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Detroit Home

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

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MIXING IT UP

A creative mingling of unique tile, art, lighting, and vanity makes for a nifty powder room in Huntington Woods

BACKSTORY: Amanda Wolfe, of Amanda Wolfe Designs and Forest Avenue Design in Birmingham, started work on a new powder room in her Huntington Woods home last July. The project was completed in November. She and her family now enjoy a larger space that pops with floor-to-ceiling tile, a floating vanity, and a concrete sink; it's a creative mix that conveys character and practicality. Even with a bit of a Mid-century touch (Kelly Wearstler sconces that feel modern), the space is at once eclectic and inviting. "Although my house isn't Mid-century Modern, I don't want to walk in to a room that says, 'you picked out all your items at one store, or from one source.' You're not doing a good job if you do that."

THE OVERHAUL: Wolfe's plan included removing a powder room located near the kitchen and renovating a back hall bathroom, increasing the size, and changing the entry so it felt like it was always there and more a part of the house rather than the back hall/mudroom. There's now one bathroom on the first floor.

TILE CALLING: "As a designer I see so much out there, but my mind kept going back to photos I'd taken along the way of certain tiles that I wanted on the walls. I went with an Ann Sacks selection, something that I originally loved," Wolfe says.

POWDER POP: "I had to make a pop and went floor-to-ceiling with the tile. You can do 'wow factor' effects because it's a powder room, and I'm so in love with that tile." The tile complements the flooring and its penny-round style in a graphite color.

A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE: Celebrated cabinetry master John Morgan, of Perspectives Cabinetry in Troy, worked with Wolfe to design a floating walnut vanity. "I didn't want anything to match. I wanted the space to feel like it's been there forever, not newly built. The walnut vanity gives it an Old World feel, but in a contemporary way, because I floated it," Wolfe explains.

IN THE BLACK: Wolfe chose black marble countertops. "Black marble is underrated and fabulous, and I see it a lot in New York City, so I thought, Why don't we use that?"

STUPENDOUS SINK: A concrete sink weighing about 300 pounds was one tough installment, but the designer says it was well worth it.

DESIGNER'S VERDICT: "I love it, and I adore the tile," Wolfe says. "I feel like I'm in some old Moroccan town. The tile is like art."

— By Megan Swoyer

IN THE DETAILS: RESOURCE GUIDE

Interior design, Amanda Wolfe, Amanda Wolfe Designs/Forest Avenue Design, amandawolfedesigns.com, Birmingham. Faucet, Newport Brass, Flat Black. Sink, Native Trails concrete sink, trough style, Atlas Plumbing, Detroit. Cabinet, walnut floating, Perspectives Cabinetry, Troy. Counter, Nero Marquina honed marble from PMP Marble, Troy. Wall tile, Ann Sacks Eastern Promise 8x8 concrete wall tile by Martin Bullard Lawrence; floor tile, Ann Sacks Savoy Penny Round Graphite tile; wall behind toilet, Ann Sacks tile, 2x7-inch subway tile in Obsidian, all from Michigan Design Center, Troy. Sconces, Detroit City Lights, Strada Collection, Kelly Wearstler. Wall art, The Mincing Mockingbird.





CREATIVE FLOW

Mixing different elements and materials but still creating a unified look was the goal of designer Amanda Wolfe for her new powder room. With arty tile, cheerful art, a floating vanity, and a cement sink, the space is 100-percent "Wow!"

