

Shine On The footprint of the bathroom hasn't changed, save for a couple of feet borrowed from the laundry room for the shower, but the new design took the space from traditional to totally glam.

Silver Belle

THE HOME SPA GETS A GLAM UPDATE WITH FLOOR-TO-CEILING SILVER LEAF AND ENOUGH ELBOW ROOM FOR TWO.

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photographs by MARTIN TESSLER

Take advantage of dead spaces in the walls to create sculpture niches. When the homeowner opts to take a long soak in that Hydro Systems bath, she won't just be staring at the (albeit lovely) silver walls. Mitchell punched into the archway over the bath, creating pockets in the walls for two sculpture niches.

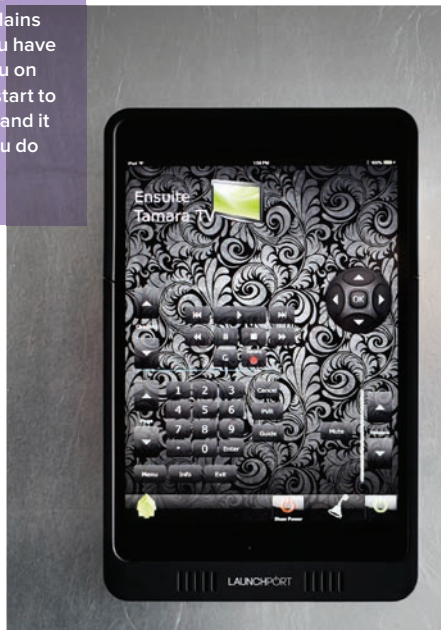


Automate your water temperature settings. Mitchell's a big fan of Hansgrohe's RainBrain: the touch-screen shower control allows you to create personal settings for up to five users—meaning you'll never have to tweak the taps to reach the perfect temperature again.

Pay careful attention to the placement of your sconces. There may be no room more important than the bathroom for proper lighting. "You want lighting to be equally spaced in the middle of where you're standing," explains Mitchell. "If you have light hitting you on one side, you start to look different, and it affects how you do your makeup."



Tech Time A touchpad controls the sound system and television (below)—and thanks to its silvery background wallpaper, fits right into this glam space.



When designer Kevin Mitchell first toured with the homeowner around her newly purchased home, it didn't go well. "She sat in her front stairwell and put her head in her hands," says Mitchell, who works at Douglas Cridland Interior Design. "She said, 'I'm having major buyer's remorse. I feel like I'm in my mom's house.'" This bathroom, for example, featured bow-front vanities with mahogany wood and traditional, ogee-edged granite; a built-in tub deck was paired with a decorative Roman tub filler. "She kept repeating, 'It's too traditional, and I'm not a traditional person,'" says Mitchell.

The goal, he says, was to get the space feeling a little more modern without destroying the traditional architectural elements in the house—that great archway over the bath, for example. In the bathroom, the general layout would stay the same, though Mitchell carved out a few more feet for the shower from an adjacent laundry room, making it large enough for two. And the client was more than game to get creative in the design of the room. "She loved the idea of it being really unique," he explains. To wit, he created a one-of-a-kind plaid tile design for the shower, and covered the entire room with silver leaf—a glittering surface that will change over time. "It's a living patina," explains Mitchell. "If you replace a square, the sheen will be a little different, but it will add to the effect over time. The way it looks right now isn't necessarily the same as how it will look a year from now." *ILL*

Include a seat in the shower—but don't forget to warm it up. It's one of Mitchell's signature moves: including radiant heating in the bench in the shower, perfect for when you want to take a little longer and enjoy the steam.

"With the silver leaf, everything just shimmers," says Mitchell. "You can't help but feel happy—it's such a positive environment."