



SPA-INSPIRED  
*Master Suite*

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## MEMORIAL DAY 2017



This past Memorial Day was especially important for the family and friends of W.W. Fairbairn and Sons. As their new facility nears completion, the Fairbairn family was able to raise the sizable American flag that will be proudly displayed in front of the new building for years to come. This American flag was bought several years ago by the Fairbairn family matriarch, Marilyn Jean. The ability to prominently showcase this sentimental flag was at the heart of the building's design and will undoubtedly capture the attention of all who pass through Alanson.

## *Master Bath Remodel— Simply Elegant*

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# SPA-INSPIRED *Master Suite*

Whenever homeowners envision the master suite of their dreams, it is almost always a spa-like hide-away where they can escape the stresses of daily life. The master suite of The New American Home 2017 is a prime example of this kind of retreat.

The master suite is located in a secluded section of the home's layout, distanced from the more public living spaces yet connected directly to the outdoor lanai and pool area. A restful ambience permeates the master suite, originating in the simple modern lines and clean white surfaces throughout.

In the master bedroom, a full-height cushioned headboard adds texture and muffles sound to ensure a quiet, relaxing environment. A horizontal fire feature creates an inviting atmosphere, while also providing warmth on chilly evenings. Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors allow the bedroom to open completely to the outside, making the beautiful natural surroundings a visual part of the interior. The doors also open to a protected outdoor sitting area



Photo: Courtesy of Jeff Davis Photography

with a fireplace, which in turn leads to a glass enclosed fitness room. An adjoining steam room refreshes the body after workouts and removes toxins.

The master bath is a spacious open wet room with no curtains or glass partitions for the shower. A multitude of shower heads and programmable body sprays make showering a refreshing experience. The body sprays are connected to the internet, so changing the selection of spray patterns is effortless. The absence of curbs and the comfortable bench of Brazilian wood provide the shower area with universal design benefits. A freestanding oval soaking tub rests serenely in the corner next to the floor-to-ceiling windows. Natural light streams through the windows made of frosted glass for privacy. A separate water closet accommodates a smart toilet offering many advanced spa features, including a foot warmer, a deodorizer, built-in speakers for playing your choice of music, and a bidet with personal water temperature settings.



Photo: Courtesy of Jeff Davis Photography



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The master suite is also outfitted with a private laundry room and two spacious walk-in closets—one that doubles as a safe room for shelter if needed during storms. In every case, products used in this master suite were carefully selected to meet the most rigorous environmental standards for water savings and energy efficiency.

## Smart Connections

When it comes to smart technology for the home, homeowners have already benefited from the availability of Wi-Fi enabled security cameras that keep watch over their home's premises, smart home thermostats that help them save on home energy costs, and motion sensors that turn lights on and off throughout their homes as needed. However, what has been lacking so far is useful technology for their kitchens and baths, which are typically the most active areas in the home.

In the U.S. more than 500 adults, divided equally between male and female, recently participated in a survey conducted by Field Agent, a mobile research firm. The findings indicated that only 30 percent of those surveyed currently own smart tech for the home, but 81 percent are excited about the idea of updating their kitchens and bathrooms with Wi-Fi enabled appliances or electronics in the future. They primarily look forward to the convenience and safety this technology can bring to their life style. The 2017 Builders' Show introduced several new possibilities that may have met the mark. Here are three examples:



Photos: Courtesy of Kohler (kohler.com)



# FLOATING VANITIES

Beautiful bathrooms by today's standards are those that are simple and serene. But when your life is super hectic, is it even possible to maintain that calm, uncluttered atmosphere in your beautiful bathroom? Yes, provided your cabinetry is designed for organization and ease of maintenance.

Cabinet manufacturers are now offering many organizational solutions in bathroom vanities that help make your morning

routine go much smoother. There are drawer dividers that assist you in arranging your toiletries and makeup so everything is easy to find and put away again. Pull-out drawers may be designed specifically for storing small appliances, like hair dryers and curling irons. Some pull-out drawers feature built-in electrical outlets so you can keep your electric toothbrushes and razors charged and ready for use.

A stylish wall-hung vanity—often called a floating vanity—provides that clean and open look that enhances your sense of tranquility. If your bathroom is small, a floating vanity can make it feel more spacious. A floating vanity can be installed at your preferred height that gives you the most comfortable ergonomic experience as you bend over the sink. In addition, the absence of a cabinet base or furniture legs makes for easier cleaning under a wall-hung vanity.



Photo: Courtesy of GE Appliances (geappliances.com)



Photo: Courtesy of Brinks Home Security (mybrinkshome.com)



Photo: Courtesy of Moen (moen.com)

## Kitchen

- GE Appliances demonstrated their new suite of kitchen appliances that collaborates with Amazon's Alexa and Echo to enable hands-free convenience through voice control. The suite includes refrigerators, dishwashers, wall ovens and ranges, plus laundry and more. You can preheat your oven, find out when your dishwasher cycle will be finished, or make any number of other requests—all with the sound of your voice.

## Entry Door

- Brinks Home Security Array deadbolt is a cloud- and app-based smart lock that uses the home Wi-Fi connection. With the array, homeowners can unlock their doors, provide and manage access

remotely, and view user and battery data four different ways—smartphone, smartwatch, keypad and key. The Array won the Best Indoor Living Product award at the Builders' Show.

## Bath

- Moen presented their U by Moen shower technology, a Wi-Fi/cloud-based digital shower that offers mobile connectivity. It allows you to control your shower preferences through a smartphone app. You can customize everything from time to temperature. If you need to get a little more shut-eye in the morning, you can get the shower going from your bed and it will notify you when it's ready to go.

Memorial Day 2017

Elegant Master Bath Remodel

Spa-Inspired Master Suite

Smart Connections



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# Master Bath Remodel—Simply Elegant



When Margo and Bill Todd built their home back in 1969, they knew what they wanted. First, nothing in their home needed to be too large or fancy, it just needed to work for their family. Second, Margo wanted bead board kitchen cabinets similar to those found in Bay View Cottages. Finally, the home must have large picture windows to take advantage of the sweeping views of Little Traverse Bay and the Petoskey Winter Sports Park.

Their original plan served them well, and it wasn't until recently that Margo hired McBride Construction, Inc. to remodel her master bath. Much of the unique character found in the home, designed by Dave Trautman, remains in the remodeled bathroom. You'll still find the uniquely angled doors, original bead board cabinets that Trautman put throughout the house to match the kitchen cabinets, and even the hardware Margo initially selected for the home. "I'm so happy. I feel like the updated bath is still me—it's simple and genuine to the distinctive character of the house. I have seen so many overdone remodels and knew that I didn't want that. Dave Trautman would be very pleased with what we did," said Margo.

Margo and her son Ken worked with Kathy McCreight from Classic Cabinets and Interiors and McBride Construction to design the updated bath. The decision was made to upgrade the vanity with under mount sinks and Quartz counter tops, improve the lighting and install an American-made medicine cabinet by Sofia. A tub/shower combination was traded for a sleek, clean-lined, glass shower. White subway tile lines the new shower and extends throughout the space as wainscoting. A porcelain stone floor was laid to look like wood and the companion mosaic tile was used on the shower floor. "The result is stunning. The new look is clean and simple yet not at all sterile," states designer Kathy McCreight.

"The finished product is efficient, elegant and timeless," Margo agrees. "The crew executed the plan flawlessly—just as I would expect McBride Construction to do. I couldn't be happier!"

*Congratulations on your new bath Margo— we are so proud of the finished product!*