

A master bathroom with a blue mosaic wall, a wooden vanity, and a shower area with a wooden stool. The room features a large window with a view of a green landscape. The vanity is covered in a blue cloth and has a vase of flowers and a candle on it. The shower area has a wooden stool with a soap dish and a bar of soap on it. The wall is covered in small, square, blue mosaic tiles. The ceiling has several pendant lights with orange shades. The overall atmosphere is warm and natural.

Au Natural

IMAGINE WASHING YOUR HAIR IN A RAIN-FOREST DOWNPOUR—AND YOU HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO SCRUB UP IN THIS MONTLAKE MASTER BATH

PHOTOGRAPHY
JULIA KUSKIN
STYLIST
MICHELLE CRISTALLI



Page 37: The 1-by-1- and 2-by-2-inch blue slate tiles on every wall, floor and even the shower ceiling were laid with meticulous care. A feat of math and skill, the tile installation alone accounted for one-fourth of the total bathroom cost. This page: The "shower screen"—set in front of the double-wide Milgard Etchmatte glass of the shower wall—is a 6-inch deep shelving unit made of the same cross-laminated bamboo plywood as the floor. Opposite page: Only one small mirror—"all you need to shave"—leaves plenty of room for five windows. Wall-mounted Kohler fixtures are perfectly no muss, no fuss.

It's hard to believe, but originally this treetop retreat wasn't even in the cards. With an extensive renovation taking its toll on their bank accounts, homeowners Jeff Meehan and Brian Coulthard figured they'd DIY their bathroom down the road. But as the rest of their Northwest modern home located near the Washington Park Arboretum spiffed up under Seattle designer Stefan Hampden's gaze, the master bath not only became part of the plan, it became a substantial job in its own right. ■

"We just felt, after spending so much money and time, we didn't want to wake up every morning to an unfinished bathroom facing the bedroom," say Coulthard, a network administrator for Arcadia Biosciences. His partner, Meehan, is an internal medicine physician at the Polyclinic. ■ Thanks to that foresight, bathing is now an intoxicatingly earthy experience—rich with grays and browns drawn from blue slate tiles, slate countertop and a bamboo vanity. Five windows provide peering rights onto their woody lot, with a Japanese maple and alders, and the green canopy of the arboretum beyond. ■ The design is efficient: There's nothing fussy or unnecessary. The vanity faucets are wall-mounted. There are no doors anywhere in the master suite, not even the shower, which at more than 5 feet by 4 feet doesn't require one. The toilet is screened from the hallway and bedroom by a panel of frosted tempered glass. The 1-by-1- and 2-by-2-inch tiles are so carefully lined up with mitered corners they seem like a single fabric and not a thousand pieces. ■ But the pièce de résistance is a "shower screen" designed by Hampden in the hallway between the bedroom and the bathroom. Set in front of the double-wide tempered glass of the shower wall, the sculptural shelving unit is made of bamboo plywood. It gives an otherwise unremarkable hallway focus as well as allowing light to move between the shower and the hall. From the shower, it's like spying a Mondrian painting through a mist.

TEAM >>>

DESIGN AND BUILD Stefan Hampden, principal, CAST design/build inc, 4216 Sixth Ave. NW; 206.256.9886; cast-db.com.

COST \$43,000.

REASON YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE Sitting on a teak stool under the spray of the Apollo rain-style showerhead.

PRACTICAL WISDOM Because Meehan and Coulthard are both tall, they installed the Brazilian black slate vanity counter 36 inches off the ground, which is the height commonly used in kitchens.

