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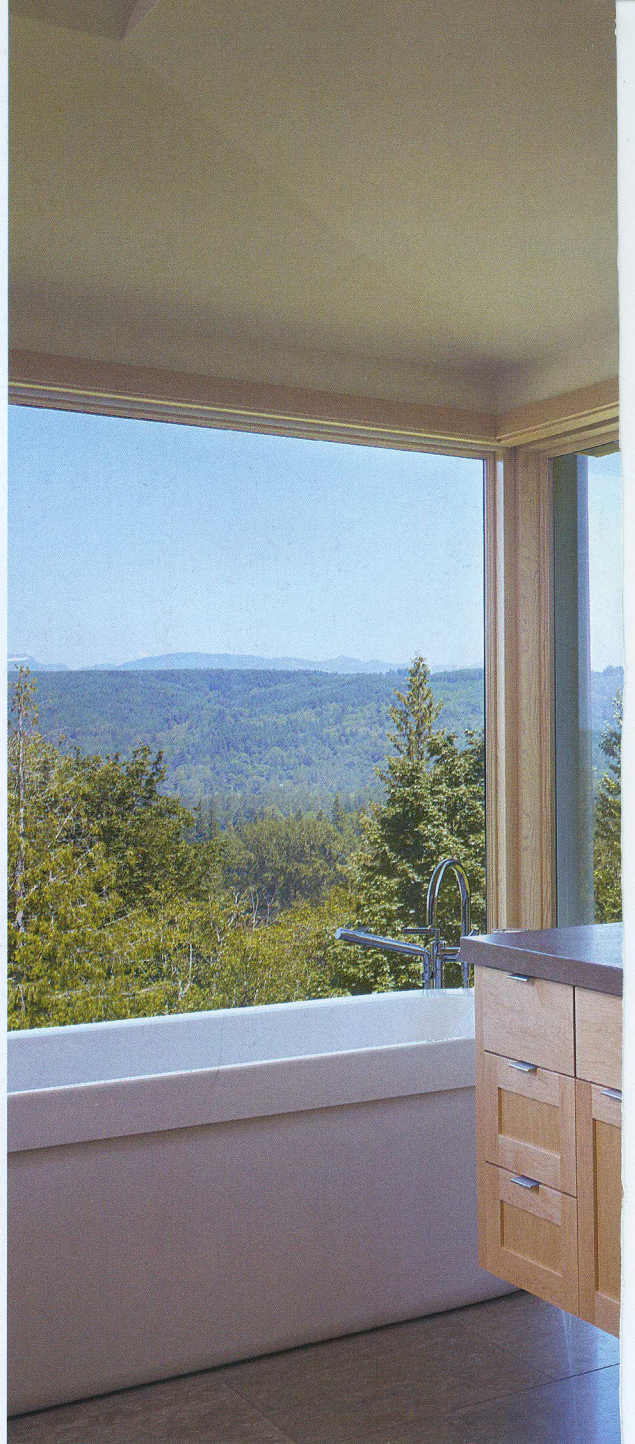
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Eyrie in the treetops

Cantilevering this new bathroom out from the upper floor of the house has heightened the sense of drama and maximized a spectacular forest view



There's no rule that says a bathroom must be tucked away in some private corner of a house. In fact, if you have a spectacular view and no immediate neighbors, why not make the most of the setting so you can enjoy the outlook from every room?

The original bathroom in this house, which overlooks a picturesque forest and river valley, was small and not positioned to maximize the view. Architect Nils Finne of Finne Architects came up with an ideal solution – a 4ft-deep addition suspended from the top floor. Being cantilevered off existing beams meant there was

no need for new foundations, which made it a less costly alternative to a traditional addition.

"It wasn't just the extra space that made this a radical transformation," the architect says. "The walls on all sides are glazed to create a continuous window, which makes the bathroom very dramatic. If the owners want privacy at night, there are hidden blinds integrated into slots at the top of the walls."

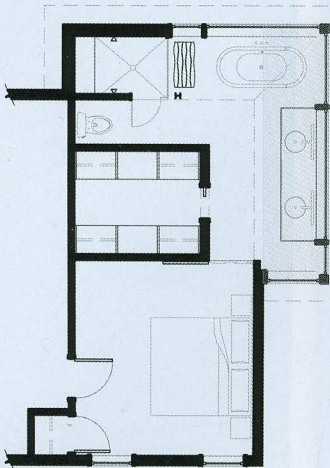
Not surprisingly, the freestanding bathtub is positioned to provide a view while bathing.

"The bathtub's curved form counters the rectilinear lines of the bathroom," says Finne.

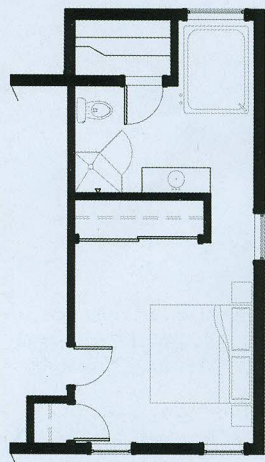
Facing page: To create more room for the master bathroom in this house architect Nils Finne pushed out the second story on one corner. Glazed walls on the cantilevered section ensure the expansive views of the forest and river valley can be enjoyed by the owners while they are bathing.

Above: The long maple vanity cabinet is also cantilevered. Custom mirrors in front of the windows are suspended by aircraft cable.

After



Before



Top and above: The before and after plans highlight the changed layout in the master suite. As well as having a more modern, user-friendly bathroom with a view, the owners now have a larger walk-in closet.

Right: Room with a view – the tub sits beside the windows, affording a wide view of the river valley beyond.





Architect: Finne Architects (Seattle, WA); design principal Nils Finne AIA; project architect Chris Hawley
Builder: Treebird Construction
Structural engineer: Swenson Say Faget
Vanity cabinetry: Maple; fabricated by Baywood Cabinets
Sinks and tub: Duravit
Faucets: Sink faucets by California Faucets; tub faucet by Dornbracht
Countertops and flooring: Azul Adobe limestone
Shower tiles: Ann Sacks
Shower enclosure: Starphire low-iron glass
Windows: Loewen
Recessed lighting: Lightolier
Suspended mirrors: Steel frames with integral LED lighting; designed by Nils Finne; fabricated by Landbridge Lighting
Bench: Swing bench: designed by Nils Finne; sapele wood top by Pete's Cabinets; blackened steel base by 5-Star Metals
Accessories: VRI twisted steel towel bars; designed by Nils Finne; fabricated by 5-Star Metals

Story by Colleen Hawkes
Photography by Benjamin Benschneider

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"Similarly a custom-designed bench seat also has sensuous curves."

The cantilevered vanity cabinetry echoes the maple cabinets that feature in the remodeled kitchen of the same house. A simple panel door design and the light color of the maple reinforce the light, airy feel of the room. And because the cabinet appears to float, there is no sense of space being compromised.

Suspended, custom-designed mirrors framed with LED lights hang in front of the windows, reflecting the light and view. Wood panels on the backs of the mirrors ensure they

also look attractive from outside the house.

The use of natural, sustainable materials was a priority for the design team. Azul Adobe limestone was specified for the floor tiles and vanity top – again this material also features in the kitchen.

Other raw materials that enhance the clean-lined contemporary look include an exposed structural steel column near the shower, and the sapele wood seat and blackened steel legs of the bench seat.

Glass panels separate the shower, but the floor tiles are flush for a seamless connection.

Above: The shower box is flush with the main limestone wall, so there is no lip or step to cross over. The bench, designed by the architect, features sapele wood with a blackened steel base. The curves in the bench were designed to counter the more rectilinear elements in the bathroom.