

# 20th Annual BATHS of the YEAR

SHOWERS ARE “WOWERS” IN A TRIO OF BATHROOM WINNERS

Kelly Hinchman of Studio H Design Group, Kitchy Crouse of KC Interior Design and Kelly Smiar of Kelly Smiar Interior Design struggled with which three of the more than 50 entries received for this year’s Baths of the Year contest would be named winners. Finally, they made their difficult decision. The chosen trio that follows not only have good function and looks in common but, interestingly, all opted for showers instead of tubs. New trend? Perhaps.



## WINNERS:

**Linda Medina**, Linda Medina Interior Design

**Julie Smith**, Jula Cole Design

**Rosella Gonzalez**, senior interior designer,  
Jackson Design & Remodeling



Designer Linda Medina installed large format subway tiles in an elegant white for homeowner Maureen Feary, who wanted something other than dainty.

## Mixing Up Punch

PHOTOS BY BRADY ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Maureen Feary loves her rambling California ranch-style house in the wooded area of Point Loma but, she says, “the master bathroom was a short fall.” And by short, she means limited in style, counter space and tiny for her 6-foot stature.

“It felt like I was in the land of the Lilliputians but friends always commented that it was such a big space,” Maureen says. “I just couldn’t see it that way. It was a tired bathroom that never felt big.”

With a shower and toilet room shoved off to one side and an adjoining room containing two mirrored closets flanking long walls and matching tiny vanities separated by low partitions, it was no surprise that the area felt claustrophobic.

## Tying in Tile

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PREVIEW FIRST

When Stacy and Ben Hulley went to the Thompson Hotel in Cabo San Lucas, they were awestruck by the resort's no-door shower and decided to use its spa-like design as an inspiration for their own master bath's remodel—down to the tree stump the hotel used as a shower bench.

"My husband spent months researching different suppliers," Stacy says. "He contacted individual people that create tree stumps and finally ordered a real tree stump online."

Another inspiration came from Madison in University Heights. The couple, keen on geometric tile, were jazzed by the restaurant's concrete floor. Stacy took a picture of it and gave it to designer Rosella Gonzalez of Jackson Design & Remodeling, who helped them find a match.

"The new design features a stunning combination of patterned tile, which



*"The dynamic tile paired with the warm wood cabinetry gives a fun, youthful energy to the space."* —Kelly Smiar



A bathroom designed by Rosella Gonzalez incorporates hexagon floor tiles, teal backsplash tiles and two different formats of white tile used as a calming backdrop.

includes the main floor's striking black-and-white geometric pattern," Rosella says. "The spa-like shower boldly balances four types of tile."

For these tiles, Stacy, Ben, Rosella and a friend of Stacy's spent three hours playing with tile at BDG in Hillcrest. "We had all the tile we liked laying on the floor," Stacy says. "We just kept moving it around—like 20 times—until we found the tiles and

layout we liked. I said, 'OK, that's it. We're done. We are not going back.'"

Interesting textures, gleaming metallics, warm walnut and a calming yet visually dynamic color palette resulted in a luxurious space for relaxing and reinvigorating.

"It's a hotel experience with a view of the ocean and the best way to start the day," Stacy says.

## Conversation Piece 10 ways to make white tile the bathroom's hot topic

Yes, vibrant-colored tiles stun, but silent, white tiles can speak dramatically too. Here's how to make the white tile in your bathroom the talk of the town.

**Add dimension** with raised-edge tile. This little extra detail travels a long way past standard chit-chat.

**Accentuate** a white-tiled wall with dark grout. We all know that white tile with white grout whispers class. But white tile with black grout adds a vintage vibe or industrial look. Or trim grout in gold or silver—now you're talking.

**Make a big statement** by going... BIG. Take that standard 3x6-inch tile to new heights (and widths)—go taller, wider, skinnier, longer.

**Spice up the white-tile** conversation with rustic texture.

**Capture attention** with glossy, glass tiles that reflect light.

**Bring in a matte** finish if you're searching for understated elegance or an earthy look.

**Shake it up** with shape—go geometric with hexagonal tiles to give the bathroom an artsy accent.

**Run the tile vertically**, stopping at different lengths as it heads toward the ceiling. Did we already say artsy accent?

**Install sculptural** arched or domed tiles for added definition.

**Lay it on me** like a non-conformist: stack tiles vertically, not horizontally; offset a vertical, horizontal or diagonal layout; twist that traditional herringbone pattern by taking it in a diagonal or straight direction; give tile some pizzazz with a zig-zag, diamond, basket-weave or crosshatch pattern.



Find bathroom remodeling tips, and your readers' choice winner at [sandiegohomegarden.com](http://sandiegohomegarden.com).

