



A Fresh Look

HomeTech Renovations' President, David Cerami, walks us through his CotY award-winning bathroom remodeling project.

by Josephine Cusumano

When it comes to an award-winning bathroom remodeling project it's all about the fine details, and HomeTech Renovations' recent project did just that. In fact, it earned the kitchen and bath remodeling company a 2016 Meritorious Contractor of the Year Award, in the residential bathroom remodeling category valued in the \$50-75K range.

The Gladwyne project was a detailed, yet simplistic remodel that turned a builder's-grade basement powder room into a luxurious spa-like bathroom, complete with a steam shower and radiant heated flooring. "The client really wanted to take this area and increase the size of it," explains HomeTech Renovations' President and Certified Kitchen and Bath Remodeler, David Cerami. "They also wanted to make it more of a suite for any potential guests that may come and stay in their home and use this very nice basement as you would as a living quarter adjacent to the gym."

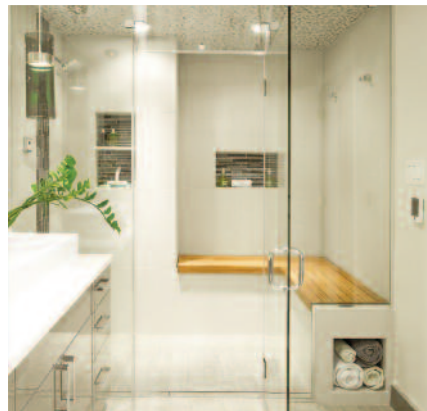
As a means of expanding the pre-existing powder room, Cerami and his team, including lead designer Omar Zaater, expanded the room's footprint by demolition of an adjoining closet and partition walls. Next came the implementation of additional plumbing and electric to accommodate the steam shower, which became the room's focal point. As Cerami explains, the installation of such a shower requires additional craftsmanship and plumbing, as it arrants a steam generator and a waterproof enclosure. Additionally, the shower requires a tilted ceiling, so as to avoid condensation from dripping down, as well as the proper tile materials so moisture doesn't permeate.

These necessities lead to a custom glass shower, a vent panel to allow steam to escape, as well as radiant heated floors. The rest of the design manifested to the client's simplicity.

"[The] design needed to be clean, contemporary and well-suited for the customer's taste. ... We wanted to design a space that holds elements of those aesthetics and they're very true and consistent. The design is sort of timeless in the aspect of keeping true to that look.

"The steam shower was a nice sized shower, there was [also] a teak bench ... that our project manager, Ken Baker, built. It's a nice teak wood area so when you sit down, it's not ice cold," adds Cerami. "We used mostly porcelain tile for its durability, look, format and because it would not crack. We used some glass tiles in the shower as well. We used some products that would certainly hold up and give the longevity [and] make this type of project really enduring."

The other custom aspect of the project included the collaboration between the HomeTech team and the client. "In addition to engineering and designing the space, we also provided the direction for color coordination, tile patterns and material selections," Cerami explains. "Most homeowners when they approach us, don't know what they want. They have an idea, but I always say to people, you don't know what you want until you know what you want. We are that vehicle that helps people feel good about what they're selecting and in this case, [the client] loved all the design and mechanical recommendations, the colors and patterns and as a completed project, it came full circle with the lighting and all the peripherals. They really appreciated that."



The colors and patterns found along the shower facade, cabinetry, tile and wall colors all lend themselves to a more neutral scheme, complete with a touch of teak wood and pure style. "It's a very simple, elegant and well-functioning bathroom, that is enjoyable, clutter-free and well-lit."

The finishing touch of the room, of course, is a testament to the design team's dedication on learning the client's vision using HomeTech's tried and true process of 32 years, which includes a design survey and collaboration with clients. "We spend anywhere from 30-42 hours working with clients to develop these projects," says Cerami. "Through a series of meetings, onsite and offsite, emails and material selections and drawings and tile patterns.

After an idea is finalized, HomeTech's design team makes it a reality through a step-by-step process. "When we do a design rendering and a floor plan, we fill in the blanks with materials and plumbing fixtures and then we move on with tile and stone, cabinetry and lighting," says Cerami. "In the end, it's a cohesive process that has all the material call-outs and samples because there's no picture of what the [client] want," he adds. "The picture is the complete project." **H&H**

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