

# DESIGN & DECORATING

ANATOMY LESSON

## Beyond the Pale

White bathrooms can equal uptight bathrooms.  
The fix: A playful mix of marbles

BY DAVID SOKOL

**AS LONG AS** there has been indoor plumbing, there have been white bathrooms, perhaps because the color most associated with cleanliness also makes a small room feel less cramped. Interior designer Jennifer Eisenstadt stuck to the traditional, hygienic hue when she renovated a no-frills space in her 1844 Brooklyn Heights brownstone, but gave it a patterned spin.

The corner master bath in the Greek Revival building that Ms. Eisenstadt purchased with

her husband in 2007 was only 6 by 9 feet and lacked a tub. Though the designer opted to forgo a double sink and left the shower where it was, the new washstand and shower stall are generously scaled. In choosing these elements and covering the walls and floor, Ms. Eisenstadt combined snowy marbles—some in simple slabs, others orchestrated into geometric motifs. The result, a subtly kaleidoscopic effect, updates an all-white approach. Restrained supporting players, like the medicine chest and lighting, let the stone be the star. Here, how to take a page from Ms. Eisenstadt's playbook.



**Go against the grain**

To create a geometric foil to the organic veining in the shower stall, Ms. Eisenstadt used marble cut into hexagons on the walls. She went even more graphic on the floor, outlining the hexagons in contrasting stone. New Ravenna Mosaics Hex in Honed Statuary Carrara (walls, above), \$72 per square foot, and Honeycomb (floor, below), \$160 per square foot, Urban Archaeology, 212-431-4546



**Synchronize colors**

So the various patterns in the room harmonized, Ms. Eisenstadt made sure colors matched exactly. She also painted millwork in a dove-white similar to the marble's white, and chose polished nickel accessories that pick up the veining's color. For a ready-to-ship version of her medicine cabinet, try Restoration Hardware Framed Medicine Chest, from \$629, rh.com

**Wash away obstructions**

While Ms. Eisenstadt's "pared-down classic" aesthetic might suggest a pedestal sink, she opted for a 36-inch-wide Urban Archaeology washstand (Straight Legs, from \$5,020, 212-371-4646) whose spareness and glass legs help her bathroom seem larger. For even tighter quarters, try this 27-inch-wide option: Vir Stil Console Table by Laura Kirar in Calacatta Borghini and Nickel Silver, \$5,826, Kallista, 888-452-5547



**Light from many angles**

Sunshine from a single window can make applying morning makeup a challenge. To even out illumination, O'Lampia Studio custom sconces flank the medicine cabinet and an antique from Lumiere hangs overhead. In darker bathrooms, a frosted-glass version of the bell-jar pendant can diffuse the intensity of four 60-watt bulbs: Armenia, \$1,848, hudsonvalleylighting.com



**Go vertical with storage**

Custom floor-to-ceiling cabinetry tucked behind the shower stall provides high-grade storage, hiding daily necessities while blending into the scene. Alternatively, choose a free-standing vitrine; both the unit and its contents become decorative accents: Doctor Cabinet, \$1,700, schoolhouseelectric.com

**Invest in natural beauty**

By choosing slabs of strongly veined statuary marble for the shower stall's walls, Ms. Eisenstadt let Mother Nature provide much of the bathroom's visual energy. Slabs minimize the need for grout. The result: less cleaning required. Statuary Marble in Honed Finish, from \$79 per square foot, ABC Worldwide Stone, 718-389-8360



**Get a sure footing**

On a shower stall's floor, grout equals traction, so Ms. Eisenstadt opted for a marble mosaic. For a similar look: Statuary Classic 9/16-inch Straight Mosaic in Honed Finish, \$39 per square foot, Ann Sacks, 212-529-2800