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## Plan the Perfect Master Suite

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# Five-Star Suite

DREAMS OF A LUXURIOUS HOTEL-LIKE RETREAT COME TRUE IN THE ATTIC OF AN ATLANTA HOME.

WRITTEN BY SAMANTHA HART PHOTOGRAPHS BY EMILY J. FOLLOWILL PRODUCED BY LISA MOWRY

Stained wood doors, designed to mimic traditional paneled doors in the rest of the home, open to the elegant master bath. The tub nestles under a window overlooking the landscaped yard.

Inspiration comes in many forms. For Bob Hussle, it was a stay at a luxury hotel in London that sparked the idea to turn the walk-up attic of his 1929 Atlanta home into a sumptuous master suite. "Our hotel room included extravagant elements, such as heated floors and towel racks, and I really wanted those features at home," Bob says, describing the substantial second-story addition that followed and includes a guest bedroom, hall bath, laundry room, and crafts room—a total of 1,498 square feet.

Architect Stephanie Ives and designer Lisa Grisham of Home Rebuilders, a design-build firm and member of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) and the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA), spearheaded the project. "My first goal was to expand the living space within the existing attic and to the rear of the home, creating a seamless transition between the old and new spaces," Ives says. "My second goal was to minimize the impact of the addition as viewed from the street." To this end, she added a new shed dormer to the front of the house. The dormer aligns with the existing living room windows below, making it look as though it had always been there. Ives also chose stucco siding for the addition to complement the original home's brick. A new "whaleback" portion of roof extends above the existing ridgeline—to allow for higher ceilings in the attic—but is barely perceptible from the street. Inside, new moldings, trim, windows, and stained wood doors mimic similar details in the rest of the house.

For the addition's pièce de résistance—the master suite—Bob presented Ives and Grisham with a heady list of must-haves. "I really wanted an oversize steam shower and dual sinks … and large recessed medicine cabinets," he says. "And the master bedroom had to be wide enough to accommodate

"My style is warm modern. I like tailored lines and classic, simple shapes."
—homeowner Bob Hussle

**OPPOSITE:** A palette of steel gray and cream lends a sophisticated air to Bob Hussle's new master bedroom, which occupies attic space in his 1929 Atlanta home. **THIS PHOTO:** Floor-to-ceiling windows capture views over the terraced backyard. A corner chaise offers the perfect spot to soak up the sun.

a king-size bed and two large Barbara Barry nightstands that I had my eye on." Guided by Bob's vision, the design duo set to work recasting the utilitarian space. "The way the master suite is laid out was partly dictated by the constraints of the staircase location and an existing chimney," Ives says. "But we hit all of the ideas. The shower is actually even larger than what we had originally aimed for. That was more of a function of the massing at the back of the home. It had some extra square footage that we could pull into it."

Simple, tailored lines and a traditional palette of steel gray, cream, and chrome speak to the heritage of the home, while more modern furnishings and fixtures reflect the owners' passion for contemporary design. "It makes you feel like you are on vacation staying in a luxury hotel every day," Bob says of the deluxe suite, which includes a separate dressing room, toilet, and small anteroom that leads to the spa-like shower. "I wanted the master suite to be configured so that an early riser would not wake his slumbering partner. And it's worked out perfectly. When our schedules are not in sync, I can shower and dress—going back and forth between the bathroom and dressing room—without disturbing my partner."

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**OPPOSITE:** Sleek matching vanities, stained wood doors, and white marble subway tile emphasize the home's period character. **ABOVE:** Cleverly configured to allow Bob to shower and dress without disturbing his sleeping partner, the bathroom is divided into a separate tub-and-vanity area and shower room. A small anteroom, with a built-in bench and hooks for towels, connects the two.

## ADDITION BASICS

Architect Stephanie Ives shares her top six factors to consider before expanding your home.

**1. Evaluate your plans.** Do you really need to add on? Are there spaces in your home that could be repurposed or finished? Assess your budget to determine the best option to accomplish your goals.

**2. Consult professionals.** Contractors, builders, engineers, and designers can help you avoid common pitfalls and unwelcome surprises.

**3. Go on local home tours.** This is a great way to get ideas for a project. Walking through homes gives you a real sense of how spaces work together.

**4. Research zoning laws.** Municipal, city, or county zoning regulations usually limit how big or tall your home can be. These must be taken into account when considering building up or out.

**5. Address structural concerns.** Is your existing foundation structurally sound? Can it handle the extra load? Will additional work be needed to make it sound and, if so, how much will that cost? A contractor will be able to advise you.

**6. Consider accessibility.** Is there a staircase to take you up to a second story? If not, can you build a staircase? "Fortunately, in this project, there was an existing stairway to the attic," Ives says of Bob Hussle's home. "But the stairs didn't meet current code, so we needed to add a few more risers to get up to the attic space. This was accomplished by encroaching into the hallway a little farther than where the original stair had been placed."

## PROJECT POINTER: MIXING TILE

"The proper mixing of scale and texture in any design is very important," designer Lisa Grisham says. "These details make a design cohesive." Here, three distinct patterns of marble tile—white subway tile, a deep-gray brick fretwork mosaic, and a basket-weave accent on the shower floor—work together to add drama and texture to the walk-in shower. "When selecting tile, there are so many things to think about—size, scale, color, grout, moldings, etc.," Grisham says. But the key is good installation. "If you don't have a good installer, you are doomed from the beginning. A bad installation can make even the best quality and most expensive tile look really bad," she says.

**OPPOSITE:** The oversize frameless shower is a lesson in style. Spa fixtures and an exquisite mix of marble tiles make this a magical spot for unwinding.
**RIGHT:** The 1,498-square-foot addition includes a spacious office outfitted with a corner desk and built-in storage for office supplies.
**BELOW:** Marble tile adds a luxurious touch to the master bath. The gray-and-white brick fretwork pattern on the floor matches the tile used for the shower panel.

## THE CHANGE

The generous walk-up attic of a 1929 Atlanta home is reconfigured and expanded to accommodate a luxurious master suite.

## WHAT IT TOOK

* Keeping the addition's interior and exterior architectural details consistent with the rest of house to create a seamless transition between old and new spaces.
* Adding a series of dormers to maximize space and gain as much ceiling height as possible.
* Using bonus space to create a separate dressing room, a toilet area, and an anteroom that leads to an oversize walk-in shower.
* Combining traditional colors, moldings, and paneled doors with more contemporary fixtures to reflect the owners' modern design sensibility without compromising the home's 1920s heritage.

# Five-Star Suite

## Pages 114–121

**Residential designer:** Stephanie Ives, intern architect, Home Rebuilders, Atlanta; 404/876-3000; www.homerebuilders.com.
**Account manager:** Bill Bartlett, president, Home Rebuilders, see above.
**Kitchen and bath designer:** Lisa Grisham, Home Rebuilders, see above.
**Interior designer:** Karen Hott, ASID, Karen Hott Interiors, Atlanta; 404/841-7342; www.karenhottinteriors.com.

## Pages 114–117

**Wall paint in bedroom** Proper Gray, **wall paint in hall toward bath** Wool Skein—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; www.sherwin-williams.com [P]. **Headboard, chaise longue—**Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams; 800/789-5401; www.mgandbw.com. **Bench at foot of bed—**Cantoni; 888/226-8664; www.cantoni.com. **Bedside tables, dresser—**Baker; 800/592-2537; www.bakerfurniture.com. **Console in hallway toward bathroom—**Delaware River Trading Company, Atlanta; 404/874-5583; www.drtcstudio.com.

## Pages 118–121 (bottom left)

**Tub** Tea For Two, **sinks** Kathryn, **faucets** Memoirs, shower fixtures—Kohler Co.; 800/456-4537; www.kohler.com. **Mirrored medicine chests—**Robern, Inc.; 800/877-2376; www.robern.com. **Tile for shower walls, shower floor and main floor** white thassos **shower wall accents** Bardiglio mini bricks and pencil liner border, **main floor tile rug** Bardiglio basketweave—Ann Sacks; 800/278-8453; www.annsacks.com. **Wall paint** Essential Gray—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; www.sherwin-williams.com [P]. **Pendant light fixture—**Circa Lighting; 877/762-2323; www.circalighting.com. **Sconces—**Hudson Valley Lighting, Inc.; 800/814-3993; www.hudsonvalleylighting.com. **Chair in shower** Philippe Starck Louis Ghost chair—Kartell; 866/854-8823; www.kartellus.com.

## Page 121 (top right)

**Cabinetry** custom—Home Rebuilders, Atlanta; 404/876-3000; www.homerebuilders.com. Rug—InterfaceFLOR; 866/281-3567; www.interfaceflor.com.