

GREENWICH

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House Call | **bathing beauty**



Architect **Charles Hilton**'s updates for a Greenwich bathroom finally make it worthy of the term *master*.

By stealing space from an adjoining guest room's closet and the dead area beneath an attic stairway, Charles Hilton, along with associate Daniel Parody, of Hilton-VanderHorn Architects, increased the size of a 1942 Greenwich master bath by 70 square feet, making it 175 square feet in total. The extra space allowed him to incorporate such modern-day luxuries as his-and-hers vanities, a whirlpool tub, steam shower and lots of storage for linens. "Master baths get heavy use, and it is worth the investment of time and money to get them right," Hilton says. "It's one of the most personal spaces in the home. Although people's basic needs are similar, their lifestyles and personalities vary significantly."

Hilton created a niche for the tub by adding a pediment and open-column porch at the back of the house and using the space above it. He also relegated the dressing area to a nearby guest room and gave the historically low ceilings some height by expanding into the attic. The result is a cozy, functional bathroom that uses such space-saving ideas as hidden closets for towels tucked behind display cabinetry and roll-out hampers in the millwork.

—Victoria Lieber


Hilton-VanderHorn Architects, 31 East Elm Street
Greenwich, 862-9011



Hilton used the dead space from beneath a nearby attic stairway and from an adjoining guest room closet to give the master bath added square footage. He also created a tub niche by adding a porch at the back of the house and using the space above it.

The millwork surrounding the tub niche is filled with both exposed and hidden storage. The lighted display shelves that frame the tub are located directly above deep roll-out hamper cabinets.

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The bathroom's ceilings were raised into unused attic space. The new Palladian window is a visual feature both from the inside and out. Its southern exposure allows sunlight to flood into the bathroom throughout the day and also affords expansive views of the property's gardens.

The raised panel end walls of the tub niche open up (by pulling on the towel bars) to reveal convenient and generous towel storage.

"For traditional rooms to feel truly authentic, they cannot be cluttered with electrical and mechanical components," Hilton says. He tucked the HVAC registers out of sight above the tub end-wall paneling.

Hilton placed the Waterworks classic whirlpool tub in a niche to create a sense of separation and intimacy from the rest of the room. Because it's located below a window, privacy is achieved with blinds.

"The millwork in our bathrooms [vanities, tub decks, storage cabinets] is typically custom-made for a little more cost than stock products," Hilton says. "This allows me the flexibility to make the best use of the available space and be responsive to the client's storage needs."