

# Mixed Blessing

Disparate styles and materials come together in a luxury bath

By Alice Liao

For most people, a relaxing bath is a welcome end to a day on the slopes. But when the tub is in a room of dark wood, natural stone and rich, coppery finishes, a soak is nothing short of bliss. Designer Marcio Decker, of Home Concepts and Aspen Leaf Interiors, understands this, having created such a space for a Los Angeles couple who wanted to make their second home in the Northstar resort area of Truckee, CA. Rustic, yet undeniably modern, the master bath is a deft mix of seemingly incongruous elements, some borrowed from the landscape, some inspired by the couple's love of antiques and Asian design. Decker said, "The basic challenge was to create a contemporary look that would be compatible with the home, its structure and interiors."



In lesser hands, the combination of old and new, Asian and country may have produced disastrous results, but Decker's bath happily marries all with a palette heavily weighted toward warm, autumnal colors. Knotty alder cabinetry in a dark chocolate brown is matched with cast-bronze hardware and plumbing fixtures in vintage-inspired oil-rubbed bronze; the stained alder, noted Decker, is a carryover from the rest of the home and "was pulled from" the natural surroundings. Accenting the walls and enclosed shower, Asian-themed bar and glass tile liners are juxtaposed with recycled glass mosaics in shimmering colors suggestive of fall foliage. Resembling bamboo stalks, the same copper-toned bar liners articulate the vanity area and mirrors.

All are offset by slate, whose variations in color and texture are key to the success of the design, Decker said. Capitalizing on this, the bath employs three types: copper slate in a natural cleft on the floor, a honed slab for the countertop and tub deck and multi-hued bricks on the walls. The array of colors in the slate surfaces is mirrored in the mosaics, and the textural differences enhance the feeling of luxury. Decker noted, "The design gets a lot of its power and charm from how the different materials are blended."

To enhance continuity and visual appeal, the bath incorporates a host of minor details. For example, a central storage unit was added to break up the long, double-sink vanity and provide extra space for toiletries. On the tub surround and shower bench, mosaics were carefully composed in a tonal gradation that ties the two areas together and better incorporates them into the space. In the shower, a similar pattern softens the transition from tile to slate. And finally, to counterbalance the rectilinear elements in the room, a glass shower panel is scalloped on top, and twin granite sinks, with polished bowls and chiseled exteriors, resemble the two halves of a boulder split in two.

For the judges, Decker's bath offers an inviting showcase of how disparate elements can be seamlessly fused into one cohesive expression. For the homeowners, the blend of aesthetic styles and inspirations has resulted in a sanctuary that is sure to pamper and rejuvenate and perhaps, most importantly, to feel like home. ■

*Knotty alder cabinetry, slate finishes and glass mosaics blend in a rustic yet contemporary Asian-themed master bath. A window next to the tub looks out on Northstar's landscape.*

## SOURCES

**Designer:** Marcio Decker—Home Concepts and Aspen Leaf Interiors, Truckee, CA; [www.aspenleafinteriors.com](http://www.aspenleafinteriors.com)

**Additional team member:** Betty Scott—Home Concepts and Aspen Leaf Interiors

**Architect:** MWA Architects  
**Contractor:** Meng Construction

### Manufacturers

**Sinks:** Stone Forest; **Tub:** Kohler; **Plumbing fixtures:** Watermark; **Countertop & tub deck:** Home Concepts and Aspen Leaf Interiors; **Slate walls & flooring:** Source Products Group; **Glass tile:** Ocean-side Glasfile; **Hardware:** Rocky Mountain; **Lighting:** LBL Lighting; **Door:** Southwest Door Company

**Photography:** © Nicholas Rab