

MAY 2011

# House Beautiful

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rooms

# 10 TIPS

YOU *REALLY* NEED TO KNOW



\$4.50



# BATH OF THE MONTH

Design by LAURA BOHN

*Purchase, New York*

Clean lines, natural textures, and a tall, angled window create a bathroom that's both serene and dramatic.

Interview by  
LILITH DORKO

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Before designer Laura Bohn gutted the bathroom, it was covered in mirrors and dark gray marble and had a tiny hallway running down the middle. But she transformed it into a showstopping, spa-like room, with an Agape In-Out soaking tub taking center stage under a Zeppelin S1 chandelier from Flos. Breccia Imperiale floor tile from Artistic Tile. OPPOSITE: A wall of teak is reflected in the vanity mirror. The White Diamond Bio-Glass countertop is from Coverings Etc.



## BATH OF THE MONTH

**LILITH DORKO:** *That round tub: Wow!*

**LAURA BOHN:** Gorgeous, isn't it? It's Italian, a perfect porcelain teacup of a tub, and a real bathing experience. The whole room revolves around the tub—it's the organizing element, responsible for how the traffic flows. It leads you up the stairs to the cubicle with the toilet and bidet on one side, and the large, open walk-in shower on the other.

**That is a large shower.** It's five by five feet. And yet it almost disappears behind that glass wall.

**I think that's the size of my entire bathroom!**

Standard size is about five by seven. This bathroom is huge, about 17 by 20. So we needed a big shower—and tub—to fill the space.

**Did you work with an architect?**

Oh, yes. R. Scott Bromley of Bromley Caldari.

**It's hard to believe this is a private bath. It feels more like a spa retreat.**

I love a spa-like mood. I always try to design a place that's tranquil, yet with some drama. We added that large slanted window and created this open, airy greenhouse feeling. And we made his-and-hers areas, separated by that teak wall.

**Why did you choose teak?**

It's very refined—it has these beautiful thin lines—and it's soft and warm against all the cool stone. And it's great for rooms that get damp, because it absorbs moisture well. We also used it on the floor of the shower.

**The floor makes me think of an incoming tide.**

It's definitely aggressive.

I'd never used anything with such a strong point of view before. The client just loved the colors—it was the first thing she picked when we showed her materials. So then we had to figure out how to make everything else go with it. We chose Thassos marble for the walls, but really rough-cut, chunky and very irregular. It was actually hard to deal with, because we had to do the recesses for the shower and cut into the stone. But it was worth it—it's so beautiful.

**So is the countertop.**

That's glass, made from recycled bottles. It just glows. It adds a glamorous note, like the fabric on the chair. There are metallic threads in it that sparkle.

**How do you keep such a variety of materials from looking chaotic?**

It's a question of how you assemble them. You can use a lot of different materials if they're all softly colored. All these are neutral, natural tones. Nothing screams at you. The only thing that's really, really strong is the floor tile. Everything else just kind of goes away.

**The chandelier is so fanciful and cloudlike.**

It's a powder-coated steel frame that's cocooned in resin to create the most spectacular sparkle. When the movers were unpacking it, they thought it was part of the packaging and almost cut a hole in it.

**Oh no!**

The guy was standing there with a big knife, about to stab into it. Imagine if I hadn't been there! ●



### SHE LIKES

"It's spicy and floral and very sexy. People always ask what I'm wearing. And my husband loves it!"



CHANEL ALLURE EAU DE PARFUM SPRAY; CHANEL.COM

**ABOVE LEFT:** The teak flooring is flush with the Fashion series tile by Emil from Artistic Tile. "You don't have to step over, or down," Bohn says. "You just step in." Shower walls are Thassos marble from Artistic Tile. For the ceiling paint, she chose Window Pane by Sherwin-Williams. "It's very subtle, very spa-like—a pale, watery blue you don't even recognize as a color." **BELOW LEFT:** The countertop is a solid slab of recycled glass. Ladena Undercounter Lavatory by Kohler; faucet by Vola.

### GET THE LOOK...

In-Out tub and Square tub filler: agapedesign.it.

Breccia Imperiale floor tile; Split Face Avalon Thassos marble wall tile; Fashion series stair tile by Emil: artistictile.com.

Bio-Glass countertop: coveringsetc.com.

Zeppelin S1 chandelier: flos.com.

FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES