

SEATTLE HOMES

& LIFESTYLES™ Design and Architecture for Northwest Living

SOAK UP SUMMER

INDOOR/OUTDOOR LIVING IN MADRONA, CAMANO ISLAND, ISSAQUAH AND BAINBRIDGE



BATH
+ OF THE
YEAR

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\$3.95US



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A photograph of three white magnolia flowers floating on a dark, reflective surface of water. The flowers are arranged vertically, with one at the top, one in the middle, and one at the bottom. The water is dark and still, creating clear reflections of the flowers. The lighting is soft, highlighting the delicate texture of the petals and the central stamens.

Bathed in LIGHT

A Bainbridge bathroom
earns *SH&L's* 2010 Bath
of the Year Award

WRITTEN BY **KATHRYN RENNER**
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **TOM CLEMENTS**

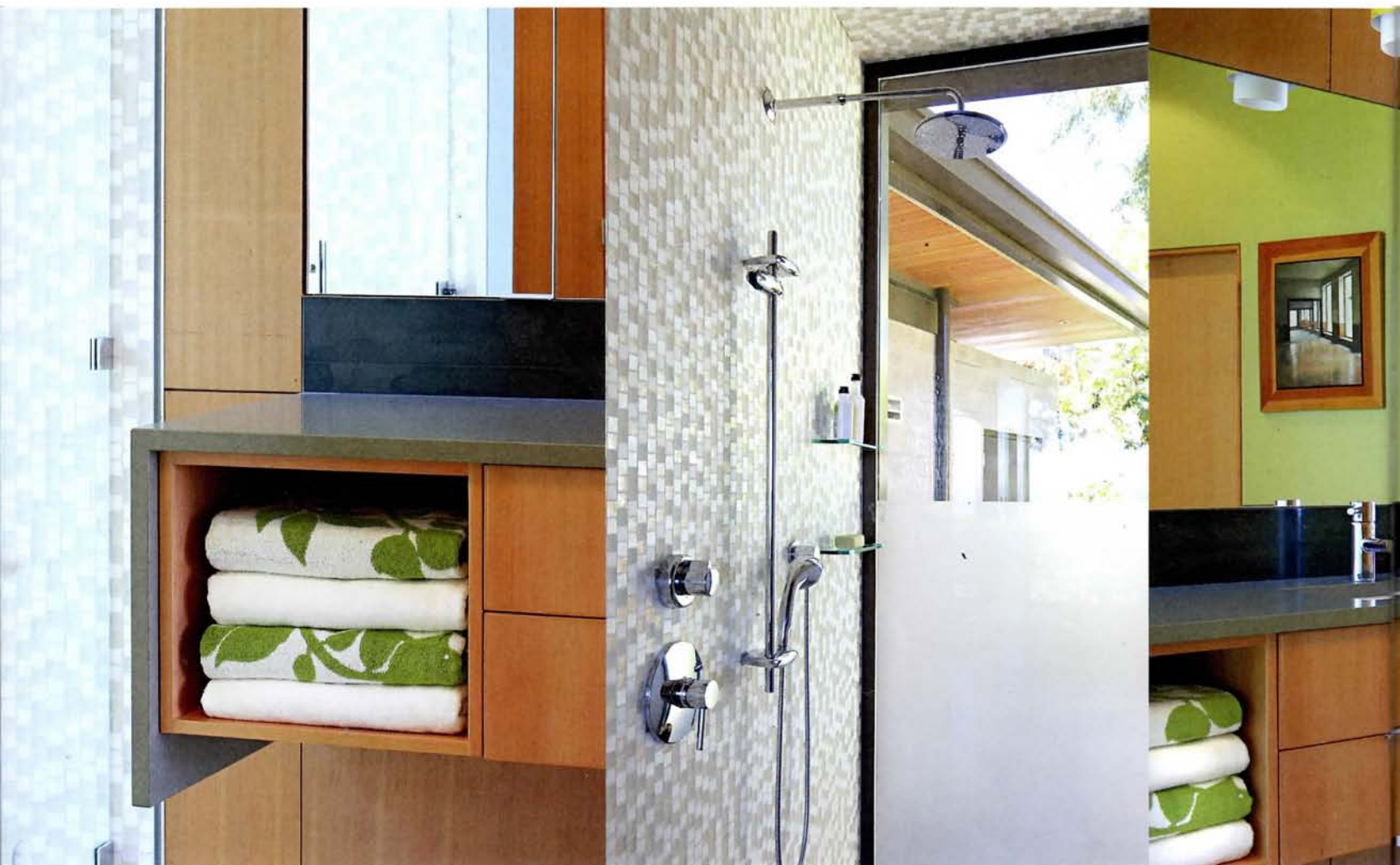
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opposite and this page:
JOANNE AND ED ELLIS
STEP FROM THEIR SILKY
ÜBERSHAG RUG INTO
THE WARMTH OF THEIR
CUSTOM-BUILT OFURO
TUB. THIS HOT SOAK
OFFERS A COOL VIEW
ACROSS PUGET SOUND
TO SEATTLE. THE OFURO
TUB WAS BUILT AND
INSTALLED ON-SITE.



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ngles, views and a multifunctional space that feels like art itself. Let us count the ways that architect Matthew Coates' design for Joanne and Ed Ellis' bathroom wowed the judges of *Seattle Homes & Lifestyles' 2010 Bath of the Year* contest.

Open, light-filled space defines every room in the new, contemporary Bainbridge Island home. But a rectangle attached to one side of the house—an inventive twist on angles and space—caught our judges' eye. This extension, its industrial metal siding contrasting almost whimsically with the cedar-colored house, accommodates a serene 6-foot-wide by 24-foot-long master bathroom. From the exterior it appears to be a separate wing, but it flows seamlessly from a larger multipurpose dressing and laundry area, then curves to meet the master bedroom.

The bathroom is designed to be creatively close, yet apart, so it evokes a private spa. "It feels like a special event," Coates says. The space is private

enough to have glass walls and "bookends" of Northwest beauty. It's angled to showcase views both distant and a stone's throw away. From one end, the shower looks into an intimate fenced bamboo garden and trickling water feature. At the other end, a Japanese *ofuro* tub offers a view across Puget Sound to Seattle's skyline.

"Ed lived in Japan for six years, working with the steamship industry, and he fell in love with the *ofuro* tub," Joanne says. A centuries-old Japanese tradition, an *ofuro* is a vertical tub—round and deep, originally wood, designed for hot, get-really-relaxed *soaking* rather than bathing. The Ellises' square version (made of concrete stained gunmetal gray) was customized to accommodate 6-foot-2-inch-tall Ed. It has no jets, no water movement. "It's more authentic and meditative not to have noise," Joanne explains.

The Ellises based all their design requirements on "authentic" and "meditative." Sustainable materials were gospel, minimalism ruled, and textures were welcomed. Shower walls shimmer with recycled-glass tiles—five tones of white. Forest Stewardship Council-certified vertical-grain fir

“WE WANTED AN EFFICIENT ROOM WITH THIS CONTEMPORARY LOOK, BUT WE DIDN’T WANT IT COLD.”

—HOMEOWNER JOANNE ELLIS



lines walls and cabinets. CaesarStone counter tops are crafted from recycled raw materials.

A soy stain enriches the color of concrete radiant-heated floors that are powered by the home’s geothermal heating system. Hidden behind a door in the water closet, the Australian “smart toilet” is configured with a built-in sink for hand washing, then the same water is recycled for flushing.

Interior designer Melissa Andersen added soft touches to the hard surfaces with a custom Pencil Runner from Dreamweavers—a shaggy, “ahhhh”-soft rug that is durable and washable. “The selections became functional art as well as necessary elements of a bath,” she says. Even towels and mats follow the eco-mindset: all natural or repurposed fibers.

Five midcentury-styled pendant lights from Rejuvenation offer a splash of sunshine yellow. Green and blue accent-wall colors echo hues from the Ellises’ vast Asian art collection in the master bedroom and lighten the room’s concrete and steel surfaces. “There’s such a balance of materials; every direction you look, there’s something different,” Joanne says.

“We wanted an efficient room with this contemporary look,” she says. “But we didn’t want it cold. We’re amazed how warm and inviting it is to be in here.” And having a rectangular bathroom? “That shape is much more fun!” ■

Kathryn Renner writes about homes old and new for local and national publications from her home in Kirkland.

For resource information, see Sources, page 78.

opposite, left to right: CUBBIES HOLD TOWELS MADE OF ECO-FIBERS. RECYCLED SHOWER TILES REFLECT LIGHT FROM A PRIVATE OUTDOOR GARDEN. **above:** MEDICINE CABINETS ARE BUILT INTO THE WALL. MIRROR, A DARK STEEL BACKSPLASH CONTRASTS WITH SHINY QUARTZ BITS IN THE CAESARSTONE COUNTERS. SIMPLE, SQUARE KOHLER SINKS REPEAT THE SQUARE DESIGN OF THE NEARBY OFURO TUB. FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE RECTANGULAR BATHROOM IS AN ARCHITECTURAL HEAD TURNER.