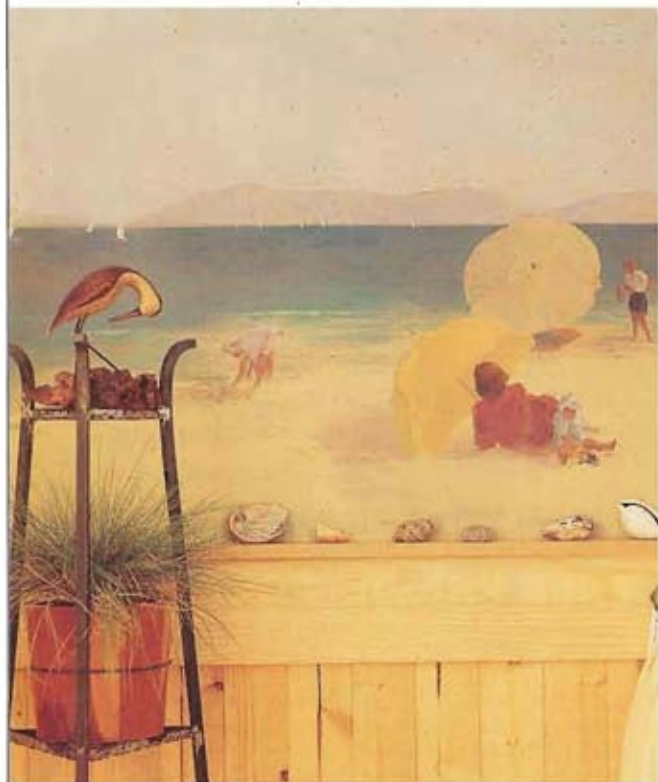


Glass Acts

Windows in the bathroom typically call for etched or frosted glass or a thicker curtain for privacy. This bathroom offers an inexpensive, painted alternative.



For varying levels of privacy, designer Sandra Bird and artist Kathy Coomer painted more panes around the commode and shower and fewer by the vanity. The unpainted upper panes offer a glimpse of the pool area and California valley.



Pine paneling creates a sand forefront for the beach mural that helps stretch the narrow room. Shell and sea grass accessories complete the theme.

At first, this bathroom seemed to offer little except dated maroon tile and cramped space. But the large windows with a view overlooking the pool, recreation area, and California valley beyond inspired designer Sandra Bird. So she continued the water motif indoors with a fresh, airy seascape theme.

To transform the boxy space, Bird covered the tile

walls with pine paneling and molding. The light pine instantly opened up the room and established a neutral tone for the color scheme.

Working with artist Kathy Coomer, Bird stretched the space even more with a seascape mural. Complete with beachcombers and sailboats, the scene adds visual depth to the room.

However, the real-life pool scene outside the

window presented a privacy problem. The small space needed the natural light from the windows, and a traditional dressing, such as a shade or draw draperies, would cramp the room.

"We needed to create some privacy, but we still wanted the wonderful light and a hint of the view," Bird says. "The house had a tremendous view over the valley. We didn't want to lose it."

Coomer and Bird devised a solution that offered privacy with a soft, unusual touch. Coomer stenciled the lower panes and ones around the commode and shower with a lacelike pattern. They left some of the upper panes clear to take advantage of natural light.

Coomer first adapted a

precut stencil to fit the dimensions of each pane as well as to create the design the team envisioned. After cleaning the window with ammonia (commercial cleaners may leave residues to which paint won't adhere), she taped her stencil to the window using blue long-release tape. (This can be found at hardware and paint stores; masking tape can leave a glue residue and when removed can peel paint from stenciled areas.) Coomer used flat white wall paint tinted ocher and a stipple brush to stencil. For opacity and privacy, Coomer later added a second coat using a synthetic sponge for a softer look.

To dress half of the window and block as little

light as possible, Bird chose scrim—a thin meshlike fabric. For this simple, no-sew treatment, Bird doubled the fabric and nailed seashell-shape knobs through the fabric directly onto the window molding. The seamless curtain then gently puddles on the floor, resembling foamy waves on the sand-color sisal flooring. □

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Written by Wendy Naugle
Photography by Jon Jensen
Interior design by Sandra Bird, Allied Member ASID.
Located at the Marin Designers Showcase, Novato, California. Produced by Helen Heitkamp

Painting Panes

An alternative to etched and frosted glass, this technique works on any window, whether to provide privacy or hide a horrible view. You can modify a precut stencil to fit inside your pane, or you can cut your own out of thin cardboard or Mylar sheets (sold in art supply stores). For an extra-fine design, use paper doilies as stencils, or spray paint through cloth lace. Artist Kathy Coomer recommends beginners start with enough stencil pieces to complete one area of the window at a time, rather than trying to move and duplicate a single design element across the entire window. But your pattern doesn't have to be perfect: "Part of the charm of stenciling is that it is not entirely even," says Coomer.

When selecting paint, consider how permanent you want the design to be and how heavily you use the bath. Neither water-base acrylics nor oil-base enamels are permanent on glass. Acrylics are easier to remove and may not endure the high humidity of a heavily used bathroom. Enamels resist scratching, withstand gentle cleaning, and last longer, but also can be scraped off with a razor blade.

Any color works, but adding more paint will not always intensify a color; instead, the hue becomes more opaque. If you opt to apply more than one coat or to layer colors, make sure you allow each coat to dry overnight; the paint will wipe off if still damp. Try your designs on paper first, then test on a small area of glass for the color and translucence.

There are also paints designed for glass that come in various adhesions. For example, Glass Stain by Delta (800/423-4135) and Deka Transparent Paint, Deka Translucent Paint, and Deka Gloss by Decart, Inc. (802/888-4217) are sold in art supply and crafts stores. If you're unable to find a local source, call the telephone numbers listed above.



Coomer adapted a stencil to fit each window pane. Warmed with a tint of ocher, the paint creates a feeling of warmth and adds to the soft, aged feel of the room.

Building an Image

In addition to furniture, accessories, and fabric, wallpaper can help create a certain mood or regional atmosphere in a room. These collections offer impressions of Italian patina, washed color, masculine club rooms, and formal elegance.



Italia

Motif Designs; 800/431-2424

Created out of designer Pat Farrell's fascination with Italy, this new collection bears that culturally rich country's colors, timeworn character, and regional themes—from the traditional to the lighthearted.

Several wallpaper and fabric patterns have the look of timeworn textiles, such as a multicolor damask wallpaper, Damasco, printed with slubs for an aged look; a grape-cluster wallpaper and fabric, Orvieto, that

looks as if it's painted over plaster with green, aubergine, burgundy, blue, and stone colors ebbed by the wind and rain.

In fine Italian tradition, there are also wallpapers that replicate marble and stone, majolica-hue tile walls with borders, and swirling gold arabesques on marbled backgrounds.

For whimsy, choose from garden statuary motifs such as Giardini, *below left*, or pasta shapes and coinlike motifs. Stripe and marble wallpapers round out the collection, which also includes a needlepoint-pattern floral border.

The washable wallpapers are \$19.95–\$23.95 per roll, borders are \$17.95 per roll, and companion fabrics are priced individually.



The Jocasta Innes Collection

*Seabrook Designs;
800/238-9152*

Renowned in the stenciling and decorative-painting worlds, Jocasta Innes is making headway in a new medium: wallpaper. This savvy British artist—known for making painted finishes easy for the average homeowner—has translated

