

marble bar

With the indulgent feel of a spa and an abundance of soft light, this room is for seriously relaxed bathing.

Lined with travertine, the bathroom is a 'pod' within a series of spaces. It sits between the dressing area and the bedroom, remaining open to the dark timber corridor connecting the two.



A Calacutta marble spine softens the massed travertine panels which line the bathroom 'pod', **LEFT**. A glass wall separates the toilet from the two-person shower recess. The Hoesch bath, **BELOW**, is made a feature by encasing it in marble. The reflective sheer curtains accentuate the light feeling within the space, while uncomplicated fixtures maintain the sophisticated aesthetic.



"THE OWNERS WANTED A BATHROOM WITH THE FEEL OF AN INTERNATIONAL SPA," SAYS O'CONNOR. "A SPACE THAT, WHEN YOU'RE USING IT, YOU FEEL INDULGED"

THE SIMPLE DESIGN of this bathroom lets the character of its surface materials take centre stage. Designed as a collaboration between architects Environa Studio and Greg Natale, of Greg Natale Interior Design, this master ensuite exudes sophistication. "The owners wanted a bathroom with the feel of an international spa," says Environa's design director Jan O'Connor, "a space that, when you're using it, you feel indulged."

The bathroom is one of a series of 'pods' in the home on Sydney's North Shore (*Vogue Living* Sept/Oct '06). Rather than being entirely enclosed, walls finish short of the ceiling and adjoining spaces flow into it.

The 'pod' is lined with a cream travertine, a favourite material of owners Mark and Piera Kohout, defining the space nestled between the dressing area and master bedroom. To avoid any monotony from

continuous stone, the wall tiles are smaller than floor tiles which "creates a subtle shift in rhythm from floor to wall," says O'Connor.

Calacutta marble also calmly interrupts the travertine by encasing the Hoesch bath to accentuate the pricey tub's sense of luxury.

Satin-finish chrome tapware and the gentle grey vein through the marble add warmth, while "sheer curtains soften the interior," explains Natale.

The space is intentionally uncomplicated. Showerheads are understated and cabinetwork is tucked under cantilevering basins. These are semi-recessed and embedded in the marble benchtop, and the elegant vanity unit appears to hover, maintaining a clean floor line.

The interest is provided through the materials and the subtlety in detailing. Sometimes it is the simplicity of an interior that gives it its strength. **DANIKA JONES**

DESIGN: Environa Studio and Greg Natale Interior Design. **TILES:** 'Luisa' travertine tiles from RMS Natural Stone and Ceramics. **BATH:** 'Zero' bath by Hoesch; Calacutta marble surround from Classic Tiles. **BENCHTOP:** Calacutta marble from Classic Tiles. **BASINS:** 'Twinset 525' by Parisi Bathroomware. **VANITY MIXERS:** 'Jado Geometrie' basin mixer with gooseneck spout in satin chrome by Jado from Accent International. **VANITY LIGHTS:** 'Instant Plus 2xE14' by Modular Lighting Instruments from JSB Lighting. **SHOWER ROSES:** 'No 94' in satin chrome by Dorf (now only available in chrome). **SHOWER TAPS:** Intamix Geo Viva 'In Wall Concealed Mixer' in satin chrome from Accent International. **TOILET:** 'Leda 2000 Pan - back inlet' by Caroma. **TOILET LIGHT:** 'Instant Plus 1xE14' by Modular Lighting Instruments from JSB Lighting. Details, last pages.