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TEXAS

HOME

& LIVING

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bathroom

DESIGN



Modern and Luxurious, but Not Over-the-Top

Laura Britt Designs

Designer: Robin Colton

Photographer: Casey Dunn

Robin Colton was brought in as lead designer on this bath project because of her skills in remodeling and construction detailing, as well as her background with fabrics and holistic design. Her work turned what was once an Italian Renaissance-inspired master bath with arches and a sunken tub into a sensual retreat.

"The bathroom is rich and warm, featuring travertine flooring, taupe accented with hot red, an unexpected twist of weathered 'steel' and secret surprises around each corner," says Colton in her concept statement. She continues, "Straight ahead is the organically formed freestanding tub framed by a beautiful view and a high gloss red wall. Custom, locally fabricated cabinetry answers the need for storage and beauty. Each sink area features full height doors and slide out storage as well as an open dividing space for storage and display. Unique rectilinear sinks featuring a flat surface and surrounding channel allow the water to gently cascade over the surface as it flows from low flow nickel wall mount faucets. Each sink area is defined by a vertical application of corten steel-finished porcelain tile and a circular framed mirror that hangs from a leather strap. Flattering side lighting provides lighting for make up application or shaving, and can be dimmed for ambient lighting for a soak in the tub."

Robin is quick to credit the construction team led by Rob Reed of Griffin Custom Homes for making the construction process run smoothly. Some challenges the team had to overcome involved the bathroom's flooring and bathtub.

"In order to save on cost, we saved the client's original travertine flooring," Colton explains. "With the age of the travertine, it was difficult to match the more recently quarried stone available for a seamless look running under the tub – the original tub was a soaker with two steps up into it and we totally opened up the space for the freestanding tub. Our final solution was a 'steel' porcelain tile threshold laid in the floor between the cabinetry and the tub and then we set off the tub area with a travertine mosaic. Our other challenge came when the first bathtub came in cracked. With a long lead time for a replacement we ended up reselecting and therefore moving plumbing and drain locations. Sometimes you have to be thankful for these mishaps though – the client absolutely loves the tub that was installed!"

The designer's favorite part about the bathroom is that "it exhibits that modern doesn't have to mean stark, white and cold" by including a strong red in the room in easy ways that aren't overpowering.

"The comments usually come from the overall sensuality of the room (bedroom included) and the steel tile," Colton says. "Their bathroom before was just a bathroom. This newly designed space feels luxurious and decadent – but not over the top – and really allows them to go to bed at night and wake up feeling pampered."