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# BATHROOM

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# English heritage

Bead-board paneling and a claw-foot bath enhance the traditional English look of this guest bathroom

Designing a guest bathroom can be a little different from planning a master bath. While it still needs to be functional, there is an opportunity to create something a bit special – perhaps a room that takes a few cues from luxury hotels.

For the owners of this home, that special style was a traditional English look that fitted with the interior design of the house. Designer Christine Julian says the owners wanted a warm, friendly feel to the room, preferring a traditional, furniture look to a streamlined, sterile environment.

“They also wanted a more spacious room than the previous bathroom,” she says. “We were able to gain an extra 18 inches from an adjacent closet, which allowed a greater separation between the shower and the tub.”

Other specific requests included a pedestal basin with a large surface area to accommodate guests’ toiletries. The painted, turned legs of the unit reflect the traditional theme. Similarly a cast-iron claw-foot bath is in keeping with the look.

“This bath also offers a lot less mass

than an in-built tub,” says Julian. “It helps to retain a spacious look in the room.”

Painting the exterior of the tub in a taupe shade was a way to contrast the white and ground it visually, she says.

“It also creates a very soothing look that is appropriate for a guest bathroom”.

Other subtle shades were introduced in the soap-colored wall tiles, which are laid in a brick pattern, and the small hexagonal floor tiles.

“We reversed the normal way of introducing color through bright accents,” says



Julian. "Here, white is the accent that helps to pull the room together visually."

Both the brick-pattern tiles and the hexagonal tiles are reminiscent of traditional English bathrooms. So, too, is the bead-board paneling that lines much of the room to dado height.

A recess at one end of the room was originally going to house an armoire, says Julian. However, building a fitted furniture unit was one way to co-ordinate the bathroom. With its crown and base moldings and bead-board paneling, it matches the

wainscoting. Glass doors in the cabinetry also lend a visual element, providing a place to display linen and accessories. Niches above the tub and on a shower wall provide additional display shelving.

While skylights allow natural light into the room, Julian says considerable attention was paid to other lighting. There are four sconces: two above the tub and one either side of the medicine cabinet. In keeping with the soothing nature of the room, these feature dimmer settings to change the mood as desired.

**Facing page:** Traditional English styling helps create a soothing look for this guest bathroom designed by Christine Julian. The pedestal basin has a surface area large enough to accommodate toiletries. Other items can be stored in the medicine cabinet.

**Above:** Two walls feature bead-board wainscoting, which is repeated in the design of the custom-built cabinetry at one end of the room. Introducing subtle color to the hexagonal-tiled floor and tub exterior allows the white to be an accent shade, says Julian.





**Bathroom designer:** Christine Julian, Julian Kitchen Design (Chicago)  
**Interior designer:** Lynn Aseltine-Kolbusz, Room Service  
**Builder:** Falcon Construction and Remodeling  
**Bath, basin and toilet:** Porcher in Biscuit from American Standard  
**Cabinetry:** Superior Wood Products, finished in Ivory  
**Faucets:** Hampton from American Standard  
**Shower fittings:** Harrington and Ceratherm from American Standard  
**Floor tiles:** American Olean from Century Tile  
**Wall tiles:** Walker Zanger from Materials Marketing  
**Lighting:** Brass Light Gallery  
**Towel rails:** Holly's of Bath

**Left:** Wall sconces above the tub are on dimmer switches, so the mood of the bathroom can be altered to suit.

**Top:** The pre-set electronic controls for the shower are positioned on the wall outside the cubicle. Built-up edges to the cubicle floor help to contain the shower water.

**Above:** Choosing an exposed tub, rather than an in-built bath, was a way to retain a sense of spaciousness, says Julian.

*Photography by Kaskell Associates*