



# HIDING PLACE

Storage ranks high in comfy bath retreat

**W**HAT MAKES MARC AND MARION Fredrickson most happy about their tranquil North Park master bath is the sink cabinet vanity that Marc, an architect, designed. Made of bamboo, the cabinets are eco-friendly and help give the modern retreat the Asian feel that the Fredricksons were aiming for — but that's not why the vanity is their favorite part of the room.

"In planning the cabinets, I made sure there were plenty of wide and deep drawers so that all my wife's bathroom accouterments would have a place and could be hidden from view," says Marc. "Instead of having medicine cabinets, the center section has upper cabinets with bi-fold and swing-down doors. The divider has the function of keeping our two messes separate."

It seems that Marion's "mess" may be larger than Marc's. The divider is placed so that her side ("furthest from the bathroom door so that her items are partially hidden from view," says Marc) has two-thirds of the upper cabinet space.

"With one-third the total space, I have room to spare," he boasts.

The room is contemporary-modern with sprinkles of classic design, such as the lotus-inspired nickel pulls on upper cabinet doors. "For us," says Marc, "modern-designed items feel and look less homey. The classic touches help make the space feel more comfortable."

Marc also opted to design the towel racks. "I spent a lot of time looking for towel racks but never found what I wanted," he says. "Purchased towel racks are small. The bathroom is a good size and I wanted towel racks of ample length to hang the towels to dry so that they can be used multiple times without getting that musty smell."

Designed to look like the main cabinet, the towel racks have curtain-rod poles and brackets made of Plyboo (formaldehyde-free FSC-certified bamboo) and PaperStone (a material consisting of recycled paper and resins made from nutshells).

Sink countertops, the backsplash and the soaking tub's surround also are made of PaperStone. "The depth of the tub allows one to sit immersed to the neck in water without having to lie down," says Marc. "It's very serene and relaxing."

The tub does help transform the space into a refuge from the workaday world, but perhaps what keeps the room most stress free for Marc is the fact that "there's a place for everything to be and to hide." ♦

WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 123