

A WIN-WIN SITUATION

TWO BATHROOMS EARN STAR AWARDS

NEUTRAL SHADES FIT EASILY into any bathroom-design scheme. These two National Kitchen & Bath Association San Diego Chapter Star Award winners employ versions of cream, beige and taupe as base colors, yet the bathroom designed by Mike Howard (right) showcases contemporary style while Mary Jennings' design (above) has a decidedly more traditional take.

Mike went bold with a tub surround of rich brown rectangles of tile. The larger rectangles are offset by a 25-inch glass mosaic backsplash of smaller tiles in smatterings of earth tones, which work their way around the room. Mary kept things calm with soft beige to golden-toned floor tiles in large-square formats. She added just a hint of drama with a small band of mosaic glass that travels from the shower to the vanity sinks. In both bathrooms, the walls match the lightest tiles, while the floors pick up the medium tones.

Recessed-paneled doors and drawers define the cabinets in Mary's bathroom as more formal/traditional, while those in Mike's speak a modern language of flat-panel door fronts and sleek, metal hardware. An edgeless, round mirror breaks up the room's boxy feel. Mary, on the other hand, chose large, square, gold-framed mirrors to add dramatic impact. ❖



Designer Mike Howard transformed a cherished vintage Adirondack chair from the family's vacation cabin into a tub caddy and wall shelf (not shown). The adaptation added a sense of history and character to this guest bath that was the winner in the small bathroom category of the 2014 NKBA San Diego Chapter Star Awards.

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