

kitchens & bath

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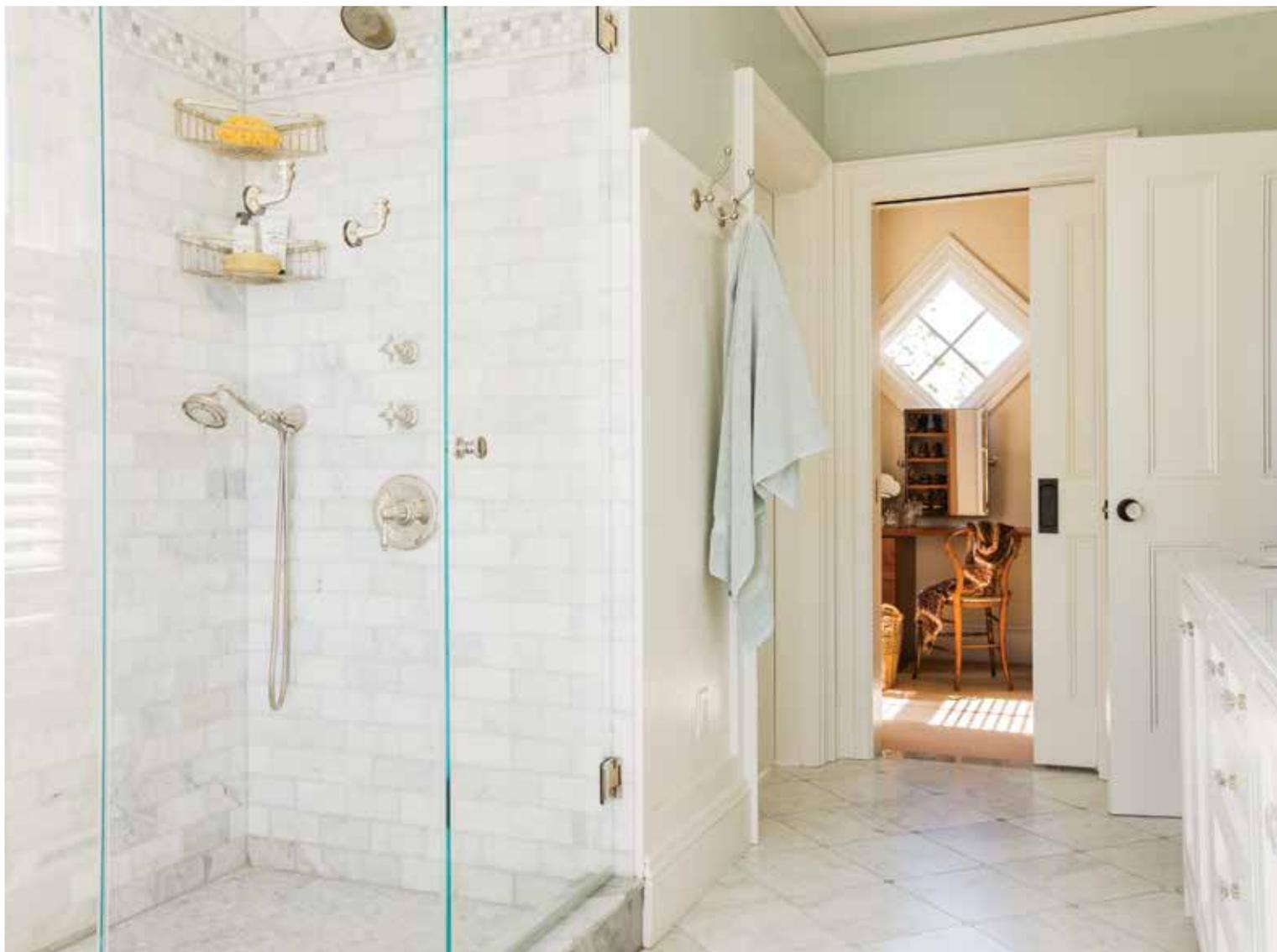


A large soaking tub is set at the window to take in relaxing sea views.

SEA BATH

THE REPOSITIONING OF A MASTER BATH TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT.

By **Jeanne O'Brien Coffey**
Photographs by **Michael J. Lee**



A CLASSIC SOAKING TUB LOOKING OUT OVER Manchester Harbor may have the greatest vantage point in this Manchester-by-the-Sea home. Perfectly positioned in front of a pair of generous windows, it invites serene visions of relaxing in the bath while boats bob in the busy harbor below. The eastern exposure also grants the tranquil space a full view of each day's sunrise.

Though the luxurious bath feels like it has always been there, it is actually part of a brand-new second-floor master suite, built atop an existing first-floor addition. The project moved the master suite, which was originally on the western side of the house overlooking

the street, to the harbor side, enabling the owners to enjoy daily views of dawn over the water.

Crafting a brand-new space to fit into a historic home is something of a specialty for Essex-based Carpenter & MacNeille, according to Steven Harrington, lead project designer. "Typically we like to make it look like the new part was always there, so you don't even know it was an addition," says Harrington. In this case, that required custom molding, door casings, window casings, wainscot caps, and wall paneling, all crafted to match the home's Victorian roots. That work, in addition to the custom furniture-style shelving and vanity, was all handled by Carpenter & MacNeille's carpentry arm, Stephen Terhune Woodworking.

The custom cabinetry had the added advantage of maximizing the use of limited space. The new bedroom, walk-in closet, and master bath were constrained by

The shower has two walls of glass with views to the water.



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—STEVEN HARRINGTON, CARPENTER & MACNEILLE

the footprint of the previously added first-floor section, meaning the toilet room, walk-in shower, soaking tub, double vanity, and storage shelving had to fit in a tight 10-foot by 16-foot space.

While Harrington admits that “space was fairly limited to do a gracious bathroom,” the results feel anything but constrained. “We tried to make the layout as open as possible,” he says, adding that lots of windows bring the water view in, giving an airy feel. The frameless shower enclosure also helps keep the space open. Designed so the shower walls could be glass on two sides, with a view out the windows to the water, the result is pleasingly spacious. The color choice also adds to the openness—white keeps it bright and light colors keep it feeling airy.

The owners wanted the overall theme for the bath to reflect an upscale seaside cottage, Harrington says, with cozy white beadboard walls elevated by Carrara marble and custom cabinetry. Carrara is used throughout the bath, in a variety of shapes and sizes.

“The [extensive] use of the Carrara marble for the counters, the floor, and the shower gives it a very luxurious feel, but it was used in different scales for different things,” says Harrington. The sink countertop is a slab of Carrara, while 12-inch by 12-inch Carrara tiles cover the floor on a diagonal pattern, and the walls of the shower are covered with Carrara subway tiles. “Using the same material in different ways mixes it up but maintains the luxury,” Harrington says.

Overall, the high level of fit and finish yields a sophisticated yet traditional appeal, Harrington says. “It’s a very classic, timeless design,” he adds. “You get a very open and luxurious feeling when you walk in, with all these windows that look out to the water.” ■

▶ **Carpenter & MacNeille**, 106 Western Ave., Essex, 978-768-7900, carpentermacneille.com