



The Art Of Bathing



Text by Kim Radovich, Photos by Ric Marder

In our busy, fast paced lives we often forget how essential it is to pause, reflect and recharge. The master bath, when thoughtfully designed and decorated can offer that reprieve.

I began to contemplate the aesthetics of bathing when I embarked on the renovation of my own master bathroom. Harbor Hill was built in 1906 and renovated in the 1930's and in spite of many updates the

bathroom was shabby, outdated and disjointed. With cabbage rose wallpaper, mauve Formica countertops, a linoleum floor and equally dated fixtures and hardware it had most likely been renovated in the mid-1960's and in much need of a re-design. I wanted it to serve as an extension of the master bedroom suite and reflect the old world ambience that resonates with the home while providing all of the comforts of modern state-of-the-art fixtures and fittings.

Calacatta marble tile is clean and bright but offers cool grey and warm golden veining allowing enough movement to serve as the foundation for the room. An Elegante Calcutta counter top sits on the double sink console with acrylic crossbars reminiscent of those so popularly used during the first few decades of the twentieth century. Frameless doors frame the large marble tiled shower with both rain head and body sprays. The soaker tub is the focal point in the room and a treasured watercolor nude is framed above it. Double French doors with eglomise mirror lead to the walk in and linen closet respectively. The room was ample so my antique bergere chairs upholstered in a slubby silk have found a happy home here adjacent to the

tub. The room, well lit with petite recessed halogen lights, a polished nickel chandelier and simple nickel sconces are outfitted with linen shades. Of course, all are on dimmers so the mood from a functional bathroom to a spa-like romantic retreat is created with a flip of the switch.

Accessorized with plush white Egyptian towels, candles and a fabulous sound system the room becomes the perfect escape after a harried day.

The art of bathing has become a lost tradition in our culture and certainly one worth resurrecting.