

Bathroom renovation creates spa-like retreat



Courtesy of Susan-El Naggar

The shower of the master suite Susan and Tarik El-Naggar redesigned in Valparaiso.

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A husband and wife design team has taken an outdated master suite in a Valparaiso home and transformed it into an environmentally friendly, luxurious spa suite.

Their efforts were featured in a recent edition of Bathroom Trends magazine, which circulates in the United States, as well as New Zealand, Australia, China Southeast Asia, Malaysia and India.

Inclusion in the magazine came after Susan El-Naggar met the Bathroom Trends editor at a seminar, and showed him pictures of their work on her iPad.

“We feel very blessed to be included in the magazine,” said Susan El-Naggar, an interior decorator who, with her husband architect Tarik El-Naggar, own Healing Environments. The company has offices in Valparaiso, as well as the Merchandise Mart’s 14th Floor Design Center.

The renovation process took about four months from start to finish, and included gutting several rooms and removing walls to create a true master suite.

“The house was dated and had hunter green tile and bright brass features, and it really needed to be updated and remodeled,” she said.

The owners, who have asked to remain anonymous, asked the design team to come up with a clean, contemporary look.

“They wanted a spa-like retreat that incorporated their views of the lake,” she said.

They opened up an unused area of the house, as well as gutted the floors and interior walls.

The new focal point is an eight foot long, three-sided see through fireplace that divides the bedroom and the bathroom and is visible from everywhere in the space.

“You can see it from the whirlpool tub or from the bed in the master suite,” she said.

El-Naggar said inspiration for the area came from luxury hotels. One high-end feature is the sauna room, which was made more environmentally friendly through the use of infrared to save energy.

Other environmentally friendly aspects of the design included incorporating LED lighting, as well as using pebble walls in the glass shower and a wood-grain look porcelain tile.

“We promote healing to the mind body and spirit through the use of colors, materials and sustainable products,” she said. “We feel we really achieved that in this space.”