



Center of attention

"A tub makes a wonderful design focal point in a bathroom. It's an element that lends itself to creative placement and composition."

John Battle, Battle Associates



Soak up the scenery

With its 'womb-like' tub area, this guest bathroom provides a protective haven with a magnificent view

Relaxing in the tub is a rare luxury for many of us. But with the spectacular view on offer from this bathroom, a long, hot soak is time well spent.

When architect John Battle proposed a guest bathroom design that would stand out from the norm, the owners of this New England home happily gave him creative carte blanche.

Part of an addition to the house, its secluded waterfront outlook made it possible to put windows on three sides of the space without the usual privacy concerns.

The bathroom features a shower and vanity along one side, with a toilet and dresser on the opposite wall. At the far end of the space, the focal point is the tub. Set into a tiled surround, it is framed by an arched ceiling finished in white-stained wood siding.

"The room's layout is anchored around this womb-like tub area," says Battle. "Its curved ceiling, driven by the slope of the roof, adds a very magical feel."

The custom-designed, arched mahogany window behind the tub provides a

visual counterpoint to the white walls and furniture, and blends in with the dark wood floor. Its central panel is hinged on one side, allowing it to open inwards.

To emphasize the light-filled nature of the space and add a contemporary element to the design, Battle incorporated glass blocks into the shower stall and a half-height wall that screens the toilet.

"The glass blocks are a fun juxtaposition to the traditionally inspired siding and furniture," he says. "They also give the room a jewel-like quality."



Architect: John Battle AIA, Battle Associates (Boston, MA)

Interior designer: Katz Studios

Builder: Kyle Van Winkle

Bath: Vintage cast iron by Kohler

Vanity: Waterworks

Basin: Kohler

Faucets and shower fittings: Etoile from Waterworks

Shower stall: Glass blocks from Pittsburgh Corning

Tiles: Custom, hand-made

Windows: Ricketson custom mahogany

Lighting: Lightolier; Flos

Photography by Kallan MacLeod

Previous pages: Placed beneath a low, curved ceiling, the tub area is a focal point of this guest bathroom designed by John Battle from Battle Associates.

Facing page: The use of stained wood siding was inspired by traditional New England cottages. Suspended track lighting illuminates the vanity.

Above: Framing the view, the customized mahogany window behind the tub has a central panel that opens inwards. The blue-and-white checkerboard tiles around the tub were selected by the owners.

Far left: A half wall of glass blocks screens the toilet.