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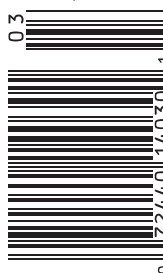
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BHG SIP Yellow Checkout

modern mod

Combining warm ripples of retro with cool contemporary flair, this master bath is awash with glamorous character.

Writer: Heather Lobdell Photographer: Laurie Black Field editor: Linda Humphrey



A sleek floor-mount tub filler contrasts smartly with the faceted amber tiles that cover the wall.



Opposite: The bath's simple white-oak cabinetry and sleek freestanding tub took on an opulent new attitude when designer Andee Hess paired them with dramatic onyx and glossy three-dimensional tiles. **Left:** Wall-mount chrome faucets at the vanity keep the spotlight shining directly on the onyx countertop, sinks, and backsplash.

When Ryan Finley bought his condo in the hip Pearl District of Portland, Oregon, only the master bathroom tub and cabinetry had been installed. And while he liked the spare lines of both, he encouraged his interior designer, Andee Hess, to balance these elements with color and warmth so the space wouldn't become just another chilly contemporary statement.

Hess established the room's mood and palette with faceted amber tiles set from floor to ceiling on the wall behind the freestanding tub. Both client and designer were attracted to the tiles' color, shine, and slightly retro feel. "They're cool in a futuristic '70s sci-fi sort of way," Hess says, "while still being very fresh, new, and modern."

Hess built on the bathroom's amber palette with heavily veined onyx, which she used for the vanity top, the undermount sinks,

and the wide mirror frame. She used it again—sparingly—in the shower enclosure for a bench and wall niche. "I didn't want to overuse the onyx," she says. "I wanted to keep it special."

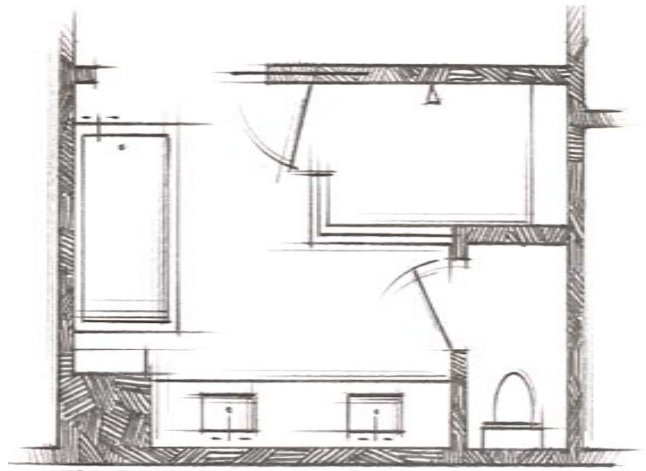
To balance the rich tones of the onyx, Hess chose understated white thassos marble for the floor. The marble repeats on the walls in the shower enclosure.

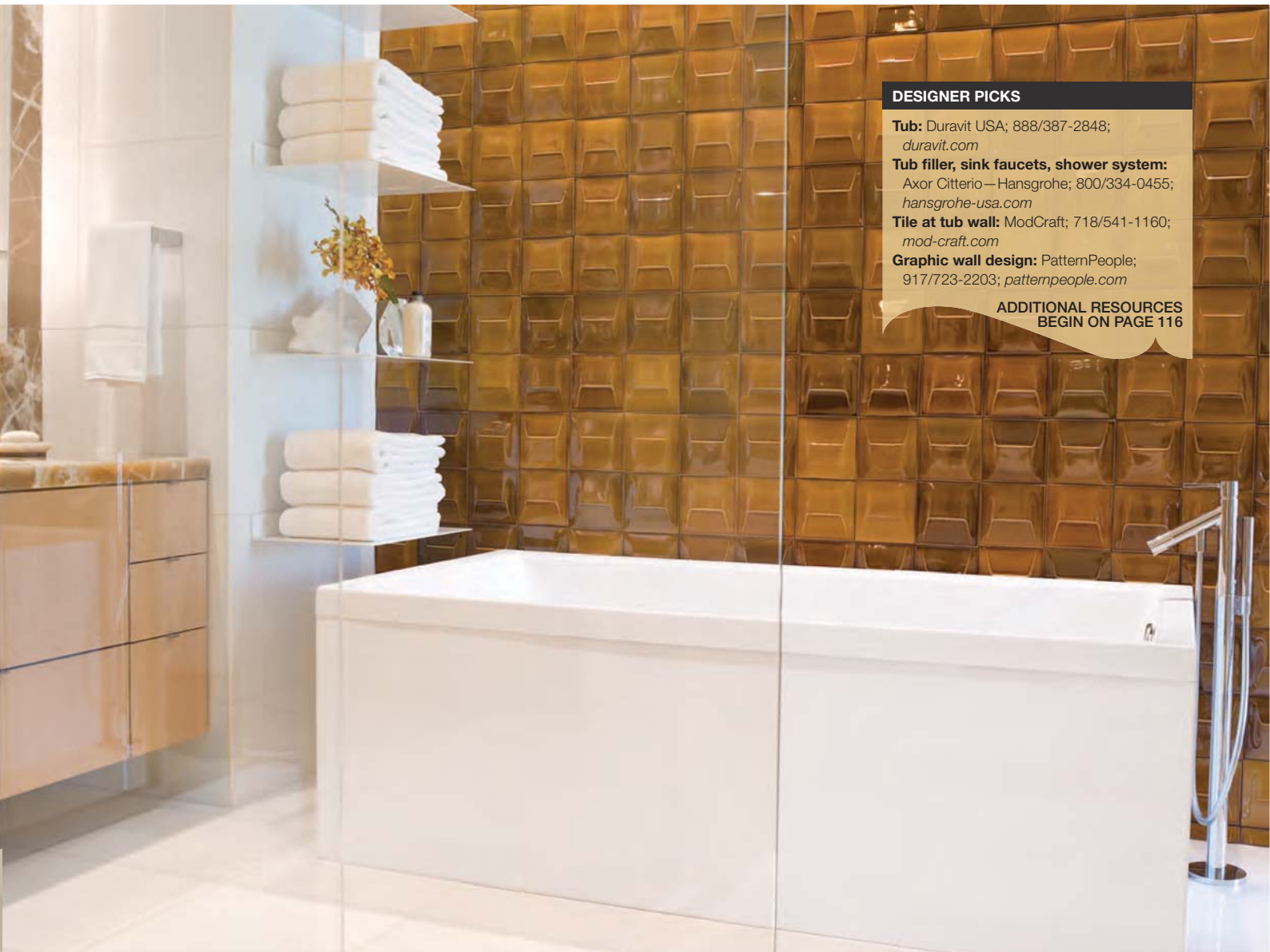
The water closet, set behind an etched glass door, opens to reveal what is arguably the room's most beautiful surprise—a vintage-inspired hand-painted mural. It transforms what could have been—from a design perspective—a throwaway space into something special. "Because the room is a small, enclosed space, we played with a line traveling around the walls and onto the ceiling, with enough detail and complexity that it encourages your mind to wander," Hess says. "You never see the full design. It makes the experience different each time."





Left: With vintage echoes of Art Nouveau, the lush mural in the water closet supports the bathroom's amber palette and slightly retro mood. **Below Left:** Hess balanced warm and cool elements throughout the room. The etched-glass, aluminum-frame door to the water closet creates a fresh counterpoint to the richness of the mural and the onyx. **Below Right:** The shower enclosure's onyx bench and wall niche link the space to the main part of the bathroom. **Opposite:** Powder-coated metal shelves at the foot of the tub provide attractive, accessible storage.





DESIGNER PICKS

Tub: Duravit USA; 888/387-2848; duravit.com

Tub filler, sink faucets, shower system: Axor Citterio—Hansgrohe; 800/334-0455; hansgrohe-usa.com

Tile at tub wall: ModCraft; 718/541-1160; mod-craft.com

Graphic wall design: PatternPeople; 917/723-2203; patternpeople.com

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Designer Insights



Designer Andee Hess, owner of Osmose Design in Portland, Oregon, used heavily veined onyx to make a statement in this sleek master bath. The dramatic stone introduces an unexpected opulence that contrasts with the room's cool contemporary lines. We asked her to tell us more about her use of onyx.

Some people associate onyx with flocked wallpaper, gold faucets, and shag carpet. Is onyx coming into vogue again?

I am not aware that onyx is necessarily "popular" again; at least, that is not why I selected it. I was drawn to this material for its tremendous natural beauty and the dramatic contrast of the heavy white veining with the amber color of the stone.

How does the cost of onyx compare with granite and marble?

It depends on what granite and marble you are comparing it to. It is expensive, and labor costs associated with onyx can be higher, but

you get what you pay for. It creates a real sense of opulence. And you don't want to use too much. A little splurge goes a long way.

How does onyx compare to granite and marble with regard to care, wear, and longevity?

It's a natural stone, so it's fairly hard and durable. But onyx is definitely softer, etches more easily, and is more susceptible to cracking than granite and marble. It wouldn't be a great choice for a kitchen. It's perfect for bathrooms, where there's less traffic and where the most strenuous tasks you're engaged in are brushing your teeth or blow-drying your hair.

You used undermount onyx sinks fitted in the onyx vanity here. Why?

I wanted to avoid breaking up the sight lines by introducing a contrasting sink of a different material. I also wanted it to feel like we took a huge slab of onyx and carved away at it. The experience of the onyx sinks is unique.