

CELEBRATING THE STYLE OF SOUTH LOUISIANA

HOUSE

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and home

A VISION IN WHITE

BATHING IN BLISS

**COVERAGE OF THE
THIRD ANNUAL
DESIGN AWARDS
COMPETITION**

**READERS' FAVORITE
DIPS & BEVERAGES**

A photograph of a bathroom with yellow floral wallpaper. A chandelier hangs from the ceiling. A shower curtain is in the center. To the left, a towel rack holds white towels. To the right, a toilet is decorated with flowers, and a sink has a cherub figurine on it. A large glass vase is on the floor near the shower.

This bathroom has 12-foot ceilings, and measures 10-feet long and 6-feet wide, all which is entirely charming. Karen Giffel and Jennifer Poe said they had no obstacles in designing this feminine bathroom.

Hints of Glimmer

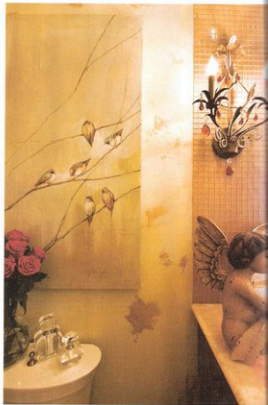
A light color palette accented with metallic shimmer works in harmony to create a delicate and pretty bathroom in this home, located in Baton Rouge's Carriage-wood Estates. Designers Karen Giffel and Jennifer Poe of Faux & Decorative Finishes in Baton Rouge, were inspired by a simple color and worked around it to create this space.

"We wanted to keep the concept of the residence in the bathroom, which was a warm and soothing palette in Monroe Bisque, a Benjamin Moore historical color selection," Giffel says. "We also inserted a hint of glimmer with metallic gold accents as a common thread throughout the room."

Giffel and Poe completed the custom faux finish on the walls, which is a "skip plaster" technique that was hand-trowelled onto the walls, with metallic gold accents peering through the plaster to create dimension.

The vanity also has a custom finish of metallic gold and is embellished with accents in gold leaf. The countertop is made of honey onyx. Giffel took advantage of the countertop's translucent nature and chose to up-light it to create ambience. To add to the vanity's elegance, the designers chose an Oceana glass vessel bowl sink, purchased through Southern Kitchen and Bath. The tile behind the sink is a one-inch square mosaic featuring a satin gold finish. The shimmer from the tile reflects the countertop lighting and complements the glimmering wall. The bathroom's trumeau mirror was custom designed and hand-painted by Giffel and Poe, which melds into the entire color palette.

All of the bathroom's accessories were



purchased from Red Onion and Z Gallery with special emphasis on the original artwork from Lauren Bartsdale-Hill. The lighting is from Currey and Company.

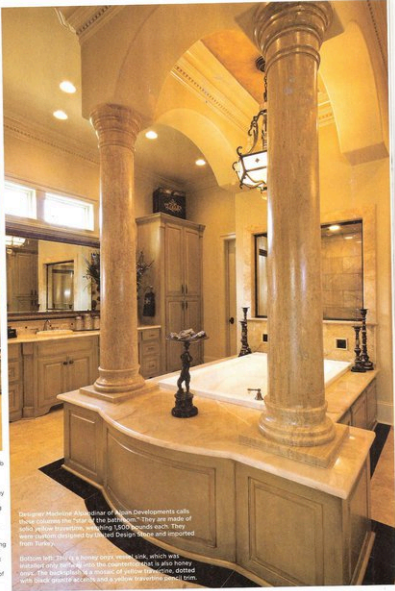
"Each of our projects is custom and reflects our client's personality," Giffel says. "Our expertise consists of a deep emphasis on color theory and we strongly adhere to the philosophy that decorative finishes evolve and should become one with the architecture and should be classic and able to endure time."

The walls were finished with a "skip plaster" technique, which was hand-trowelled onto the wall with metallic gold accents peering through the plaster to add dimension. The ceiling is finished with a metallic gold glaze with an amber wash.



This glass chandelier above the tub is from Nottoco Industries, which illuminates the ceiling done by Karen Giffel and Jennifer Poe of Faux and Decorative Finishes. They treated the ceiling with a layered gold Tuscan sunset look, featuring smoked edging.

This oversized steam shower features his and hers shower heads, four body jets, aromatherapy, along with two pull-down teak seats for relaxing in the steam. Honey onyx tiles makeup the brick-patterned walls, while the floor is a mosaic of yellow travertine.



Designer Maximilian Aboumdinar of Apex Developments calls these columns the "star of the bathroom." They are made of solid yellow travertine, weighing 1,500 pounds each. They were custom designed by United Design Stone and imported from Turkey.

Bottom left: This is a honey onyx vessel sink, which was installed only 20" up into the countertop that is also honey onyx. The backdrop is a mosaic of yellow travertine, dotted with black granite accents and a yellow travertine pencil trim.

Soaking Up the Surroundings

Setting aside alone time can be a challenge, even in the privacy of our own homes. Whether big or small, these bathrooms provide a quiet getaway for their homeowners and guests. From the modern Mediterranean escape with an aromatherapy steam shower and the feminine shimmer in the pretty powder room all the way to the natural spa setup with river stone flooring, the dark tea-stained half-bathroom, and the spacious slate shower, these spaces provide a private oasis.



The cabinetry, completed by RJ Quality Cabinets in Prairieville, were finished by Karen Giffel and Jennifer Poe using a glazed pearl faux finish, to accent the honeyonyx countertops.

Limitless Luxury

Clear blue skies and heat from the yellow sun have influenced Mediterranean style in all parts of the home for many years. Thick, textured walls were created to keep the home cool, while open spaces were built to provide ventilation. In any room, a Mediterranean look and feel can be accomplished with one mission in mind—combining functionality with elegance. That is exactly what designer Madeline Alpardinar, of Alpan Developments, did with this master bathroom in the 2009 Parade home located in Baton Rouge's Santa Maria subdivision.

"The inspiration for this bathroom was to create a luxurious and grand spa-like setting with Mediterranean design elements and natural stone everywhere," Alpardinar says.

The centerpiece of the bathroom is the oversized Jacuzzi tub, which is surrounded by a three-centimeter slab of honey onyx deck, created by United Stone Design. The showstopper, however, is the two columns at the head of the tub, supporting a series

of arches. They were custom designed by United Design Stone and imported from Turkey. Each column is made of solid yellow travertine and weighs 1,500 pounds.

"Everything else in the bathroom was selected to compliment these outstanding columns, which really set the tone for the Mediterranean feel of the space," Alpardinar says.

Above the tub hangs a glass and iron chandelier from Notoco Industries, which sheds light on the treated ceiling around it. The 12-foot ceiling, finished by Karen Giffel and Jennifer Poe of Faux and Decorative Finishes, was completed with a layered gold Tuscan sunset treatment featuring smoked edging—think: bronze and gold clouds.

Behind the tub is an oversized steam shower that features a large window overlooking the rest of the bathroom. The shower is complete with his and hers shower heads, four body jets, aromatherapy, and two pull down teak seats for relaxing in the steam. The shower ceiling and walls are covered in honey onyx tiles, set in a brick pattern

and accented by a mosaic floor of yellow travertine. All of the stone in the shower is imported from Turkey, by United Design Stone.

"The shower is quite amazing," Alpardinar says. "It is total luxury here!"

The cabinetry was created by RJ Quality Cabinets in Prairieville, and finished by Karen Giffel and Jennifer Poe of Faux and Decorative Finishes in a glazed pearl faux finish in order to complement the onyx countertops. They are all 3cm slab honey onyx, which are illuminated with light each counter to provide a warm glow in the evening. The vessel sink is also made of honey onyx, which was installed half through the counter for a unique look. The sink's backsplash is a mosaic yellow stone detailed with black granite accents and a yellow travertine pencil trim. The custom framed mirror behind the sink is by M & M Glass.

"As the designer of this bathroom, I work very closely with United Design Stone to coordinate all of the stone products," Alpardinar says. "I must say the result is quite amazing."