



# THE ULTIMATE BATH

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OPPOSITE: This bath demonstrates that a simple premise, properly executed, can deliver a stunning outcome. Rather than simply mirroring the walls of this small room to make it seem bigger, the architect used mirrored tiles, which at once fragment the walls into a cubist construction and create a rich and complex sense of multidimensionality. So striking is the impact that the oval-shaped looking glass above the sink, which lies atop the tile, is absorbed into the overall effect and becomes a part of it.

FOLLOWING SPREAD, LEFT: Two things lend this bath its special distinction: The first is that the marble—which bracingly commands the back wall of the shower cabinet—transforms into the most discreet of accent materials elsewhere in the room. Distinction number two derives from the entirely original manner in which the marble's animation morphs into the most delicate and refined of vegetal motifs on the walls. It is an exercise in pure delight to which the rest of the fixtures and features bow self-effacingly.

FOLLOWING SPREAD, RIGHT: To characterize this object as a sink does not do it justice. "Washing vessel" seems much more suitable. This installation—there is no other way to accurately characterize it—suggests that a dramatically veined marble object, well lit, wisely placed, and cleverly supported, can produce a very special moment of domestic theatricality.

PAGE 54: What I most appreciate about this bath is that although its overall design is formal bordering on classical, the pattern of the marble makes it feel like a naturally formed grotto, awash in foaming tides. The lightly veined stone selected for the washstand (with its reflective neoclassical legs) avoids competition with the larger surroundings. And the lights—nearly as tall as the mirror—contribute to the overall architectural rigor.

PAGE 55: The virtuoso character of this bath, so dramatic, so exotic, belies the careful consideration of its composition. The trio of rugs, which at first glance seem to be panels of stone, reflect the form of the extraordinary light fixture suspended like a rain cloud above the tub. The stone that comprises the shower cabinet is entirely of a piece with the surrounding patterns and palette, and the door handles on the shower cabinet, which can be entered from both sides, are reminiscent of sea creatures, welcoming the lucky bather into this most elegant of grottoes.

