

Steal away

With its personal luxuries and expansive canyon and mountain views, this master suite is the perfect hideaway retreat

These days, the attention given to the design of a master suite is every bit as great as that given to the family living areas. It's a focus that reflects the increasing importance now afforded the creation of private retreats where homeowners can enjoy a little personal pampering in soothing surroundings.

For the owners of this house, there was also a spectacular view to maximize. The house, designed by architect Stuart Silk, is in a rural setting with extensive views of a small canyon and distant mountains.

Its setting also makes it a very private site, says Silk.

"With its full-height windows that extend up to the gabled ceiling, the master suite not only offers distant views, but also provides an intimate view of the property itself, which is a microcosm of a wide variety of wildlife."

The bathroom echoes the contemporary design of the rest of the house, where traditional gabled forms are pared of all unnecessary detail.

"It's a very simple, minimal space,

Above left: Every aspect of this master bedroom – from the dark neutral wall color to the floor-to-ceiling windows – was designed to maximize an expansive rural view.

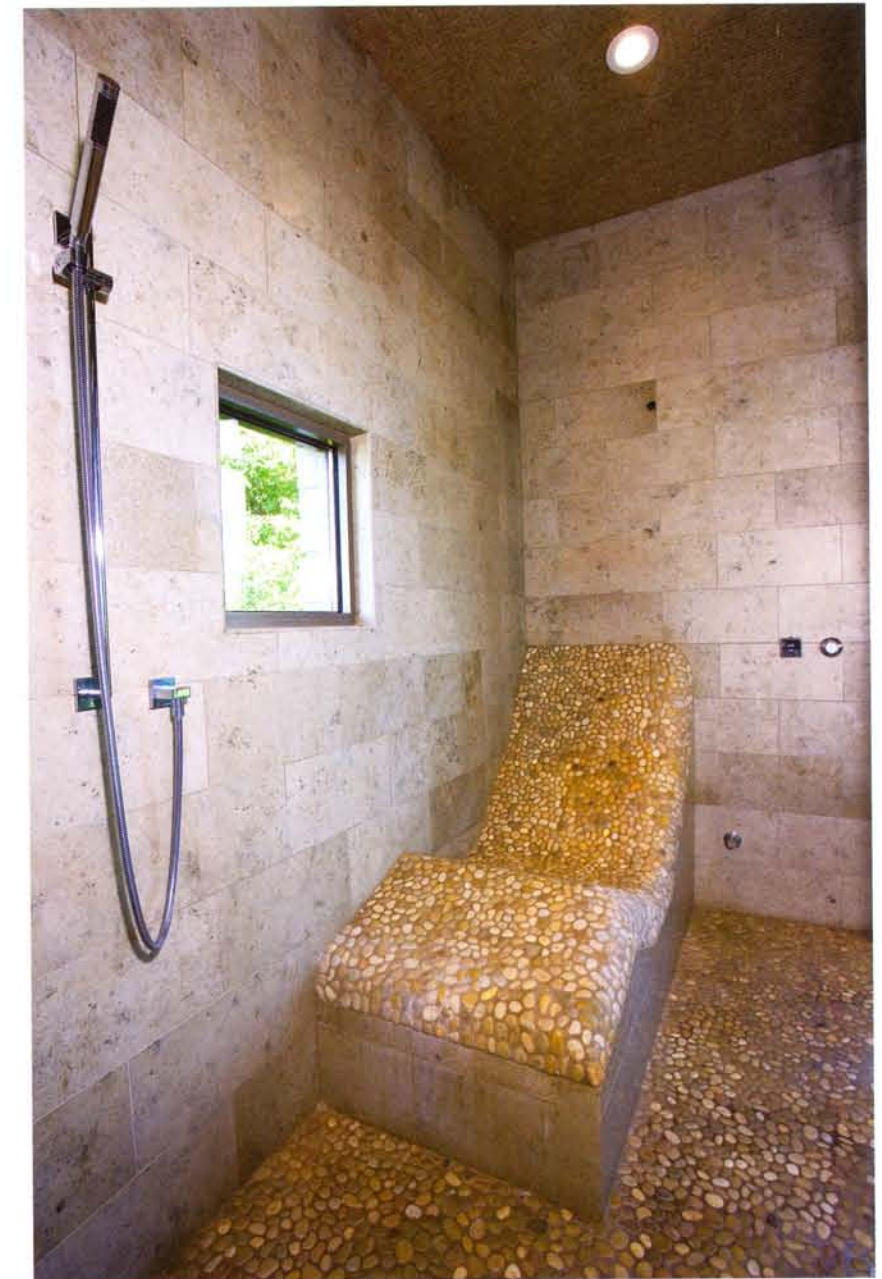
Above: A small sitting area enhances the sense of retreat. The sofas feature a toning floral fabric. As with all the rooms in the house, the floors are stained dark – a shade that helps to anchor the interior spaces.



Above: Wenge wood vanities and shelving help to enliven the neutral, almost spartan look of the bathroom. They also contrast the sleek, semi-industrial look of the square-edged stainless steel vanity supports and shower framing.

Right: Full-height windows maximize the view from the tub. The designer says it is almost like bathing outdoors.

Facing page: The steam shower incorporates a custom concrete chaise with a pebble surface.



designed to provide a soothing retreat – effectively it’s a universe of its own,” says Silk.

To enhance this simplicity, wenge wood vanities are mounted on stainless steel supports. But, as interior designer Jennifer Randall says, functionality has not been compromised.

“Extensive storage is provided behind the large mirrored wall, and is deep enough to hold towels as well as toiletries.”

A freestanding Philippe Starck bath tub is positioned so the owners can enjoy

the view while bathing. But it’s not the only luxury – the bathroom also features a custom-built concrete chaise in the steam shower, molded to fit the owner. The chaise is topped with pebbles, similar to the shower floor.

Other materials reinforcing the spartan simplicity of the room include the limestone tile flooring, the Ann Sacks tiles lining the shower, and the Venetian plaster effect on the walls. Cantilevered wenge wood shelves provide a rich contrast and offer a space to display decorative items.

Architect: Stuart Silk, AIA, and associate architects Stan Hanson, Michael McFadden and Lauri Morrison, Stuart Silk Architects (Seattle, WA)

Interior designer: Jennifer Randall, ASID

Builder: VK Powell

Bath tub: Duravit

Vanity: Wenge and stainless steel by King Brothers

Basin and tiles: Ann Sacks

Faucets and shower fittings: Dornbracht

Flooring: Jura Beige limestone

Wallcoverings: Milestone Heather Nicholson

Lighting: Juno

Photography by Jamie Cobeldick