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WORLDS OF WHIMSY

One-of-a-kind rooms add more than a touch of playfulness to three exceptional second homes

BY JAN SILVER MAGUIRE



Ever since the ancient pharaohs erected the great pyramids of Egypt, the rich and famous have hunted for places and designed spaces to fulfill their interpretation of paradise or merely to indulge in sheer fun. Celebrated film director John Huston once unleashed his creative juices on canvas in an art studio within his 18th-century Irish manor. Frank Sinatra's Rancho Mirage, California compound contained a "caboose" transformed into a full-service salon complete with a barber chair and sauna. And Mick Jagger's Japanese-inspired villa on Mustique features, among other amenities, a fully-equipped game pavilion.

Whether your current or dream vacation getaway is an airy mountain cabin, a cozy ocean or lakefront cottage or a sprawling desert estate, second homes beg for experimentation. Create a room dedicated to your unique personality or favorite hobby, or simply gratify a long-held design fantasy. Let the distinctive spaces on the following pages serve as your guide to the wonderful world of whimsy.

Sink into Enchantment

Form and function seamlessly converge in a magical powder room in this 12,000-square-foot estate located in Desert Mountain, a high-end residential community in Scottsdale, Arizona. Featuring an abundance of sweeping curves, the home's overall architectural style projects a soft, contemporary feel.

"We didn't want to use hard geometrics in the home," explains senior interior designer Angelica Henry, ASID, of Scottsdale-based Janet Brooks Design. "The whole house plan itself is on a radius, and we incorporated it throughout the home."

In the powder room, the shape of the vanity, soffits, countertops, mosaic accent in the beige travertine flooring and other elements mirror the non-linear approach, as well as the homeowners' desire to create an experience that was different from the norm. Made of Bisazza Italian glass tiles—with a shimmering brown undertone that reflects the light in different variations—the vanity also served as the inspiration for the custom designed and fabricated stainless steel trough faucets.

One of the homeowners' specifications was to alleviate sound between the dining room and powder room, which are in close proximity to each other. To do this, Henry placed the faucet on a motion sensor and created a waterfall-like plumbing fixture. One challenge, she concedes, was finding a water supply that allowed the water to flow slowly enough without splashing.

With the soft sound of falling water and the gentle glow of incandescent lighting, the powder room is warm and enchanting, emulating the home's inviting appeal.



PHOTOS: EMARK BOISCLAIR PHOTOGRAPHY

"The experience of this powder room begins when you enter the room and the motion sensor activates the faucet," explains Henry. "The varying heights of the troughs used to carry the water create a soothing cascade of sound, and the mosaics used at the soffit, vanity and integral sink create a warm sparkle."

SOURCES: Bisazza, (305) 597-4099, bisazzausa.com; Desert Mountain, (800) 255-5519, desertmountain.com; Janet Brooks Design, (480) 776-2700

