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INNOVATION
IN DESIGN AWARDS 2015

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Innovator 2
BATH DESIGN

PENGUIN
ENVIRONMENTAL
DESIGN LLC

JAPANESE-INSPIRED DESIGN OPENS A WINDOW TO SERENITY

SIMPLICITY AND SERENITY DEFINE THIS MASTER BATHROOM designed by Yoko Kawai for clients who desired a space in their Norwalk Colonial to remind them of a trip to Japan. Rather than mimicking Japanese design, Kawai sought to find a balance between modernity and “Japan-ness.” “We carefully extracted the spatial concepts of Japan and inserted them into the contemporary design that fits to the life and landscape of America,” says Kawai.

According to the designer, one big challenge was creating “clean details.” “Doing so is much harder than adding a lot of decorative details, because you cannot hide things with trims, says Kawai. “The details for the main wall took much effort: Shoji, two layers of countertops, a bathtub and vanities, all meet in proximity and must be lined up in a beautiful way.”

Above the tub, tall Shoji screens filter sunlight when closed. “Outside, there is a set of windows with a half-circled glaze on the top. The intention was to hide this element, but to allow light to come in,” notes Kawai. “For the ceiling, I wanted to give character to it just as in Japanese teahouses. The grid pattern was chosen for its formality that goes with other elements in the room.” The Asian conversation continues in the shower, which is lined with Porcelanosa tile, while the vanity tops conjure up black lacquer. “It is actually a granite stone called Volga Blue that is black with blue shiny elements in it,” says Kawai.

✦ *To see more, visit cottagesgardens.com/2015ctcgidas*

Tile Story (LEFT) The shower is lined with Porcelanosa’s Tokyo Wenge and Bambu Blanco Expo tiles. **Asian Expression** (TOP) Shoji screens from Miya Shoji conceal a window over the Wetstyle tub from Klaff’s. Tub filler is Grohe. A Hubbardton Forge sconce illuminates a Wetstyle sink from Klaff’s and vanity cabinets from European Custom Cabinetry. *See Resources.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CARL VERNLUND