates section of Alexandria was named "best residential bathroom in the \$75,000-\$100,000 category" in an 11-state competition sponsored by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

The winning solution converts an existing bathroom and adjacent changing area into an open spa bath that boasts many cutting-edge amenities. The remodel features a walk-in steam shower, pedestal whirlpool bath and a sauna. A custom-designed make-up table and several original "built-ins" provide accommodations that smoothly integrate into a stand-out "transitional-style" interior.

Acknowledging the prize, Michael Nash president

and founder Sonny Nazemian credited his design and production team:

"We achieve cost benefits for our clients by exploring ideas that advance their design agenda while maximizing the investment," Nazemian noted. "Since the CoTY is about outperforming the limits of a budget, winning one verifies that our core mission remains on track."

For the winning homeowners (who are now approaching retirement) the award is also an acknowledgment of many hours researching contemporary design styles.

"The process works especially well when the homeowners have given a lot of thought to style and space-use preferences," Nazemian observes. "In this case, we wanted to balance textured surfaces, glass and an interplay of colors and tones in an interior design that facilitates everyday requirements."

Looking back, what began as a quest for a larger

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—Sonny Nazemian



master bathroom with a view of the back yard and pool gradually evolved into a multi-component luxury spa.

Along the way, the Michael Nash team eliminated both an interior closet and a wall between the bathroom and dressing room, and installed a 5' x 6' picture window in a brick-and-block bearing wall just above a two-step Jacuzzi platform.

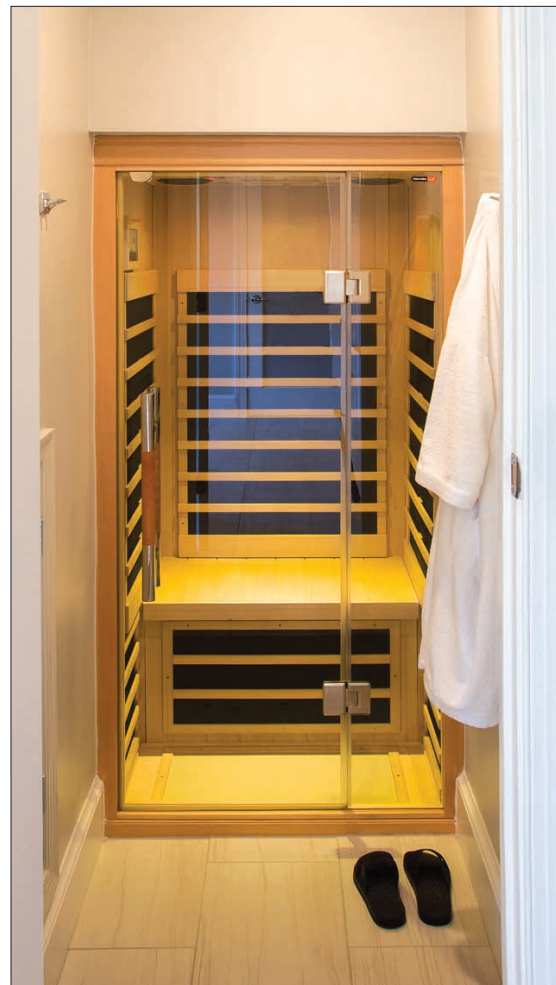
A new dressing area with make-up table has been positioned to the hot tub's left; to the right, the remodeler installed a walk-in steam shower complete with bench, rain shower head and body sprays.

A frosted glass door to the shower's right reveals an infrared sauna the contractor installed by borrowing a few feet from a closet in an adjacent bedroom. Personal storage cabinets flank opposite sides of a black stone vessel sink.

"There are more decision points in a bathroom than any other part of the house," Nazemian says. "As a company, we've concentrated on developing an interior design staff skilled at helping homeowners discover their personal style. It's our combination of broad-based purchase options and seasoned talent that gets each new project off to an inspired start."

But the first question is often more basic: Can an out-dated "production house" floor plan be transformed into a free-flowing postmodern design that stays strictly within the bathroom's existing footprint?

"The owners 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 remodeler says. "To meet these requirements, we raised the bathroom floor



Page 45: Michael Nash Design Build and Homes recently received a regional "Contractor of the Year" award for "best residential bathroom in the \$75,000 to \$100,000" range. The winning solution converts a thirty-year-old bathroom and adjacent changing area into a 410-square-foot suite that includes a walk-in steam shower, pedestal whirlpool bath and a sauna. Custom-designed built-ins smoothly advance the relaxing "transitional style" interior.

Above: The steam shower (left), sauna (behind frosted glass door), custom-design vanity with vessel sink. Floors are ascot/cinder-hued porcelain tile.

Inset: Before

At left: The contractor borrowed a few feet from a closet in an adjacent bedroom to create the footprint for an infrared sauna.

Opposite page, top: The steam shower sits on black pebble stone flooring that visually connects it to a freestanding pedestal tub clad in textured tile. Tucked under a new 5' x 6' picture window, the Jacuzzi provides a restful treetop view; and the shower's inside wall is finished in contrasting light and stone tiles with a softly accentuated moire pattern; there are three shower heads and a long built-in bench; "cubbies" designed for personal items are within easy reach.



about an inch. The shower is now lower than before, and 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 precision," he adds. "Water is always the judge of whether a shower design works well."

The open shower tucked behind three 7' glass walls sits on black pebble stone flooring that visually connects to a freestanding pedestal tub clad in textured tile. There's a small bench at one end and a hand-held shower nozzle within easy reach.

Overhead, the stainless steel "waterfalls" rain shower head features a range of body sprays with varied pressures.

The shower's inside wall is finished in contrasting light and stone tiles with a softly accentuated moiré pattern. There are three shower heads and "cubbies" designed to hold personal items are within easy reach.

For a still more leisurely bathing experience, the Jacuzzi positioned under a picture window presents a restful treetop view. With the new crystal chandelier catching outside light, the magical new space shimmers into life like something out of a fairy tale.

Built-in linen closets on "his" and "her" vanities flanking opposite walls hold towels and personal-use items. Scone lights with layered glass cast a glimmering light on the entire scene.

With its mission-style cabinet facings and black marble surfaces, the vanities present clean, linear elegance in a room that is now refreshingly simplified and spacious.



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