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GLASS & LIGHT

# a well-balanced bath

In this elemental bathroom, a minimalist design yields maximum impact

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**DESIGNER:**  
Gioi Tran  
Applegate Tran Interiors  
San Francisco

BY PATRICIA CONNELL  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATTHEW MILLMAN

**S**“SLEEK BUT NOT COLD, NATURAL BUT NOT rustic.” That was the mandate Gioi Tran had for the remodel of this master bath. Part of a 1960 contemporary house in San Francisco, the room was as an odd hybrid of closet and bath, essentially an open space with closet-lined walls and a double-sink island. Owners Megin Scully and Reed Minuth decided to divide dressing and bathing functions, so Tran shrank the bath from 20×18 feet to about 16×10 feet, turning the remaining space into a walk-in closet.

ABOVE: The cantilevered vanity is in keeping with the sense of airy transparency created by the skylight, windows and open shower. RIGHT: Laid crosswise, 12×24-inch floor tiles help visually stretch the width of the room.



ABOVE: The shower and tub surround are clad in 8x16-inch marble rectangles cut from 16-inch-square tiles, echoing the floor grid. RIGHT: Simple, arcing taps exemplify the quiet geometry of the room.

## Material Matters

Designer Gioi Tran used a variety of natural materials, a monochromatic palette and minimalist detailing to create a sense of serenity and spaciousness in this elegant bathroom. He added plenty of tactile interest with the textures of flamed, cleft and sandblasted stone.

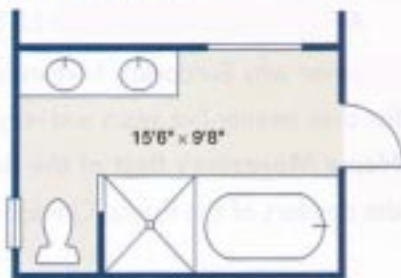
The flamed granite used for the vanity top is just what the name suggests: a slab of stone that has been heated with a flame of blowtorch strength, which ruptures and pops out many of the surface crystals to create a pronounced texture.



The homeowners wanted a monochromatic scheme for the interior of the room, the better to focus on the outdoor views: a panoramic waterscape on one side, a eucalyptus grove on the other. Tran chose natural materials in a minimalist palette with maximum surface interest. The bath surround and shower are of pearly-gray sandblasted marble; the floor is covered with dark-gray quartzite tile, its hard, naturally cleft surface intact; and the vanity counter is of flamed absolute black granite, a finishing process that pits the stone to create texture. "The only real color in the room is the color of wood," notes Tran, in the form of a dual-sink vanity in vertical-grain cherry.

Painted surfaces are a cool white, with one exception: The wall overlooking the eucalyptus grove is a dark midnight-blue to visually "stop" the space, muting its long, narrow proportions. Over the sink, a pair of mirrors edged by plain black frames and clean-lined halogen light fixtures serve as the sole decorative elements in this elegantly understated bath. ■

## Floor Plan



To organize the functions of the space in keeping with the homeowners' wishes, the designer actually reduced the square footage of the 20x18 foot room.

FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

STYLING: AMY DENEBER FOR ARTISTUNTED.COM