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Bethesda

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PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

A peaceful bath in Hrish and Amrita Hari's home. For more, turn to page 206.

WASHROOMS THAT WOW

Four local families remodeled and reimagined bathrooms to better suit their personalities and lifestyles, no extra square footage required

BY CAROLYN WEBER



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

FOREST BATHING

IN 2019, when Hrishi and Amrita Hari first laid eyes on the house that would become their family's home, they were awestruck. The couple wasn't really looking to move but couldn't resist the striking one-of-a-kind wood and stone structure with floor-to-ceiling windows on a private wooded lot in Potomac's Merry-Go-Round Farm neighborhood. "This home was unlike any I had seen in the area," Hrishi says. "It's ensconced in the forest and has a stream and a pond and is out of this world."

The house had all the elements of a place they could call home forever, but it needed some modifications to fit their lifestyle. It only had three bedrooms, and they required more space for their growing family, which now includes a 4-year-old son and a 2-year-old daughter, as well as members of their extended family who come and stay for months at a time.

The Haris contacted Jim Rill of Rill Architects in Bethesda, who designed the home 13 years ago. "We nicknamed it the 'tree house,' because everything ties to the natural surroundings," Rill says. The couple didn't want to change the aesthetics or the footprint, and found the architect very thoughtful when discussing the possibilities for adding another bedroom and bathroom. They all agreed that the light-filled space on the third floor, which the previous owners had used as an art studio and a sanctuary for their pet cockatoos, would make a great primary bedroom and bathroom suite.

The primary bath in Hrishi and Amrita Hari's home



The walnut vanity in the Hari primary bath

The outstanding feature of the room is a large skylight. “I thought it would be magical to have the shower there,” Hrish says. Rill designed a generously sized 9-by-4-foot walk-in shower in the space, with a bench tucked into the window dormer. The Haris brought in designer Laurie McParland, who owns an Olney-based design firm, to help with the bathroom finishes. “We used full slabs of Carrara marble on the shower walls and an accent tile to bring attention to the window and bench area,” she says.

A wall of clear glass separates the

shower from the minimalist soaking tub that fl irts in the middle of the room. The Haris felt strongly about including a tub so the bathroom could work for the whole family. “We use it every single night,” Hrish says. “The little kids love playing in the bathtub.”

The sleek glass and stone elements are tempered by the richness of natural wood on the walnut vanity and in the open shelving. The vanity is centered opposite the skylight, enabling the two wall mirrors to catch the reflection of trees in the yard. Brass finishes add

warmth and echo those found elsewhere in the home, and nickel faucets add an eclectic mixed-metals style.

The reinvigorated room allows the homeowners to harmonize with nature, enjoying the views and natural light with the luxury of privacy and climate control. “People love the idea of embracing the outdoors while being comfortable,” Rill says. Showering in the skylight is just as magical as Hrish imagined. “I see birds fly by,” he says, “and in the fall I watch the leaves fl irt around.”

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