Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest

# KITCHEN + BATH IDEAS

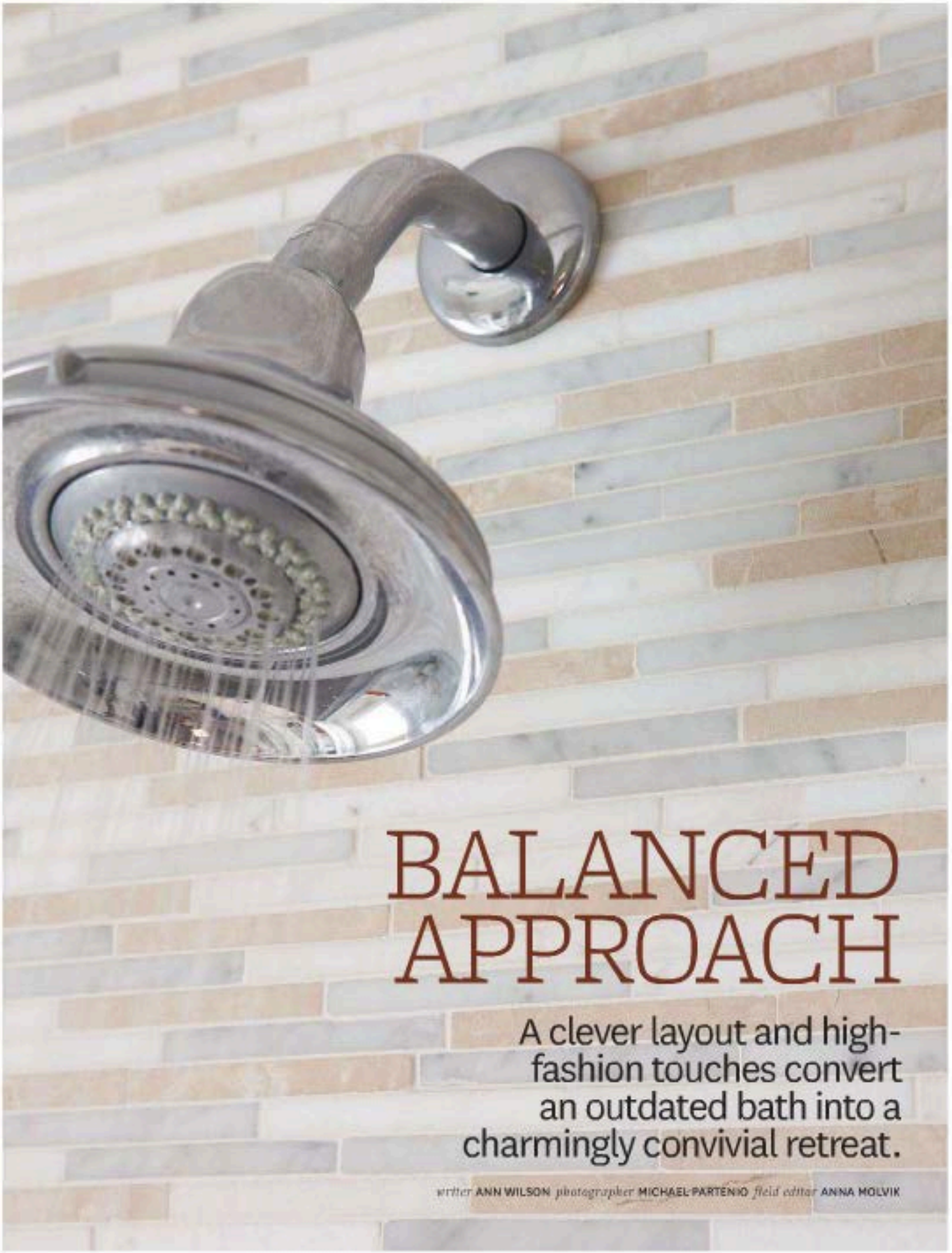
## Fresh Makeovers (Before Photos Included!)

How to Choose and Use Color p. 12

30 Most Innovative Products p. 53

Pretty Backsplash Designs p. 32

SPRING 2014



# BALANCED APPROACH

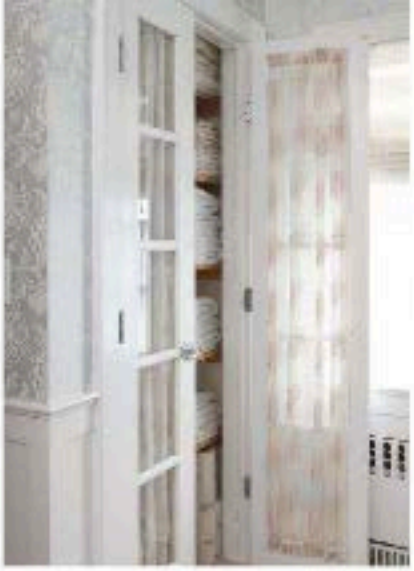
## A clever layout and high-fashion touches convert an outdated bath into a charmingly convivial retreat.

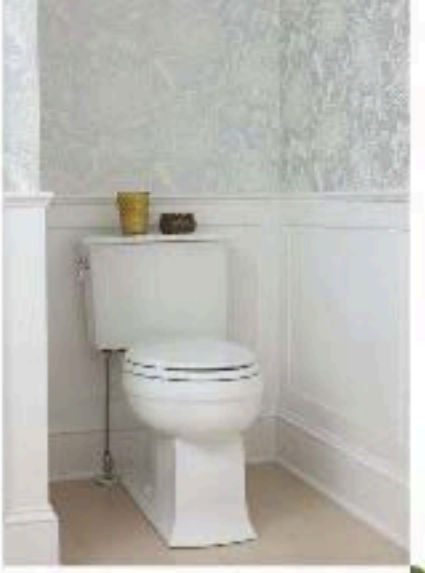
*writer* ANN WILSON *photographer* MICHAEL PARTENIO *field editor* ANNA MOLVIK

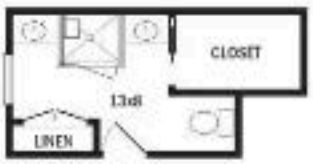
**OPPOSITE:** Narrow mosaic tiles make a streamlined statement while contributing texture, pattern, and color.
**THIS PHOTO:** A large walk-in shower is key to how Kerith and Steve Flynn's new bath looks and functions.

**DESIGN TIP**
A flat, sleek edge on a classic marble countertop gives the otherwise traditional material a modern twist.

**THIS PHOTO:** The dual vanities provide ample storage and anchor the room's buoyant surfaces. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** The linen closet gets a chic lift thanks to sheer embroidered panels. **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT:** Simple lines, graphic wallpaper, and a lack of embellishment add a modern flair to classic paneled wainscoting. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Angular faucets complement the streamlined vanity design.








# Interior designer Kerith Flynn ticked off every wish on her extensive list when renovating

the master bathroom she shares with her husband, Steve, in their Manhasset, New York, home. By eliminating the room's massive bathtub, Kerith made way for possibilities aplenty.

Kerith and her partner at Margali and Flynn Designs, Christine Ranieri, stretched their imaginations as they attempted to stretch the bath's existing space to accommodate dual vanities, two closets, a walk-in shower, and a space-stealing window required by local building codes.

"This bathroom project made me think outside of the box," Kerith says. "We worked within the existing footprint, but shrunk it a bit by adding the closets. I wanted it to still feel expansive, so we did that glass shower, the large mirrors, and the French doors on the linen closet."

Kerith's floor plan brought the walk-in closet about 4 feet into the bathroom space, which created an alcove for the toilet. Meanwhile, a linen closet beside the entry door steps a few feet into the room. Kerith more than made up for the loss of square footage by introducing bright and breezy elements that amplify light and magnify the sense of space.

She carried a calming cream, wheat, gray, and white color scheme around the room via paneled wainscoting, floor and shower tiles, Carrara marble countertops, and prettily patterned wallpaper. Chrome fittings and clean-lined furnishings provide contemporary counterpoints that give the space an unexpected edge.

"I used big mirrors because I wanted to hang those cool lights," Kerith says, referring to the large rectangular drum pendants above each vanity. "The shades pick up on the wheat-color tiles in the shower."

Kerith says these monochromatic harmonies, natural nuances, and easy interplay of textures are what turn a smallish bathroom into a sensational sanctuary. "Because all the colors blend, but appear in different ways and materials, our bathroom really has a spa feel and a real sense of style," she says. "It turned out perfectly!" KBI

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 138.

## Takeaways

1. Opting not to have a bathtub leaves space for more desired features.
2. Smart space planning and a nontraditional layout can accommodate both function and style.
3. Wallpaper with subtle color adds interest but doesn't compete with graphic and colorful tile patterns.
4. Embracing adjacent spaces, such as closets, boosts a bath's function.