

Neil Kelly

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PROJECT PROFILE : Zen Bathroom Retreat

Neil Kelly Design Consultant:
Kristine LeVernois

Randy and Ellen wanted to be able to view their Asian-themed oasis in the backyard from their master bathroom retreat. They also wanted their Zen style bathroom retreat to have simple, elegant, and peaceful features. And the couple knew that whoever they hired to transform their bathroom needed to have an eye for detail. “We are demanding perfectionists and have high expectations of anyone we hire,” says Randy. “We noticed there was a camaraderie with Neil Kelly’s people, and we feel this is very important in building trust and developing high-performance teams.”

After listening to her client, Neil Kelly Design Consultant Kristine LeVernois decided a minimal approach would be best. “Contrasts and repetition in textures, and color in the materials with strategically placed patterns gently lead your eye throughout the space,” Kristine says. “The new bathroom is a soothing and relaxing Zen style bathroom retreat where they can soak their cares away.”



BEFORE



BATHROOM RETREAT: “Now THAT is a shower door!”

But the one feature that grabs your eyes and refuses to let go is the glass-etched shower door. “We installed a beautiful, large, glass “barn door” panel with a sand-etched scene of Mt. Fuji and cherry blossoms,” Kristine says. “It is a breathtaking art piece and gives the room such a great open feel.

It changed an ordinary spec-house bathroom into a spa-like space.” You can tell looking at it that this shower door is no lightweight, and that created another design challenge. Kristine and Project manager Ted Johnson located solid stainless steel hardware to carry the weight of the sliding large glass panel. These panels slide back and forth on the upper rail like a barn door.” Kristine and Ted used every conceivable technology,” Randy says. “And we appreciated their timely responses and updates very much.”

While they relax in the two-person free standing Oceania air tub, the couple can finally see their koi pond and Asian garden. But this Zen bathroom retreat is more than just a pretty face (lift). It offers function as well as form. The U-shaped drawers below the sinks and deeper recessed cabinetry above offer spacious storage opportunities. Installing wall-mounted faucets extending directly out of the mirror also creates more counter space. Equip the cabinets with hardware from Top Knobs and walls with Asian-influenced lighting fixtures from Hubbardton Forge and the bathroom attains a “wabi-sabi” feel.*

Like many of us, the Beaverton area couple watch Home Improvement television shows, and made an interesting observation on their own project. “It is difficult to determine what a fair value is when you watch reality TV such as DIY,” Randy says. “They show a kitchen remodel for \$10K that has new appliances, cabinets, and granite counters. It just doesn’t add up,” he says. “Ultimately, you trust the people you work with, factor in the customization costs, and materials and then the project ‘feels’ right.”

* *Wabi-sabi* represents a comprehensive Japanese world view or aesthetic centered on the acceptance of transience and imperfection. The aesthetic is sometimes described as one of beauty that is “imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete.”

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