



Photo by Anna Hudson

Splendor in the Bath

A major renovation took this condo bath from its original 1970s-era look and brought it into the 21st century.

Designer Margarita Bravo knew she liked this client from the moment they met. “These clients,” she says, “they have great taste. They are sophisticated. They are modern. They really enjoy everything that has to do with design and art.” A European sensibility didn’t hurt either. “My client said, ‘Maybe I was Italian in a past life.’ Every single little thing in the bathroom, all the materials, were brought from Italy.” That included even the grout for the tile.

Of course, working in a high-rise building comes with restrictions. “There are so many limitations for what you can do,” says Bravo, “because all these floors are made with concrete poured in place. Wherever the plumbing is, the plumbing needs to stay.” The space was long and narrow, and Bravo undertook making it look lighter, larger, more spacious.

“The mirrors are floating, and they have all this light that kind of goes behind the mirror and brings the illusion of openness,” she says. In the shower, for example, the existing tub was removed and a window into the bedroom was enlarged. “It also brings more light and makes the shower seem bigger.”

The client had hoped for a water closet, but space limitations, as well as the aforementioned inability to move plumbing, created an obstacle. “We had to compromise,” says Bravo, “so we came up with idea of having frosted glass panels from floor to ceiling to make that separation and provide a bit of privacy.”

A single-sink vanity was replaced with two sinks that were poured directly into the vanity and then imported from Italy. The lower cabinets enclose towel warmers, and the upper one, perched between the sinks, keep the electrical outlets hidden. “It’s there, but it’s not there,” Bravo says.

High-end finishes abound: natural stone and, in the case of the micro mosaic tile behind the vanity and on the shower floor, recycled materials. “It is actually made in Sicily out of TV screens.” The shower walls are Bianco Carrara marble, and the “grout” joining the slabs is actually metal strips. “That’s a very nice detail and why it’s very hard to install. One of a kind,” Bravo says.

Art is extremely important to these clients, as evidenced by the museum-quality pieces that hang even in the bathroom. “Art is something that they’re both passionate about,” says Bravo, “and we keep adding and adding and adding. Every single space in the house is just splashed with many fine art pieces. At this point, they need more walls.”

Designer:

MARGARITA BRAVO

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Bathroom floor:

Lava, sandblasted finish

salvatori.it

Shower walls:

Bianco Carrara, Tratti, Cotone finish with midnight black metal rods

salvatori.it

Fixtures and Lotus back-lit

mirror:

boffi.com

Vanity wall and shower floor:

Micro 6 in Cemento—mosaic made with recycled glass from discarded PC monitors and TVs that is crushed, ground, and pigmented

mosaicmicro.com