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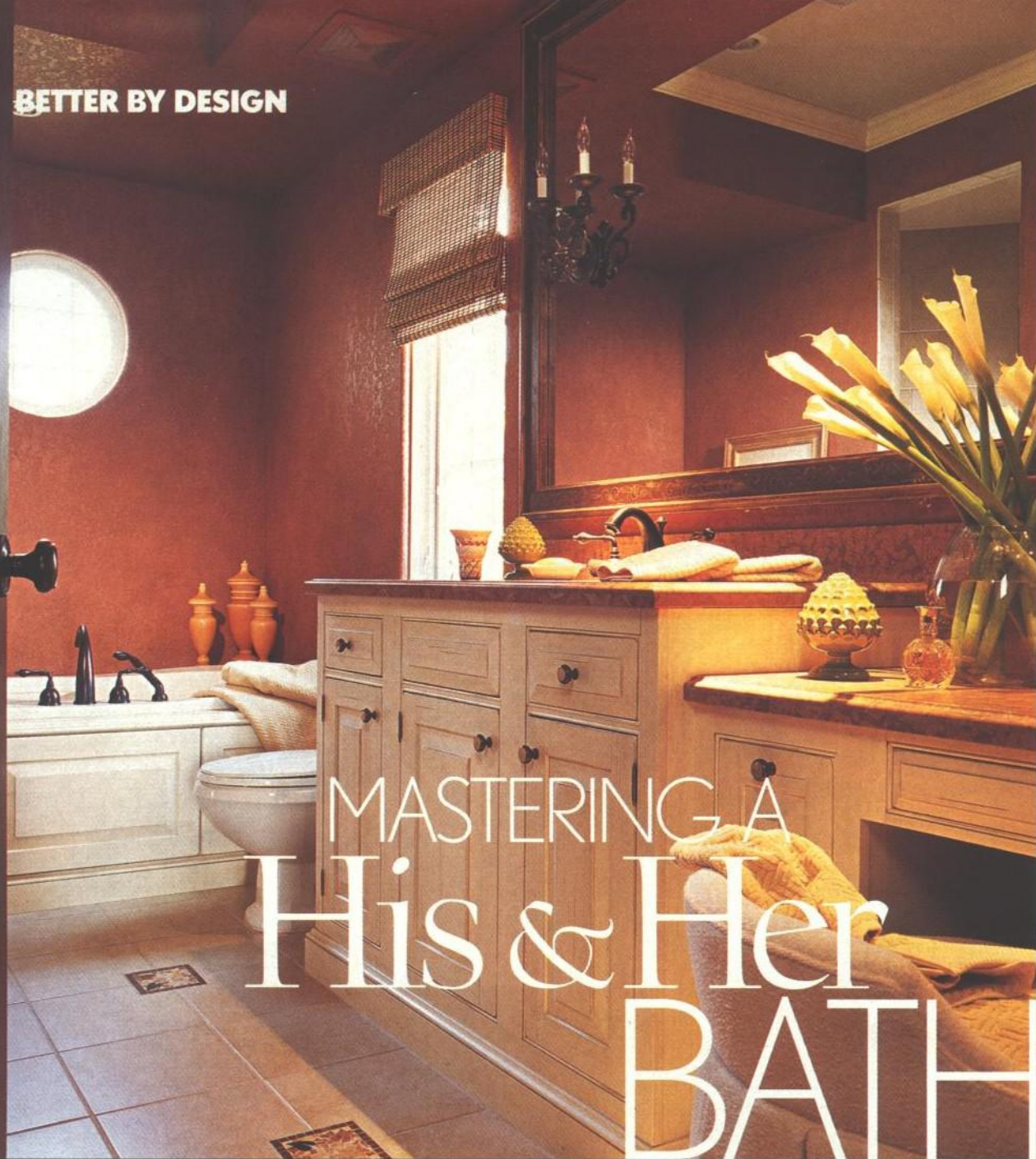


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BETTER BY DESIGN



MASTERING A His & Her BATH

THE TWO PERSONAL BATHS IN THE POLLEY'S SARASOTA, FLORIDA, HOME MIRROR THE PERSONALITIES OF THEIR OWNERS: COMPATIBLE, BUT HARDLY IDENTICAL.

Furniture-like cabinetry with exposed hinges, neatly mitered baseboard moldings, and a distressed-finish, raised-panel design gives Chari Polley's bath a feeling of comfortable elegance. A wood-paneled tub surround echoes the cabinetry. Dual-height, honed-marble surfaces—countertop height at the sink, desk height at the vanity—make for good ergonomics as well as good looks.

BY DAN WEEKS PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT MAUER PRODUCED BY SALLY MAUER



BETTER BY DESIGN >> from Z16

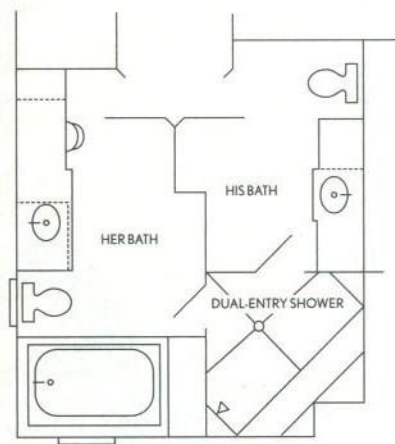
Chari Polley likes light and cottagey furniture. Her husband, Bud, likes dark, clubby rooms with lots of mahogany. She likes a tub. He likes a shower. So were these opposing preferences a problem when they designed their bathing area? Not at all.

This couple had originally planned to build a single master bath in their new waterside home, but decided that side-by-side dual baths would better serve their needs. Each room is self-contained, and each expresses its owner's distinctive style and preferred color palette. Yet the two rooms share just enough carefully chosen materials and design elements that the results are simpatico: Both baths are distinguished by honed marble countertops, cabinetry that looks like fine furniture, and mosaic tile treatments that add subdued elegance.

The two baths cleverly connect at a corner shower (see floor plan, page Z20). The shower provides an interesting intersection that increases the master bath's functionality by separating the lavatories from the bathing areas and toilets. This is an effective floor plan solution for those morning moments when multiple family members want to use the bathroom at the same time. >> on Z20



Chari's tub, enclosed in furniture-grade paneling topped with marble mosaic tile, is just around the corner from the marble-tiled double shower that connects both baths (top). Also in her bath is this convenient hair-dryer drawer (above) that has a built-in outlet, so the appliance's cord is always tucked neatly away instead of draping across the counter.



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Details tie the two rooms together. They share an oil-rubbed bronze finish on the fixtures, the matte treatment of the marble, and some of the same floor tiles. Still, when Chari or Bud walks out of one of the two shower doors, there's no doubt which bathroom he or she is in. ♪

Bud likes his rooms dark and dramatic (*above*). He chose rich mahogany for the recessed paneling on the vanity, which is topped with deep-green marble. Ball-and-claw feet are finishing touches for the cabinetry, much the way cuff links complete the look of a starched white dress shirt. Also in his bath, a rug mosaic (*right*) embellishes the marble-tile floor. The two baths (see floor plan, *above right*) are ingeniously joined by a two-person 5x7-foot shower with seating and a recessed alcove that holds bathing necessities.

RESOURCES >> Z22

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