

People  Newspapers

# Homes & Estates

## English Revival

Old World elegance meets  
southern charm in the heart  
of Volk Estates [p. 14]

*Plus:*

**5 MARVELOUS MANSES**

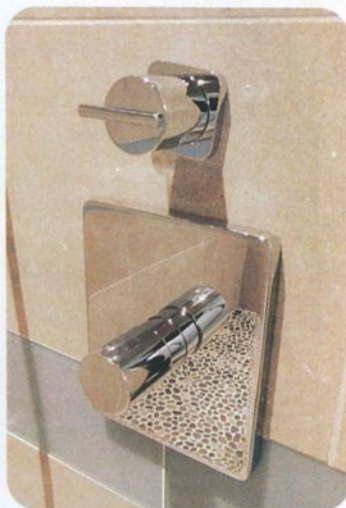
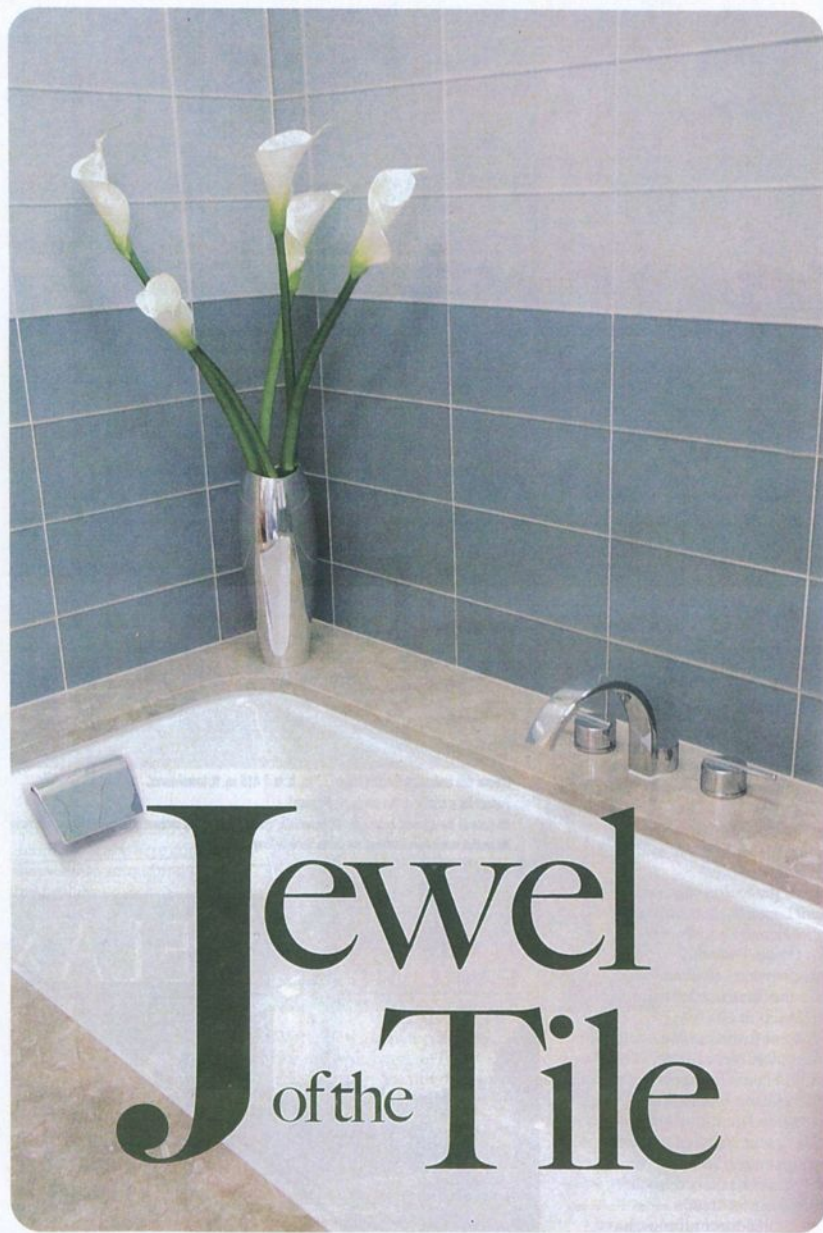
Hot on the market [p. 18]

**BRAD OLDHAM**

The artist and the man [p. 30]

**ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS**

Make your house eco-friendly [p. 8]



Neutral countertops, curvaceous faucets, and turquoise tile balance with clean, austere lines to create an earthy, yet contemporary look.



Robyn Menter takes an awkward master bath, turns it into a gem

STORY BY PAIGE PHELPS

Robyn Menter's client had specific instructions about remodeling his soon-to-be master bathroom, and he gave them in just four words.

"He's the best client. He said, 'Just make it fabulous,'" she said in her South African lilt. "When he was looking for a new house, he looked at a couple of houses, and when he saw this one he told us, 'If you can make it great, I'll buy it.'"

It turned out to be an easy sell.

The narrow three-story house on a private drive in Turtle Creek turned out to be perfect for the client, who found his previous home in Greenway Parks lovely but a bit too suburban for his single lifestyle.

And Menter, of the eponymous Robyn Menter Design Associates Inc., set about reorganizing the small spaces in her signature style — minimal and clean.

On the walls, a combination of Ann Sacks aquamarine metro tiles, some glassy and others etched, mimic wainscoting. She lengthened the vanity, got rid of the sauna, and nixed the white marble and mirror in favor of Anigre wood and a large neutral tile. In what used to be an empty space, she put in a semi-open, double-head shower. The floor of the shower is accented with Ann Sacks sheets of pebbled floor in varying shades of taupe and burnt umber.

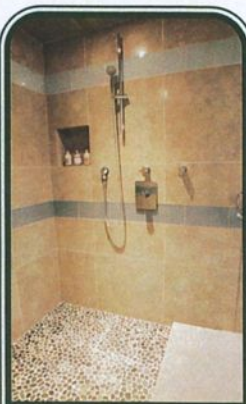
To maximize the narrow space of the room, she made sure grout lines matched up from the floor to the tile, so that the eye seems to follow a single line all the way around, and then she floated the vanity above the floor, making the built-in cabinet seem less imposing.

"We like to put emphasis on the materials rather than going for the 'wow' factor," she said. "We feel that gives it a more timeless design quality."

Of course, some might say the "wow" is still there — like Menter's client, for instance.

"He made it really nice for us," she said. "He let us do what we wanted."

And that might be the biggest wow factor of all. ■



### Robyn's Tips for Master Bath Remodels

**1.** Hire a professional, even if it's only as a consultant. You might not be able to afford the full-time services of an architect or designer, but a couple of hours of advice can help a homeowner go in the right direction.

**2.** If you are shopping on your own, the choices of stone, tile, plumbing, and lighting can be overwhelming. One of the most common mistakes she sees is a homeowner selecting too many materials. Keep it simple, and you'll end up with a more cohesive result.

**3.** Remember to keep a consistent style. If you are using sleek tiles, choose sleek drawer pulls. Plumbing fixtures and hardware should work together.

**4.** "Some people think, 'Oh, it's a bathroom, so I'll just throw up some sconces,'" Menter said, a pet peeve of hers. "General lighting is very important."