



French Twist

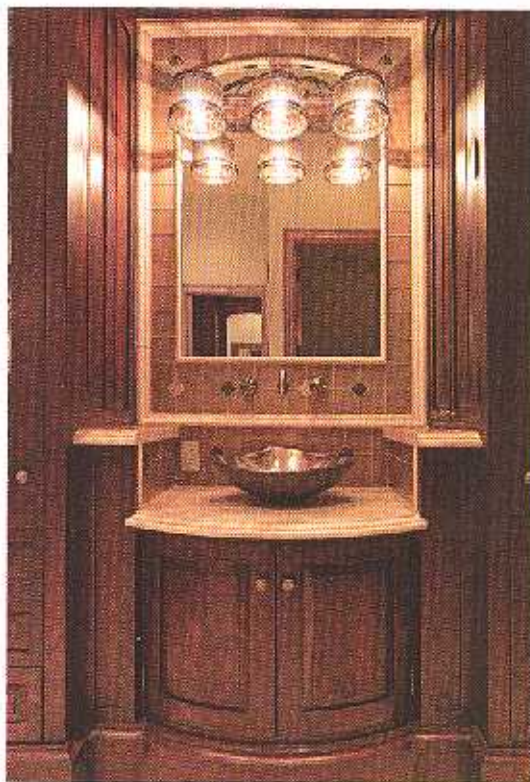
A traditional home with à la mode style

By Christina Trauthwein

Building a custom home at the base of the Sierra Mountains overlooking California's Truckee Meadows, the client envisioned a French chateau that would reflect her fashionable lifestyle. In the 15-ft. x 10¹/₂ ft. master bath, she wished to maintain the decidedly French flavor, but an updated version of it, creating a spa-like space that mixes traditional with modern and blends new technology with classic materials.

Designer Marcio Decker, of Truckee-based Home Concepts, delivered a solution that uses a collage of innovative materials—such as glass tiles with an iridescent champagne finish and white-bronze vessel sinks numbered and signed by the artist—alongside French-inspired elements. Argentinian, acid-carved limestone medallions featuring classic acanthus leaf patterns are incorporated into the floor and bordered with glass accents, while metallic tiles with *fleur-de-lis* designs adorn the walls. Furthermore, expertly blending elements such as traditional stone moldings with contemporary wall-mounted faucets achieves the perfect juxtaposition of styles.

When mixing styles, it is often difficult to achieve visual cohesion, but this bath proves successful in its endeavor. To create an integration of the different elements in the master bath, color-coordinated materials are used and key features are repeated. For example, the Italian-marble countertops reflect the color palette used throughout the bath. Metal and glass tiles and travertine tile accents are incorporated as a mirror wrap on each vanity, as a border in the shower and on the walls surrounding the



tub. The colors and patterns function as cohesive elements, uniting the various styles in the room.

The space is immediately stunning. Its presence unfolding upon entrance to the room: Affixed on opposite walls, large, 74-in.-high mirrors are used to reveal the master bathroom in one sweeping gaze. "This creates that 'wow' factor," said Decker. The rich-toned, custom-made cabinetry has a modern twist with large, turn-post legs. And the towering wall cabinets are supported by the formidable horizontal composition of tub and vanities. "We selected the darker finishes on the cabinets to ground the large pieces within the vast space," said Decker.

With its oversized, smoked-glass shades, the lighting generates a modern interpretation of traditional fabric shades. Heavy, patterned, forged metal frames are evocative of classic European fixtures.

"The composition is something we wanted to make very architectural," said Decker, "which we did by using moldings and different dimensions of travertine around the windows, mirrors and shower." And while the architecture reflects a traditional bent, "the textures, finishes and layout are contemporary," said Decker. The end result is an exquisite marriage of classic French and contemporary styles, delivering a master bath for the sophisticated modern homeowner. "When you look at this space, the message we wanted to send is that this is a bathroom done in 2008—but there is still a connection to the style of this beautiful home." ■

SOURCES

Designer: Marcio Decker—Home Concepts, Truckee, CA; www.homeconceptstruckee.com **Manufacturers:** Floor (limestone medallions): Chadwick's Surfaces International; Glass tiles: Oceanside Glasstile; Metal tiles: Landmark; Moldings and liners: Landmark; Vessel sink: Wawirka; Lighting: Fine Art; Faucets: Phylich; Cabinetry: Milieu Design **Photography:** © Nicholas Rab