

Sleek Style *for a* Master Suite

Commercial components and a convenient floor plan integrate a bath and a walk-through closet

BY JOHN LINDSEY

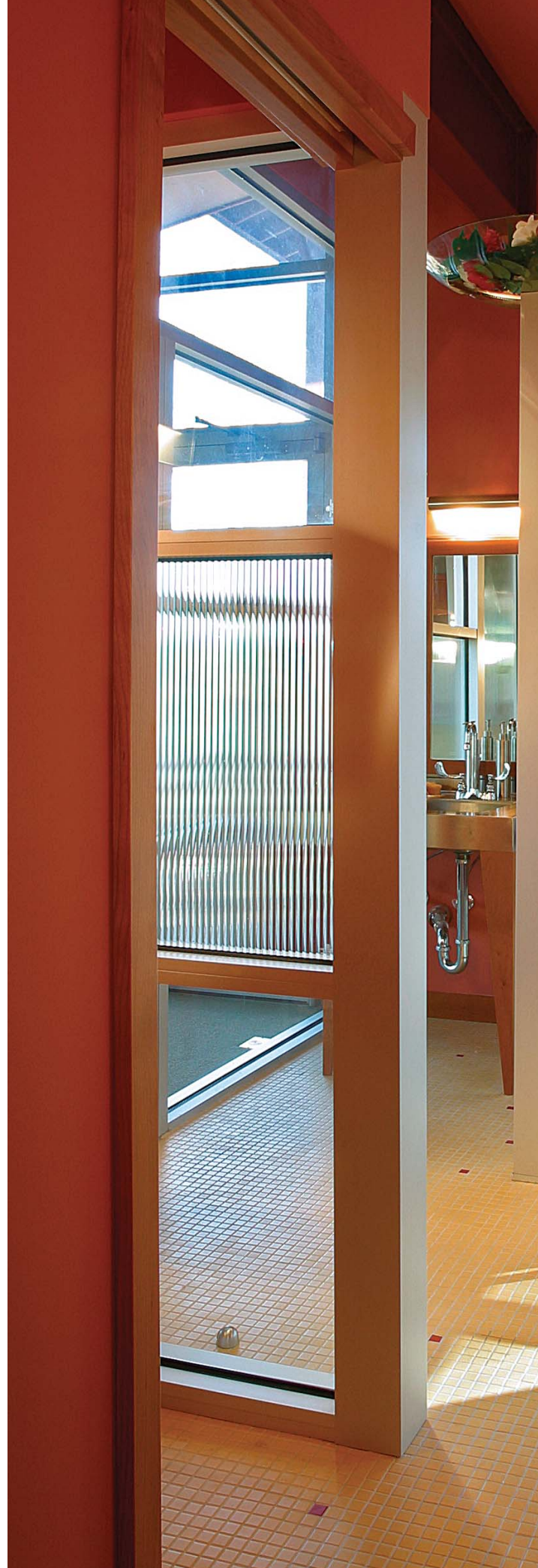


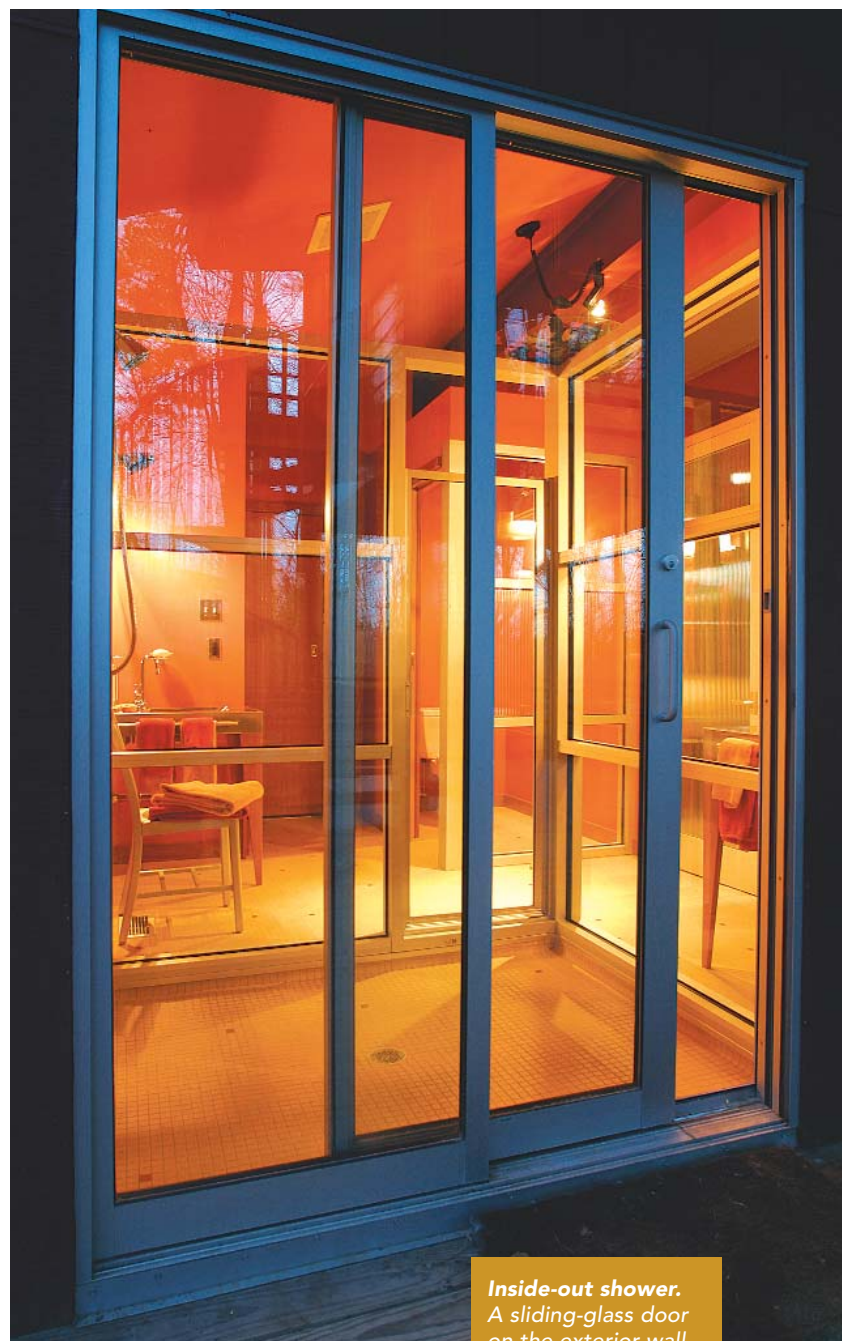
Most of us have been to a shopping mall. But as we've strolled past stores with their large, polished display windows, who among us has said, "Hey, those would look cool in my house."

The use of slick industrial materials is one trademark of my design firm, which splits its efforts between residential and high-end commercial work. It was that look that drew my client to our firm. He wanted a large bedroom addition with a spacious bath and a healthy-size dressing area. In particular, he liked the look of spare, ultramodern design, but this house is set in a woodsy, natural location. So I decided to use mill-finish aluminum, glass, and stainless steel, with a gentle portion of natural wood.

Glass and aluminum instead of 2xs and drywall

We installed expansive industrial glazing in the bedroom for views of the private North





Inside-out shower. A sliding-glass door on the exterior wall of the shower effectively creates an outdoor shower off a private deck. Photo taken at C on floor plan.

Storefront bathroom. Instead of plaster walls, aluminum-frame glass walls separate the bathroom from the bedroom (photo far left), allowing light to flow freely between the two. Strategically placed fluted glass offers fig-leaf privacy. Photo taken at A on floor plan. Inside the bathroom, glass walls define the shower area as well as the commode cubicle to the left (photo left). The pocket door leading to the cubicle saves floor space. Photo taken at B on floor plan.

Carolina woods nearby. For the bathroom and dressing room, though, we moved the storefront indoors. Instead of wood-frame walls covered in wallboard and plaster, large panes of glass in aluminum frames separate the bedroom from the side rooms. This type of wall takes up less space than a framed wall; it's also quicker and easier to build. The glass allows the bathroom to share light with the bedroom while making the bathroom feel open and less confining.

Inside the bathroom, aluminum and glass walls create a shower area and form a corner for the commode cubicle. The door to the shower is made of the same industrial materials, but one exterior wall of the shower is an aluminum sliding-glass door that opens to a private deck. This effectively turns the shower into an indoor/outdoor facility (photos, pp. 90, 91).

We used insulated, argon-filled, low-e clear glass for the exterior glazing, but ¼-in. single-pane tempered glass was fine for the interior glass walls. The profile of the aluminum track in the bathroom matches that of the exterior windows, although it's slightly shallower for the single glazing. Fluted glass



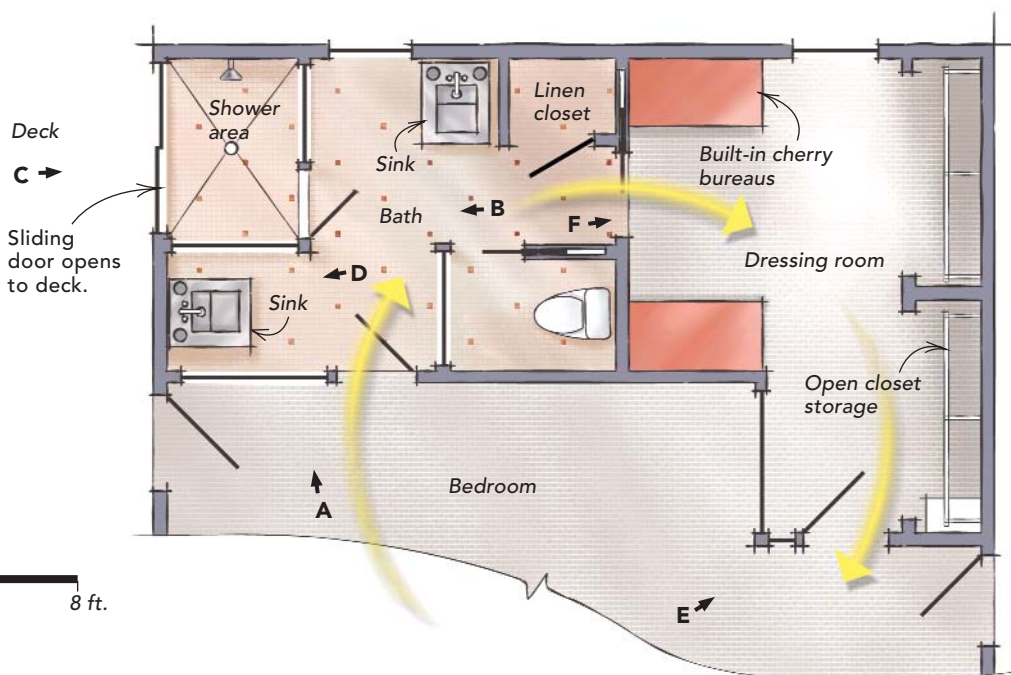
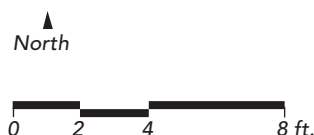
Industrial-strength sinks. Fabricated stainless-steel sinks that sit on cherry legs perfectly complement the commercial look of this bathroom. Cylindrical salad-dressing containers become towel holders. Photo right taken at D on floor plan.



DRESSING ROOM AND MASTER BATH CREATE A CIRCULAR TRAFFIC PATTERN

A large, well-outfitted dressing room links to a roomy bath to create a convenient circular traffic pattern. Sliding-glass doors in the shower open to a private deck for the feeling of bathing alfresco.

Photos taken at lettered positions.



placed at a strategic height offers just the right level of privacy from the bedroom.

Towels instead of salad dressing

A fabricator in South Carolina made the stainless-steel sinks in the bathroom to complement my custom bedside tables and wet bar in the bedroom (photos, facing page). Simple tapered cherry legs support the sinks. In a nod (and a wink) to my high-school cafeteria days, I had standard commercial salad-dressing containers fit into the sinks, only this time they are being used to hold hand towels instead of creamy Italian.

The sink drains and shut-off valves are made of stainless steel and left exposed. For the mirrors, I cobbled together a wood frame (the worst miter joints in the whole place).

The linen closet sports a door of fluted glass, and a rolling stainless-steel shelf system holds the sheets and towels.

A walk-through closet maximizes convenience

My client also wanted a large dressing room and closet. As in the bathroom, the wall separating the dressing room from the bedroom is glass and aluminum with fluted glass in the middle panel (photo below right).

The dressing room completes a circular path from the bedroom to the bath (floor plan, facing page). Large built-in bureaus made of cherry, constructed by my friends at Aventine in Carrboro, N.C., flank both sides of the doorway leading to the bathroom. A pocket door opens from the dressing room

to the bathroom without interfering with the built-in bureaus.

For closet space, the dressing room uses the same commercial hardware found in most clothing stores (www.robertham.com). Available in chrome-plated steel or stainless, these closet systems are fully adjustable, affordable, and cool-looking. They're a great alternative to the typical residential hardware that is found in most closets. With this hardware, the dressing room takes on the feel of a clothing store in the mall. And because the client is a clotheshorse, it was a natural fit. □

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Move over, Macy's.

Below, the same glass walls as in the bathroom separate a large dressing room from the bedroom. Photo taken at E on floor plan. At left, clothes hang on a commercial system identical to those found in retail clothing stores. Photo taken at F on floor plan.

