



The Benike's new bathroom includes an open shower accented by limestone bricks and a heated stone pebble floor.

# Remodelers Corner

## MASTER BATH BECOMES A ZONE OF TROPICAL TRANQUILITY

BY JENNIFER M. GANGLOFF

Sometimes the best ideas come when we least expect them. Lorraine Benike had been wrestling with how to turn her long, narrow master bathroom into a luxurious retreat. And although Karen Blissenbach, ASID, a design principal at Design Studio B in Rochester, had come up with a wonderful plan for the small space, neither woman was entirely satisfied.

"One night when I was sleeping I had this dream," Benike recalls, "and I thought, 'Why don't we change the formal living room into the new master bathroom?'" Though her husband, Jim, initially hesitated, his doubts

were dashed when Yaggy Colby Associates came up with a workable architectural plan that also included remodeling other parts of the 21-year-old house.

Today, the new master bath beckons as a tranquil refuge. Blissenbach has infused it with a blend of textures, contrasting tones, a flood of natural light and even a trickling wall-mounted fountain to create tropical elegance as a nod toward the Benike's love of Hawaii, the Caribbean and Puerto Rico. "It really touches on all your senses," Blissenbach says.

A heated stone pebble floor offers

### Subcontractors & Suppliers:

AFM Surfaces  
New Direction Flooring  
Nigon Woodworks Inc.  
Total Electric of Rochester Inc.  
Rochester Plumbing and Heating  
Northern Lights and Furnishings  
Keefe's Wall Enhancing  
Herring Art and Frame

### Designer:

DESIGN STUDIO B

### Contractor:

ALVIN E. BENIKE INC.

### Homeowner:

JIM AND LORRAINE BENIKE

### Project:

MASTER BATH REMODEL

the illusion of a flowing river. The open shower is accented by miniature rough-cut limestone bricks that play off the smooth, tumbled limestone walls. Double-vanity cabinets, built at a back-friendly kitchen-counter height, are veneered in exotic Tay wood with a rich linear grain and topped by lustrous black granite. The vessel bowls of brushed nickel resemble organic shells, while both the faucets and the cabinet hardware have the look of bamboo stalks. The bath even boasts outlets hidden inside the cabinets to tuck away electric toothbrushes and other personal items.

“We just love it,” Benike says. “It’s so natural looking. It really makes you feel luxurious. It has a peaceful, Zen-like feeling.”



*before*

*Jennifer M. Gangloff is a health writer for Mayo Clinic and is also a freelance writer and editor.*

**Vessel bowls resemble organic shells, and cabinets have the look of bamboo stalks.**



*after*



*after*