

THIS PHOTO Interior designer Heather Peterson designed the custom-built vanity with distinctive cane inset panels and topped it with durable quartz. Increasing the backsplash height to 6 inches and adding shapely edges and a footed finish define the piece. **OPPOSITE** Repeating petal motifs jump from wallpaper to flower to a honeycomb-inspired vase.





romantic
GESTURE

A beach-inspired Minnesota bath mixes a playful assortment of patterns, colors, and textures.

Writer and Field Editor Kelly Ryan Kegans Photographer Adam Albright

SHE MIGHT NOT HEAR WAVES CRASH OUTSIDE

HER WINDOW, but when Nicole Duggan steps into the renovated bath she shares with her husband, Rory, she gets carried away to a seaside sanctuary. That speaks volumes since Nicole's St. Paul home is miles from the nearest ocean. "I wanted to make the bathroom seem beachy without looking like it's out of place in Minnesota," she says.

Outside the window are a private pond and leafy trees. Taking advantage of the natural surroundings, Nicole's sister-in-law, interior designer Heather Peterson, opened up the bath and installed nods to nature throughout the space. The scene-stealer is the striking apple green wallpaper, inspired by chinoiserie panels, illustrated with cherry blossoms and birds. Brass, acrylic resin, crystal, and chrome hardware and accessories are the jewelry in the space. "I grew up in the country and love nature," Nicole says. "Since we spend a lot of time in winter here, I knew I wanted that pop of green."

Cane inset panels on the custom vanity's doors warm the white porcelain tile floor and further the resort-style vibe. For Rory, there are classic shapes. "My brother is more traditional," Peterson says. "So, for him, we have transitional plumbing fixtures, the bathtub's simple skirt, and other updated gestures like the glass shower surround."

Peterson also tempered the feminine features so the room felt more shared. On the wallpaper, for example, the gray-scale pattern adds edge to the green background. Leafy shapes on the wall sconces and curvy mirrors are balanced with simple round cabinet pulls and mixed metal finishes. "The flourishes are small but effective," she says. "The balance feels timeless and easy to live with."

The classic look extends to the chevron tile floor feature, which Peterson created as a solution to the awkward 1980s floor plan the couple inherited when they bought the house five years ago. Although they gutted the former bath, the size of the room didn't change. "Visually, we filled that open area in the middle with a tile 'rug,' and the statement wallpaper was another strategy to draw attention," Peterson says. A freestanding soaking tub and the new vanity replaced expanses of oak cabinetry and a built-in tub that once dominated the room.

The couple purposely selected fun prints and styles for features that could easily be refreshed in the future. "So often what makes the bathroom really special can be colorful tile or a colorful vanity, so we flipped the script on that," Peterson says. "You could change nothing but the wallpaper and lighting in here and have a totally different space."

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ABOVE A secret garden takes shape in this renovated master bath where birds and botanical illustrations are reimagined on wallpaper inspired by an antique Chinese silk panel. The cast-iron soaking tub sits below a picture window overlooking a pond. “There’s a really pretty birch outside the window and I love watching the birds come sit on the branches,” homeowner Nicole Duggan says.



THIS PHOTO The glass shower enclosure provides open (yet private) views to the nature scene in the backyard. "My one must-have was a bigger shower," homeowner Rory Duggan says. Built-in shower shelves provide ample space for bath products.

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Heather Peterson, designer

RIGHT Classic chrome faucets mix with acrylic resin, crystal, and brass finishes on the hardware, mirrors, and lights. **BELOW** “I’m always looking for ways to bring in soft elements to balance the hard edges in a bathroom, so that’s why I brought in these linen lampshades,” Peterson says of the gold-leaf sconces. Leaflike petals along the lights’ bases play off the wallpaper’s botanical motif. **BELOW RIGHT** The white-beaded, flush-mount chandelier carries the beachy-glam look to the ceiling.

