

SURRENDER



Passage to India

Designer: Lori Gentile

Mixing Moorish with modern and serene with sexy may sound like design oxymora. But when you apply the techniques to a master bath, the result is pure indulgence.

Imagine, for instance, coming home to this exotic bath in Fairbanks Ranch, created by interior designer Lori Gentile. Striking wall panels, made with decorative tiles bordered by strips of marble and onyx, make this master bath unique.

"In India, the maharajahs built their palaces with carved marble window screens so their harem of ladies could see out without being seen," Gentile says. "In this master bath, with the tub centered in the room, I needed to balance out the weight and enhance corner walls with detail. Whereas most

people apply wainscoting in bathrooms, I knew it wouldn't have been the right look—I needed height and something more unusual."

She found 4-by-4-inch Flor de Pablo decorative wall tiles and had them installed to form long, textured panels that hang 12 inches below the ceiling, 12 inches above the base. Gentile also replaced the original platform bathtub with a Zuma freestanding tub and added modern fixtures from Dornbracht. She designed matching vanities with bases that simulate Asian chests and topped them with onice verde persiano, a unique acid-green onyx with rusty brown veins.

"Bathing is one of life's richest experiences," says Gentile. "It provides a solitary moment and a chance to gather your thoughts, cleanse your mind and reconnect with your body."