

A bathroom finds balance
in opposition.

by ABBY BIELAGUS

Spectacle & Serenity

The primary bathroom's grandness in this Colonial home in Wellesley posed a challenge for designer Nicole Hirsch (nicolehirschinteriors.com). How could she make the cavernous space feel warm and inviting, like a tranquil boutique spa, for homeowners with four young children who craved an escape? Working closely with Jacob Lilly Architects Inc. (jlaarchitects.com), she developed a creative layout that breaks up the scale with intentional zones. Rather than simply having dominant cabinetry and an empty center, they took advantage of the openness and added a dramatic walk-in shower enclosed by black steel-framed glass which became the centerpiece of the room. The enclosure sits in the center of the bathroom, positioned perfectly below a skylight. The built-in niche provides functional storage and a visual focal point. The rest of the design incorporates natural materials, wood details, fluted millwork and unlacquered brass accents that create warmth, richness and soften the scale. Warm, veined Taj Mahal stone envelops the room, adding texture without visual noise. Hirsch restrained the detailing and prioritized symmetry to align with the adjoining bedroom's aesthetic to achieve a space that feels calming and timeless. The result embraces both drama and stillness, grandeur and comfort, luxury and restraint. It feels refined without sacrificing the original splendor. It is a perfect example of how two things can be true at once, how one can find equilibrium in opposing forces.