

# DESIGN

NEW ENGLAND

**BATH**

INTERIOR DESIGN  
KRISTINA CRESTIN DESIGN

ARCHITECTURE  
WALTER JACOB ARCHITECTS



## Immersed in the View

A seaside location sets the tone for a free-flowing master bathroom with partitions and angles — but no doors to restrict sightlines

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“**Y**ou should begin and end the day in a place that makes you feel good,” says architect Walter Jacob, speaking of bathrooms. “You don’t have to be in the dark.”

Annalisa and Dino DiPalma took his words to heart, but they didn’t get there overnight. In January 2011, with crossed fingers, they bought a Colonial mansion in Swampscott, Massachusetts, the North Shore suburb where they were already living. The facade had been disgraced with pink stucco in the 1980s, and the less said the better about the interior. The redeeming asset was the coastal beauty of the land.

Knowing she would need all the help she could get, Annalisa

bought a half day of design consultation at a Girls Inc. benefit auction, donated by Kristina Crestin of Kristina Crestin Design of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts. Immediately, Crestin helped Annalisa tweak the kitchen and fix up a room for Olivia, the DiPalmas’ then 1-year-old daughter. But after that was done, no one seemed in a rush to call the movers. Over the summer, the family visited the new house as they would a seaside retreat, staying mainly outdoors. They soon realized that the house was not working. It had no relationship

**AT THE CORE** of the master bath is a walk-in shower with dual showerheads (ABOVE LEFT). Reflected in its glass wall are windows that provide an ocean view. A clear divider near the ceiling lets natural light into the vanity area on the other side. Around the corner, the tub (ABOVE RIGHT) also has water views.

## BATH



**BEHIND THE SHOWER**, the vanity (LEFT) has a Wetstyle trough sink fitted with two faucets. The built-in bureau in the background marks the entry to a walk-in closet. The Nepalese rug is from Landry & Arcari Rugs and Carpeting. A dressing table next to the sink (RIGHT) is finished in the same walnut veneer as the vanity and bureau.

“A bathroom doesn’t have to be tucked away,” says architect Walter Jacob, who laid out the master bath with views from every aspect.

to the water and was too big for their life. “We didn’t know we were buying it for the property,” Annalisa says, explaining how they came to the difficult decision to tear down the old house.

The couple hired Jacob of Walter Jacob Architects in Marblehead, Massachusetts, to design a new home in tune with its surroundings and their life. “The ocean is one of those rare places that even in foul weather, it’s beautiful,” says Jacob, whose aim was to give every room a water view and bring in the special light reflected from the sea. The DiPalmas wanted to start their day awash in it. “A

bathroom doesn’t have to be tucked away,” says Jacob, who laid out the master bath with views from every aspect. To make the most of the natural light, partitions and angles stand in for doors to create privacy. (The exception is a frosted-glass half door for the toilet.) With no door between bathroom and bedroom, both can share a small balcony from which to greet the day.

“We put a lot of work into the floor plan,” says Annalisa. She knew she wanted to be immersed in views as well as bathwater, so a wide-edged Wetstyle tub was set in a windowed corner that frames the Boston skyline 12 miles away on the ocean’s horizon. Once that was decided, the rest fell into place. The toilet cubby and glass-walled shower, facing a panoramic bank of windows, formed a core around which all traffic flows. The circle continues past the Wetsyle vanity and trough sink fitted with two faucets with flattened spouts, picking up on the flat edges of the sink and tub, all from Designer Bath in Beverly, Massachusetts. Crestin, who helped with fixtures and finishes, designed a dressing table to fit in a difficult spot under a staircase. Walnut



**THE DORNBRACHT IMO faucet (ABOVE)** picks up the flat edges of the Wetstyle sink. For the accent wall in the shower, designer Kristina Crestin used clear “Blink” Oceanside Glasstile (RIGHT) from Discover Tile, which derives its color from recycled glass.



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**THE SMALL GUEST** bathroom carries a big punch with a wall of Ann Sacks “Promenade” glass tile and a mirror that fills the wall over the Duravit floating vanity and the toilet.

veneer ties it to the vanity as well as to a built-in bureau near the closet. Glass partitions in the upper wall allow natural light to filter into the space that has both oblique and mirrored views.

To offset the neutral sandstone floor and walls, Crestin made one wall in the shower a showstopper, finishing it with deeply textured tiles by Oceanside Glasstile. When sunlight, amplified by the ocean, enters the room, they glitter like water. Recycled glass used in their production gives the translucent tiles a sea-green glow. The

clear glass door slides open instead of swinging out. Barn door-style hardware eliminates the need for grime-collecting slider tracks on the floor and keeps the look clean.

In the guest bath down the hall, 4-by-12-inch Ann Sacks lime-green glass subway tiles cover the back wall of the shower, making a

dramatic statement. Here, too, sandstone tiles on the floor and walls are a quiet counterpoint. The floating toilet and Duravit vanity, and the framed mirror that extends over both, make the room feel bigger.

That half-day consultation Annalisa bought for a good cause has grown into an ongoing relationship as she and Crestin continue to work on the interiors, all in harmony with the home’s seaside location. It might not be the house they started with, but it is one meant exactly for this location, and this family. 🏡

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