

1st  
PLACE

Bathroom of  
the Year

# Landmark Design

Master bath in St. Louis is  
elegantly updated and enlarged

A landmark in St. Louis, this childhood home of T.S. Eliot - while featuring such classic details as high ceilings, decorative moldings and ample fireplaces - was truly in need of an update. The master bathroom had not been touched since the home was built 100 years prior, and it was very small, had limited counter and shower space and served as the hallway between two other rooms.

Castle Design was tasked with updating the bathroom while keeping the historic style in mind and creating more space in the tight quarters. The plan for the second goal was to relocate the bathroom to the adjacent room, which was a larger space. For the first goal, the plan was to introduce modern features and an updated look that would blend with and celebrate the traditional elements of the house, which helped it earn its coveted landmark status.

"They wanted to maximize modern efficiencies and living requirements," said Emily Castle, ASID, of Castle Design. "The challenge was to blend the old and new and capture the elegance of this older home in a modern way."

*The custom mirrored cabinetry is a strong contemporary trend, but it works well in the space because the grand scale of the mirrors and the mullion overlay mimic the tall windows in this and most historic homes.*



The original fireplace was saved and refaced, and the freestanding tub is a nod to the traditional clawfoot.

### Striking a Balance

Castle specified Bianco Carrara white marble countertops, which are similar to the original marble found in other areas of the house. The tile in the mosaic floor continues the marble palette with glass mosaic insets for a modern touch. Cut-glass hardware in the bathroom mimics the other glass doorknobs seen in the home.

"The custom-mirrored cabinetry is a strong contemporary trend, but it works in this space because of the grand scale of the mirrors," she explained. "Combined with the mullion overlay, it mimics the tall, narrow windows in this and most historic homes."

Other design elements include the original fireplace, which was refaced; floor-length embroidered silk drapery; floating vanities; a glass-wall shower enclosure; an eight-arm chandelier; a modern bench; and a freestanding tub – a contemporary version reminiscent of the traditional clawfoot.

The final touch to the new bathroom is an original painting by a local artist created specifically for the space.

"By referencing some of the timeless features and carefully bringing in new elements, I was able to strike the right balance and capture the elegance of the stately home in a way that feels remarkably fresh," added Castle. ■

### SOURCES

**Designer:** Castle Design, St. Louis; **Bench:** F. Schumacher & Co.; **Bench Fabric:** Knoll; **Cabinetry:** Castle Design with Classic Woodworking; **Contractor:** Patrick Moore Construction; **Drapery Fabric:** Villa Romo; **Hardware:** Locks & Pulls; **Lighting:** Metro Lighting; **Photography:** Alise O'Brien Photography; **Plumbing:** Immerse by Atlas; **Shower Door & Mirrors:** County Glass; **Tile:** Sunderland Brothers