

DREAM 1 Kitchens & Baths

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30 Timeless Looks

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Sculptural Drama

Intricate rooflines may add character to a home's exterior, but they can sometimes pose a challenge on the inside of the house. In this Annapolis, Maryland, home, a gorgeous turreted roof translated into awkward angles in the master bath—until homeowner and designer Arlene Critzos decided to turn that difficulty into an architectural delight. She reimagined the angles as a trio of alcoves, creating interior drama and setting the tone for the bath's old-world style.



Twin vanities flank a large pedestal tub in this regal master bathroom. High ceilings, a skylight, and a tall window visually expand the room and welcome sunlight.



In the center niche, a freestanding tub stretches out under a window dressed in flowing sheers that slants light onto its surface. It's on axis with the main doorway and forms the initial focal point for the bath. "It was the first puzzle piece of the layout," Arlene says.

The vanities in their shapely alcoves blossomed on either side of the majestic tub. Each one is crafted of yew wood and resembles a dressy 18th-century French commode; both are inlaid with traditional marquetry, a technique of inserting multiple materials into a wood-veneer surface to create decorative pictures and patterns. Topped with white marble, the pieces stash all manner of bathroom necessities. "From a functional standpoint, the vanities offer my husband and me our own spaces," Arlene says, "but because they're also beautiful pieces of furniture that could just as easily go in a living room, they make the bath feel special."

The vanities rest in recesses that follow the lines of tall keyhole arches. "It's simple drywall, just presented in a bold way," Arlene says. Custom-cut mirrors emphasize the alcoves' unique design and bounce light around the room. A recessed ceiling can light and pair of tall alabaster-shaded sconces illuminate each vanity area, enhancing the room's traditional style and functional beauty.

A checkerboard of butterscotch- and cream-color limestone tiles stretches underfoot; the same hues and pattern, just on a smaller scale, also clad the floor in the shower stall. There, decorative bands of acanthus-leaf tiles add just the right amount of flourish to light-hue wall tiles. Homey touches, such as an upholstered ottoman and a decorative shelf unit laden with towels, elevate this master bath into something luxurious.

"The look is Old World, but also straightforward and relaxing, to the point that anyone can feel comfortable here," Arlene says.

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OPPOSITE: The new vanities were designed to look like 18th-century French commodes. A sculptural niche adds architectural intrigue to each vanity area.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A lovely urn design is just one of the decorative inlays and veneers that dress up the wood vanities.

This quiet nook connecting the bath and dressing room offers a pleasant place to relax and unwind.

Butterscotch and cream hues warm the bath without making it too feminine or fancy. The shower's walls and floor echo the checkerboard pattern of the flooring elsewhere for unity.