



By still waters

This master suite is defined by the home's architecture, which gives precedence to a lakeside outlook

A vacation home is often laid out to maximize views to the scenery. When the house also follows a specific architectural vernacular, these two elements can define the interior spaces – the ensuite bathroom included.

This master suite is part of a new lakeside house by residential designer Jeff Murphy, with interior design by Willis Watts. The home, in the English Tudor style, has peaked gables

and is oriented to its 270° views. The great room on the first floor and master suite above it enjoy the optimum vantage points, says Murphy.

“In the bedroom, the roof shape is left exposed to enhance the sense of space. The bathroom’s dormer roof also maximizes volume.”

Bathroom areas are set out in hierarchical order, in terms of taking in the waterscape.



Above left: Exposed ceiling beams help bring the Tudor-style architecture into the interiors. Leaving the roof exposed increases the sense of spaciousness.

Above: The dressing room has compartmentalized storage and is divided into two changing areas.

Left: This classic wood fireplace is appropriate to the style of the house. Interiors are designed to be relaxed and low maintenance.



“The bathroom itself has a run of windows looking over the lake,” says Murphy. “When using the vanities on the opposite wall, mirrors keep the views in sight.”

“The shower and toilet cubicles are set behind, at left and right – the shower door is in glass so the outlook can be appreciated here, too.”

Apart from the toilet area, the dressing room – set further

back again – is the only part of the suite to not have views.

Willis Watts designed the interior with a warm, friendly aesthetic continued from other homes that he and Murphy have created for the owners. However, the bathroom has a slightly different feel.

“In a weekend residence, the interiors are user friendly and low maintenance. For this bathroom I also wanted



to create a feeling of space, despite its modest footprint,” says Watts. “To achieve this, I kept the material palette simple, with cool white marble tiles on the floors and walls.

“We also set the vanities on legs to maximize visible floor area and chose pocket doors for economy of space.”

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Residential designer: Jeff Murphy, Murphy & Co Design (Buffalo, MN)
Interior design: Willis Watts, Willis Watts Design (Atlanta, GA)
Builder: Thomas Bren Homes
Vanity: Kallista, Michael Smith, Country Collection
Cabinetry: Custom
Vanity countertop, basin: Kallista
Faucets: Michael Smith Town basin set with cross handles in polished nickel
Hot water systems: Buderus gas boiler
Shower door: Frameless
Flooring: Calacatta marble

Wall coverings: Calacatta marble, gypsum
Lighting: Circa Lighting
Ventilation: Panasonic, Venmar
Fireplace: Custom masonry

Story by Charles Moxham
Photography by Brian Droeger

Above left: A white-painted cabinet at the end of the room is in keeping with the monochromatic look. Quarter-turning the floor tiles adds to the sense of space.

Far left: Legend: 1 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 3 toilet, 4 shower, 5 dressing room

Above: A wide glass door with minimal return adds to the sense of volume and allows the occupant to enjoy the views from the shower.