

New England HOME

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A posh Maine bath has its design roots in China.



Once you stay at the Four Seasons in Beijing, there's just no going back. So, **Pat Fortunato's** clients did the next best thing: they asked her to capture the look and feel of a guest suite at the hotel . . . in their Cape Elizabeth, Maine, home.

She knew the Asian-inspired remodel would be extensive, so she did her homework, says Fortunato, a designer in Old Orchard Beach. The bath had to feel serene and luxurious. At its heart: a top-of-the-line freestanding Kohler soaking tub with features that include music, massage, and chromatherapy. "It does everything but drive their kids to school," she says.

She used Palissandro Bronzetto marble on the floors (honed for safety) and walls (polished "because it felt watery"). She added black accents for contrast. A frameless glass shower prevents

visual disruption of the basket weave pattern. Other walls are faux finished in varying neutral tones to add dimension.

Fortunato chose a black cabinet to stand out against the Snow White marble vanity top, and had it custom painted with decorative motifs inspired by the clients' flower gardens. She hung a carved, gold leaf dragon mirror for drama.

Centered on the wall over the tub, a custom mosaic niche depicts koi circling in a pond. The motif was selected for its association with water, of course—and because in Chinese culture and in feng shui, it's believed that koi attract good fortune and prosperity.

The project took her a little out of her comfort zone, Fortunato admits, but it was worth it. "They loved it so much they actually spent a week in there when it was finished," she says." | *Patricia Fortunato, Old Orchard Beach, Maine, fortunatoincdesign.com*

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