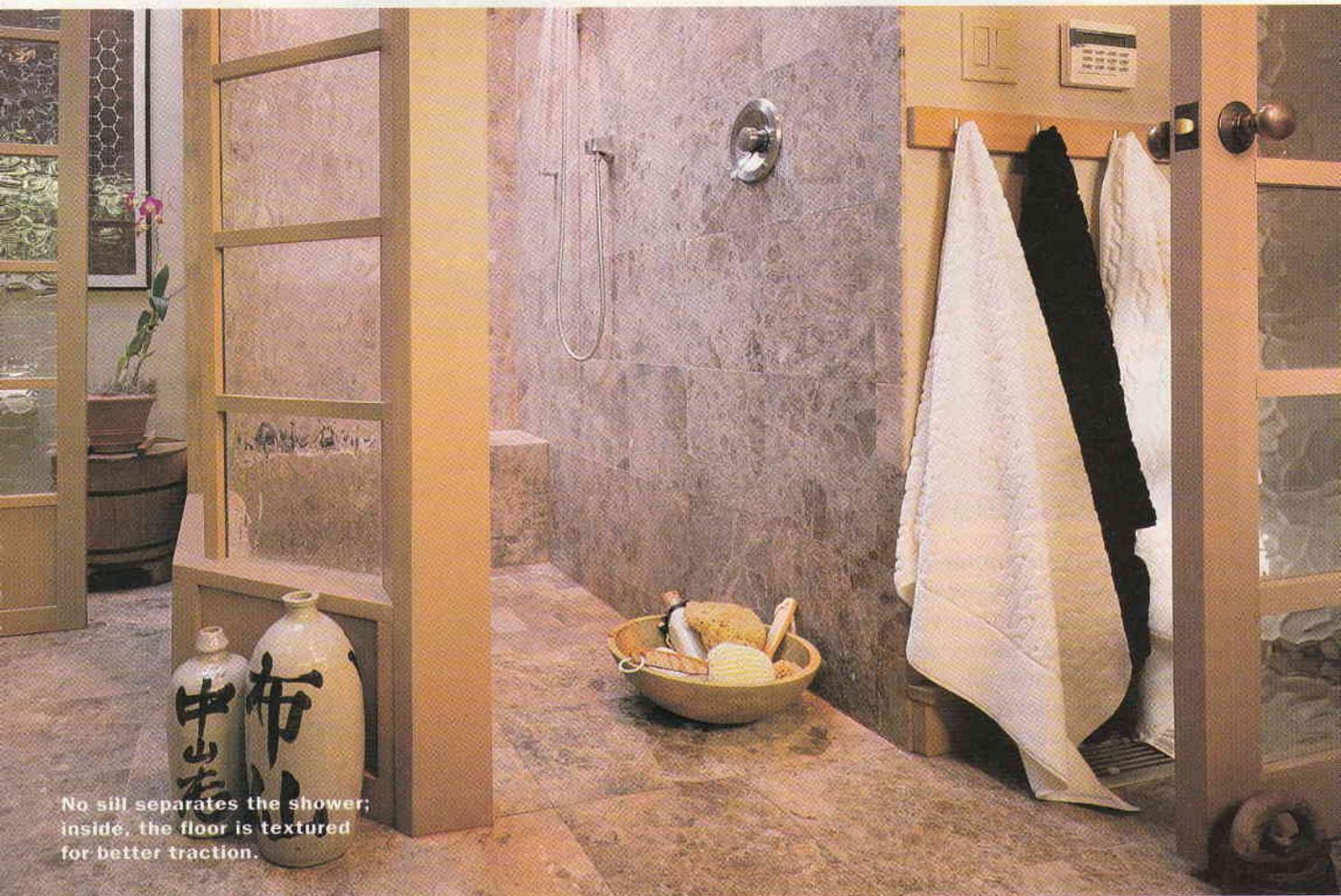


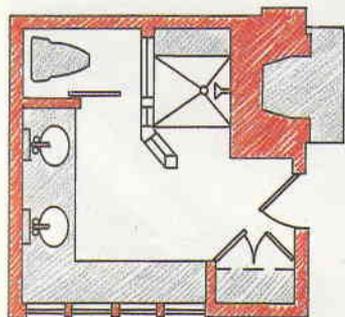
# the essence of serenity

Photography: Michael Jensen



No sill separates the shower; inside, the floor is textured for better traction.

## NATURAL MATERIALS AND A CLEAN DESIGN OPENED TO THE LIGHT



Doing without a tub kept the plan uncluttered. Windows by the vanity overlook a garden.

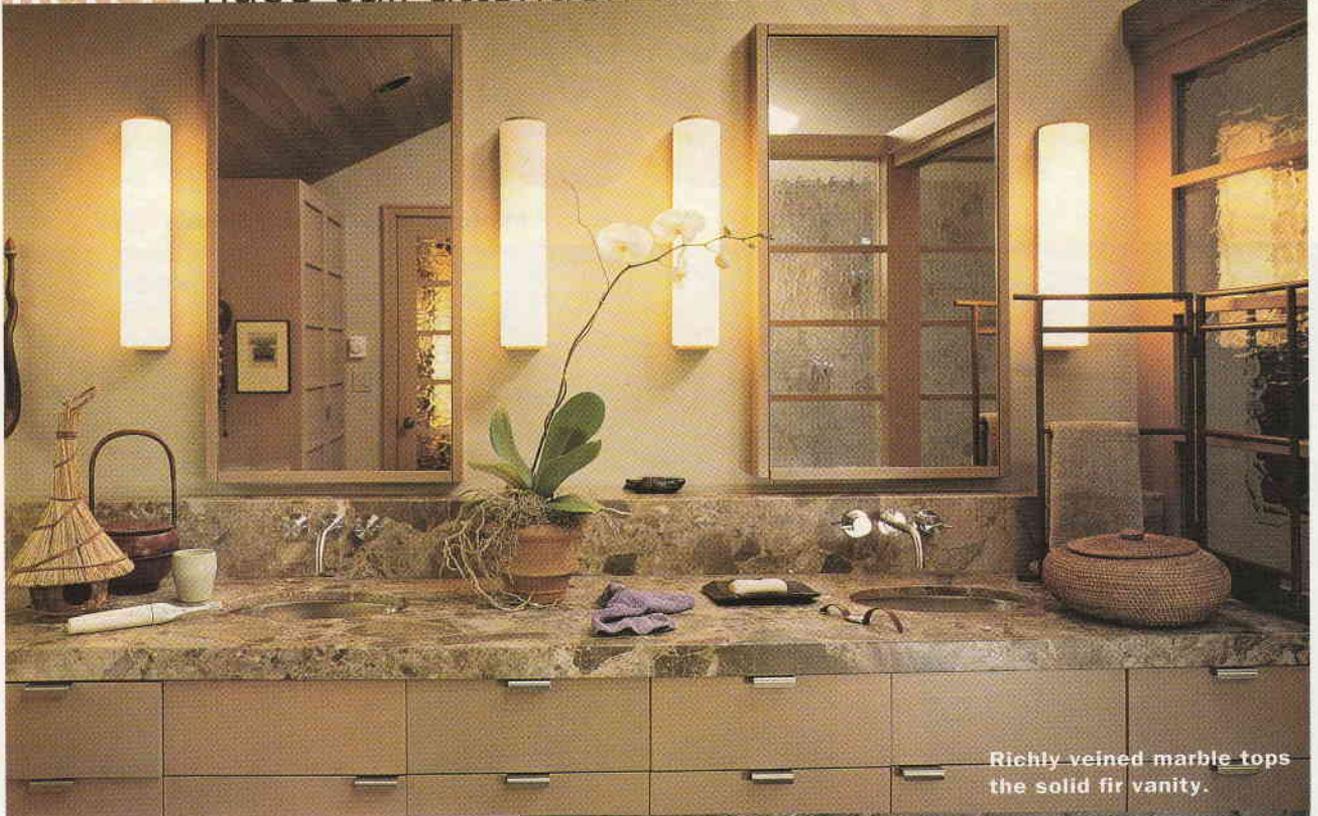
We bought the house for the view," says the resident of an island in Puget Sound, near Seattle. The home's master bath, however, suffered some built-in limitations: With almost no window access, there was no way it could gain a view of the surrounding natural splendors. But that was no reason to settle for what was there. "It was hideous and only marginally functional, with two small, dark, blue-tiled compartments, one for the toilet and one for the shower," says

the owner. So architect Luther M. Hintz, who remodeled the entire 1960s house along Asian-inspired lines, did the natural thing: He went for the light and turned the room itself into a scene well worth looking at. While he couldn't change the "pinched and claustrophobic" bath's compact 9 x 12-foot dimensions, there was nothing stopping Hintz from going up. Tearing out the oppressive 7½-foot ceiling, he raised it to the full 12-foot height of the roof's ridgeline and paneled the new ceiling in gray-stained



Glass-paneled walls and a sliding door shield shower and toilet without limiting inner vistas; light pours in from a new double skylight.

**muted** hues call attention to the rich **natural** textures

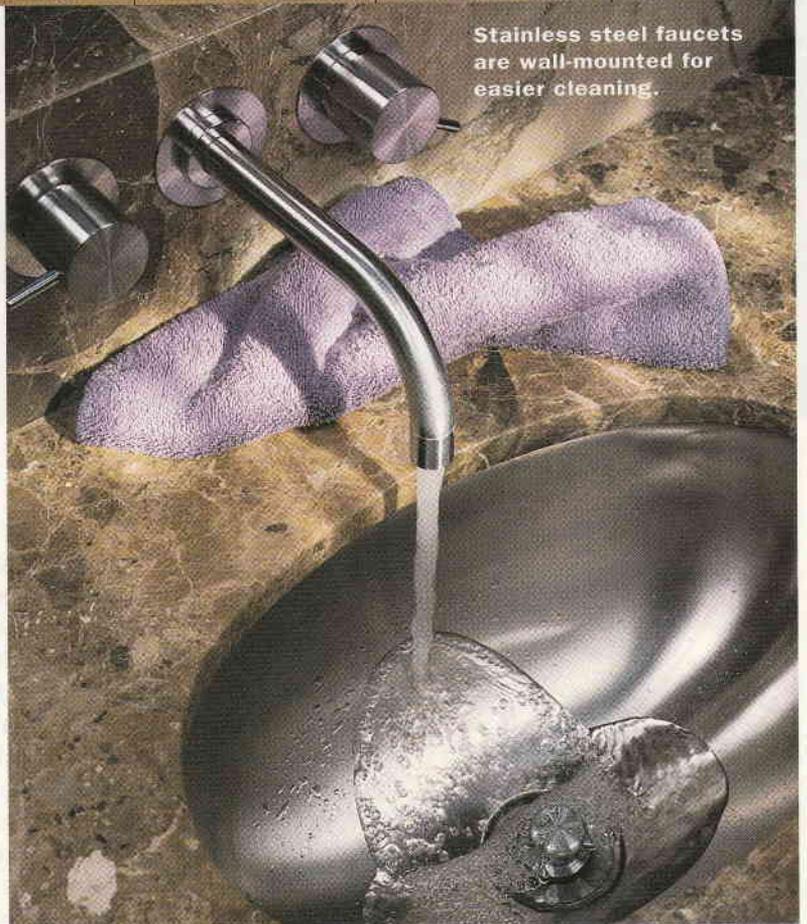


Richly veined marble tops the solid fir vanity.

cedar. An operable double skylight opened the room to the heavens, pulling in abundant natural illumination that Hintz supplemented with recessed bulbs. Back down at ground level, the interior walls separating toilet and shower came down; in their places stand partitions inspired by Japanese shoji screens and made of rippled safety glass and clear vertical-grain fir, which provide privacy without blocking the hard-gained light. Also meeting the client's expressed desire for "a simple, clean aesthetic with natural materials" are a vanity counter, floors and shower walls of marble in muted shades of gray and taupe. "What I like best about it now," says the owner, "is that it's very private, calm, soothing and quiet. I have been in the shower, looked up through the skylight, and seen an eagle. Isn't that great?"—Norman Kolpas

#### **SOURCES**

**Architect, cabinetry:** Luther M. Hintz, AIA.  
**Sinks:** Kohler. **Toilet:** American Standard.  
**Shower fixtures:** Grohe.  
**Faucets, accessories:** Krain.  
**Lighting:** Limburg Glass (vanity), Lightolier (recessed). **Skylights:** Velux. **Windows:** Northwest Window Works. See page 128.



Stainless steel faucets are wall-mounted for easier cleaning.