

modern classic

It's all about relaxation in this travertine-clad bathroom in Calgary from designer Kevin Mitchell.

It's awful to have to choose, but sometimes it's unavoidable: do you go with the glorious soaker tub, or the fantastic shower room? Fortunately for these homeowners in Calgary, nary a choice needed to be made. The husband is the tub fan, so designer Kevin Mitchell, of Douglas Cridland Interior Design, chose a Hydro Systems bath kitted out with chromatherapy lights, air jets and an ergonomic shape that's fitted to the user. And that shower? It's no poor cousin: three separate soakers—rainhead, fixed and handheld—are paired with a steam function and heated bench.

BY ANICKA QUIN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT LEMERMAYER

Make a privacy screen a work of art. The Mondrian-inspired wall between the toilet and the tub is a thing of beauty: a powder-coated steel frame holds a sheet of glass sandwiched between two grilles, creating the effect of individual glass pieces and making a functional screen anything but dull.

Don't forget to create a place for a glass of wine. Sculptural tubs lack the deck of built-in tubs—and a place to lay down a book or a glass of wine. Maximize tub time by placing a small stool or basket beside the tub to hold a few luxe accessories.



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Warm up the shower bench.

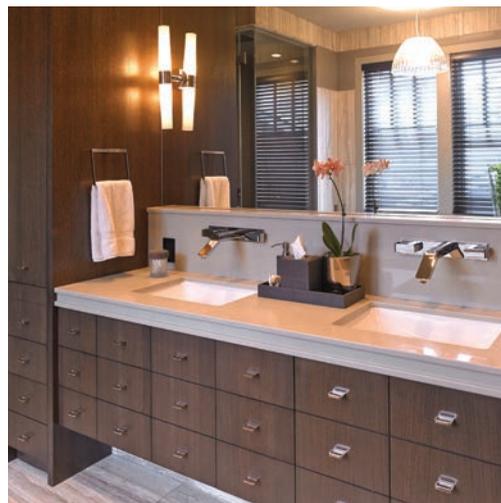
The Caesarstone-topped bench (below), perfect for when the shower becomes a steam room, could be a cool surprise if it weren't for a little planning on Mitchell's part: he carried the radiant heating from the floor up around the bench.

Wire your storage.

The drawers inside the vanity (right) have electrical outlets built in, equipped with a kill switch. (When the drawers are closed, there isn't an active current.) So hair dryers and razors can be used straight from the drawer, ready to go when they're needed.

Use hooks instead of towel bars.

"The problem with towel bars," says Mitchell, "is that somebody uses the towel once, and it's never hanging straight again." Accessible hooks (below right) make it easy to drape towels without the fussiness of lining them up afterward.



Glass tiles from the shower continue in bands through the room for a sophisticated design accent.



That spa vibe is carried through in the warm materials used throughout: natural travertine travels from the floor on up to the walls, and the millwork is made of ebony-stained oak. For durability, Mitchell selected a glass tile for the steamy shower (travertine can deteriorate in a wet room) and carried accents of it through the room.

And a true spa experience means the lighting needs to be just right: in this case that means plenty of pot lights for getting ready in the morning, and—perhaps most importantly—an elegant, Italian-designed glass fixture on dimmers above the bath. Dialed down low, it sets the mood for a glass of wine, a good read and a perfect soak in the tub. *w|* See **SOURCES**