

# ATLANTA HOMES<sup>TM</sup> & LIFESTYLES

## best baths

19th ANNUAL  
CONTEST  
WINNERS

July 2008  
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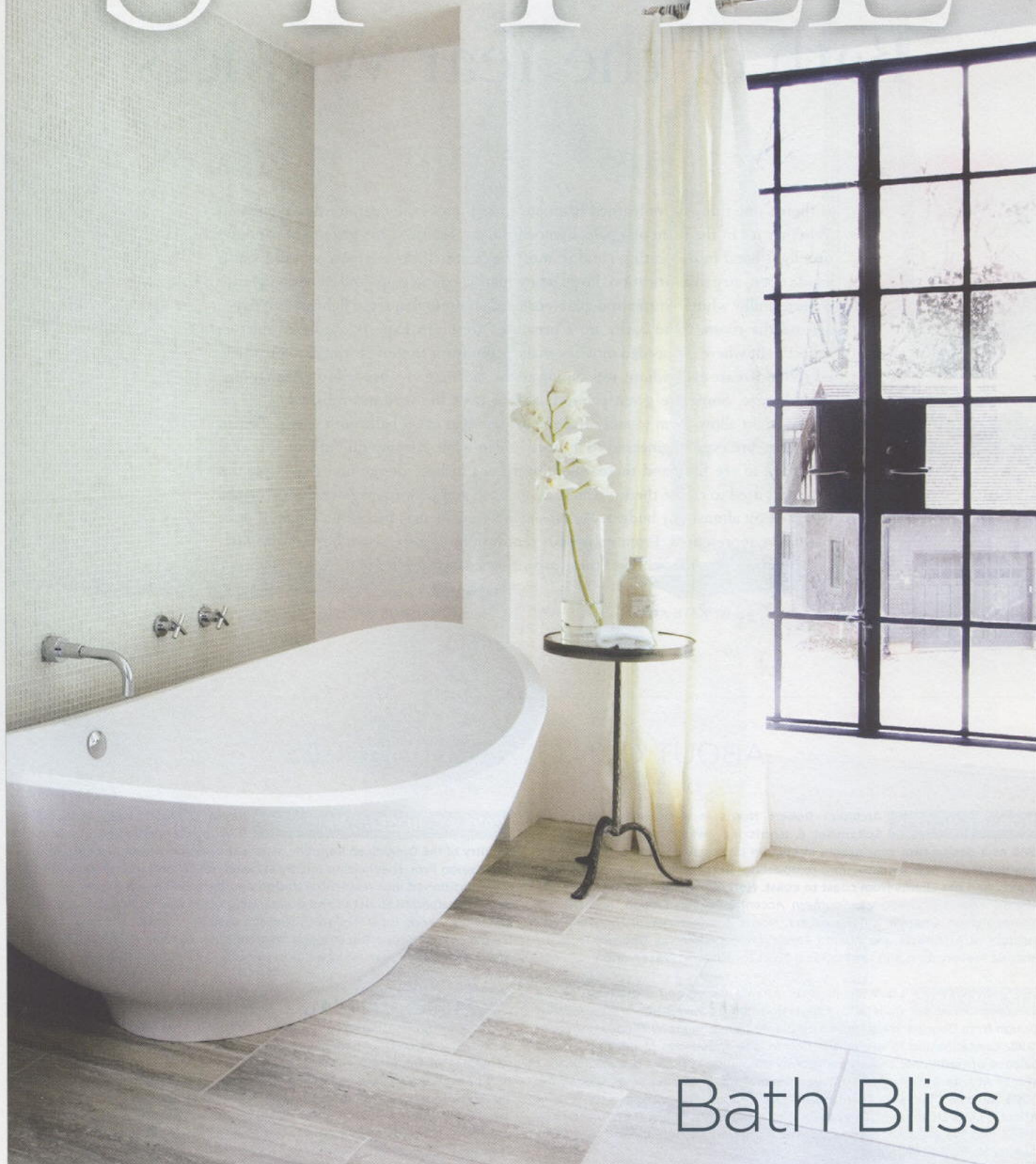
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CLASSIC+CHIC  
OUR SUMMER SHOWHOUSE

# STYLE



## Bath Bliss

Custom fitted metal doors in Allison and Warner McConaughey's master bathroom lead the way to a copper-plated catslide roof balcony and lush back yard.

# 2008 Bath of the Year Winners

If there's one thing we've learned from our judges' picks this year, it's that light is in! Whether it's in the form of a pale, monochromatic palette, a cornucopia of windows or a light hand in decorating—and in most cases, it's all three—these winning baths exude open, airy sophistication. From white marble countertops and Venetian plaster walls to milky white fixtures and glass-enclosed showers that leave light free to dance around the room, these baths are a breath of fresh air. Expertly designed mirrors reflect light where it's needed most, or make room for it to shine through unobstructed. Windows are everywhere, welcoming all the morning rays needed to make grooming a breeze. Some are given prime positions over showers and tubs, while clever design tricks allow them to still offer the privacy that every bathroom needs. Two, in particular, are even engineered to let fresh air in while keeping rain at bay. We were delighted to see firsthand these emerging trends in bath design and the marvelous materials used to create them—which, as our 19th annual winners have shown, can be executed on almost any budget. Perhaps by no coincidence, baths in a range of price points are represented. From marvelous renovations to a spec bath born of imagination, we think you, too, will find these private sanctuaries both beautiful and inspiring.

WRITTEN BY KATE ABNEY PRODUCED BY KATE ABNEY AND RACHEL CARDINA

## ABOUT OUR CONTEST JUDGES

### ROBERT NORRIS

Architect Robert Norris is a founding partner of Spitzmiller & Norris Inc., which was established in 1985 as a design firm specializing in custom personal residences. The firm is experienced in new construction, remodeling and the restoration of historic homes, and has clients from coast to coast. Norris' home has been featured in *Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles*, *Southern Accents*, *Garden Design*, and HGTV's *Homes Across America*, among others. Norris is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Atlanta Preservation Center, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

### LIZ WILLIAMS

Liz Williams is an Atlanta native and a graduate of the College of Charleston. She received her BFA in Interior Design from Georgia State University before founding Liz Williams Interiors in 1998. Concentrating in residential design, she specializes in interiors with a balance of traditional and contemporary elements. Williams has participated in four Atlanta Symphony Associates Decorators' Showhouses, as well as the 2003 Alliance Children's Theatre Christmas House. Her work can be seen in Atlanta; Lake Oconee; St. Simons Island; Charleston, South Carolina; Amelia Island and Watersound, Florida, as well as in various publications, including *Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles*.

### RAYSA C. ROSENZWEIG, CKD

Raysa C. Rosenzweig obtained her BFA in Interior Design in her native country of the Dominican Republic, where she was co-owner of an architecture and design firm, specializing mostly in beach resort projects. Once in the U.S., she transitioned into residential design and became known for her innovative designs, attention to detail and outstanding customer service. She has participated in several local design showcases including Street of Dreams and the Borghese Penthouse. Rosenzweig now concentrates her work in kitchens and baths. She is an active member of the National Kitchen & Bath Association.

### BARBARA SHELTON, CKD

Barbara Shelton has been designing kitchens and baths for the last seven years. After graduating from Florida State University with a degree in Interior Design, she worked with an architectural firm and discovered her love of construction. With a focus on kitchen and bath design, her design and construction backgrounds come together for the benefit of her clients. Shelton works closely with her clients on every aspect of the project from conceptual idea, design and selections, to the last phase of installation. Shelton is an Associate Kitchen & Bath Designer and an Allied Member of ASID as well as the present Treasurer of the Georgia Chapter of NKBA.



GRAND  
PRIZE  
WINNER

“I love the contrast of light walls and dark windows. The clean-lined, minimalist approach allows the vanity and tub to have a great impact on the room. The tones in the travertine floor give it unexpected warmth.” —judge Liz Williams

→ FOR MORE QUOTES FROM OUR JUDGES VISIT [ATLANTAHOMESMAG.COM](http://ATLANTAHOMESMAG.COM)

Style Bath Bliss

# Away From It All

A home office and out-of-date bath are transformed into a magnificent new master bath retreat

Photographed by Erica George Dines





GRAND  
PRIZE  
WINNER

**DESIGN DETAILS**  
**ARCHITECTS & CONTRACTORS**  
HammerSmith Inc.  
807 Church Street  
Decatur, GA 30030  
(404) 377-1021  
hammersmith.net

**RESOURCES**

Tub: Mini Lavasca, Rapsel,  
Hastings Tile & Bath  
Concrete sink: Designed by  
Allison and Warner McConaughy;  
fabricated by Dex Studio  
Faucets and hardware: Tara  
Collection, Dornbracht  
Custom metal doors: Designed  
by Warner McConaughy  
Limestone floor: Honed Siena  
Silver, Walker Zanger  
Venetian plaster on walls: Antique  
White, Southern Color Inc.  
Glass tile: Mantra Lotus Mosaic,  
Walker Zanger  
Recessed lighting: Lighting Loft  
Leather bench: Oly Studio  
Art: Pezhman Deljou, Deljou  
Art Group

**DESIGN OBJECTIVE** In the creation of a new master bath in their 1928 Druid Hills home, Allison and Warner McConaughy, owner and founder of HammerSmith Inc., embarked on a tremendous renovation. Their goal: to create a comfortable dressing area that was conducive to good conversation, as well as his and hers closets and a spacious bathroom that looked out onto the back yard. "We wanted to create a luxurious retreat far from daily stresses and the family fray—a place to be in your own private world," says McConaughy. The original bathroom, which was quite small and looked out onto the side of a neighbor's house, had been divided in too many places. "There were eight doors in that room," says McConaughy, "even one behind the sink." Designer Eric Rothman transformed the old bathroom into a dressing area and turned a home office on the back of the house into the spectacular new master bath retreat.

**THE CHALLENGE** The homeowners wanted a European look, but one without a traditional, Old World feel. To keep things light and airy, they chose an Italian Lavasca tub made from white crystalplant. They loved its delicate curving shape and knew it would be the perfect focal point for the new bathroom, especially in tandem with a European-style trough sink. To keep the shape of the sink from competing with that of the tub, they had it custom poured from white concrete and cantilevered from the wall for a floating, weightless effect. Its straight lines and textured look lend a wonderful contrast, while a knotty walnut sliding tray brings in organic appeal.

**DEFINING DETAIL** Everything in this bath is EarthCraft certified—a detail which has remained a standard in HammerSmith's work ever since the firm helped write the official EarthCraft specifications in 2002. The walls behind the shower, tub and sink are laid with Walker Zanger glass mosaic tile; the others feature natural Venetian plaster, hand-waxed by Allison for a waterproof and easy-care sheen that negates the need for paint (or harmful VOCs). The team also chose spray foam insulation for its eco-friendly qualities and installed high-efficiency plumbing and radiant floor heating throughout.

**WHAT WORKS** All the architecture and construction were organized under one roof, so the team had creative control over the project from start to finish. One of the most successful executions was the variation in ceiling height from room to room. While not noticeable at first glance, the staggered proportions create a flow that feels just right.

**PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER**

- The McConaughys chose to forgo molding, trim and baseboards throughout the bath so that those more ornate details did not detract from the bathroom's monumental tub and sink. Scaling back ensured that these elements were highlighted beautifully.
- Precisely fitted metal doors—which took nine months to fabricate from start to finish—were installed where the previous windows had been. "Without doors, the bathroom might have felt closed in," says McConaughy. One step up leads to a balcony cut out of the copper-plated catslide roof, allowing the McConaughys to enjoy the outdoors or survey the weather on a busy morning.