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sky-high escape

A California designer blends classic elements in the third-floor master bath hideaway of a 1916 Italianate show home.

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Ceiling of Sky

Painted in Blue Haze, the high ceiling in this Pasadena show house bath appears skylike. Designer Joshua Cain covered the corners of the ceiling and spilled the color onto the upper portion of the walls. "I wanted that ceiling to appear even more vast," he says.

Miles of Tiles

Cain covered the floor and walls with more than 50,000 pieces of white Calacatta marble in various sizes and shapes. "I know it sounds busy," he says, "but using the single white gives an overall effect that is textural but calming." Adding to the ethereal feel are metallic-stamped linen drapes that conceal motorized privacy shades.

Accelerated Aging

A carved custom vanity took on the patina of a centuries-old heirloom with the application of layers of metallic white and crackle paint. "I wanted it to look like it had been painted and repainted by successive generations," Cain says, "so that it would take on the perfect look without looking perfect."

Stay-Awhile Details

A comely chair and standing lamp encourage lingering, as does a heated floor. And on sunny days, the aged glass of the chandelier—a new piece with vintage character—catches the light, reflecting it across the ceiling in striking patterns.

Tub Divine

More than 6 feet long, the soaking tub is Art Deco-inspired and located between two windows with mountain views. "I don't like a solely Art Deco room, but single Deco pieces are clean enough to use in contemporary settings and historic enough to complement a vintage space like this," Cain says.

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