

# impressions

kitchen & bath design

LOVE  
AT FIRST  
SIGHT

THE BRIZO® VIRAGE® BATH  
COLLECTION COMPLEMENTS  
DESIGNER'S PERSONAL TASTE  
AND HOME'S ARCHITECTURE







THE BRIZO®  
VIRAGE® BATH  
COLLECTION  
COMPLEMENTS  
THIS DESIGNER'S  
PERSONAL TASTE  
AND HER HOME'S  
ARCHITECTURE

# LOVE AT FIRST

As an interior designer, Angie Gardeck's days are dedicated to helping others successfully sort through the deluge of products and materials to achieve their design goals. However, when it comes to her own home, decisions don't always come easily.

"One of the hardest things to do as an interior designer is to decorate my own home," says the owner of New Perspective

Design in Algonquin, Illinois. "I'm exposed to hundreds of choices for every aspect of a project. Knowing trends and appreciating many different design styles make it even more difficult to make decisions for myself. For many designers, myself included, we are our own worst enemy. We either don't do it [decorate] or we agonize over it. I tend to over-analyze decisions because I view my personal choices

as a reflection of my business."

So when it came to updating her master bath, it was with a bit of excitement as well as hesitation that she embarked on the adventure. To her amazement, her first decision came quickly... a suite of products from the Brizo Virage Collection in the *Brilliance*® Polished Nickel finish, including lavatory faucets, multiple shower components and a Roman tub fixture.



Photography courtesy of Chris Bradley

# SIGHT



“The minute I saw the Virage Collection, I fell in love with it,” she says. “I never looked back, never questioned my decision. To this day, I love it as much as the day it was installed.”

For Gardeck, the faucet’s combination of traditional and contemporary features, which combine modern sophistication with hints of art deco styling, captured her attention and laid

the groundwork for the entire space. The Collection also offered a simple way to help conserve water, since the lavatory faucets and wall mount showerheads are WaterSense® labeled.\*

## ADD A BIT OF JEWELRY

Like many homeowners,

Gardeck struggled to find the right mix of products to complement her personal taste and her home’s architecture. “I have modern to contemporary taste, but I live in a traditional Georgian-style home in the Midwest,” she says.

“I wanted it to look as contemporary as possible, yet respect the bones of my house. That’s what the transitional look of Brizo products allows me to do.”

Oftentimes a bathroom is so functional, she notes. “You really only have two chances to make it pop,” she says. “One is with tile, the other is with plumbing. When you include plumbing fixtures with beautiful finishes, they make the space look so much more elegant. They are the ‘jewelry’ of the room.”

That can be a benefit in an economy where people may be

Shower components and a Roman tub fixture from the Brizo Virage Collection give Angie Gardeck the ability to complement her personal contemporary taste, yet respect the Georgian-style architecture of her home (left).

Dual Virage lavatory faucets provide elegance for Gardeck’s master bathroom by serving as the “jewelry” of the space (above).



Angie Gardeck  
newperspectivedesign.net

\*WaterSense®-labeled products provide up to 32% water savings versus the industry standard.





Removing one shower surround wall and replacing it with glass allows natural light to flow into the space. The angular tub, which is accented with a Brizo Virage Roman tub fixture, is surrounded by polished marble tiles as well as travertine and black granite mosaics.

hesitant about over-improving, she notes. “I often tell clients they don’t need to knock out walls to accommodate huge showers. They can include fixtures with beautiful finishes and their bathroom looks high end.”

## CREATE CONTRAST

To complement the transitional feel of the space, Gardeck sheathed accent walls with 2-inch by 2-inch travertine tiles and black granite mosaics. Larger 24-inch by 24-inch polished marble tiles surround the angular tub, cover the floor and highlight one shower wall and the false ceiling, which provides a place to run plumbing for the raincan showerhead. Marble trim moulding around the tub and shower provides an upscale, elegant look that pulls the space together.

To address storage concerns, Gardeck included an espresso-stained maple vanity with a center tower, which also conceals electrical outlets. Recessed mirrors serve as his-and-her medicine cabinets. “This area addresses most all of our storage needs,” she says, adding that another smaller cabinet sits behind the plumbing wall in the shower to organize paper and cleaning supplies. “Everything has its own spot so our bathroom can always be pulled together.”

A quartz vanity top in a complementary taupe color contrasts with the dark cabinetry. The 1.25-inch top was laminated with an additional 1.25-inch edge. “I wanted it to look like a big chunk of stone,” she says. “Plus, it provides a great backdrop to the Virage® faucets.”

While this was Gardeck’s first experience with Brizo® products, she is confident it won’t be her last. “Brizo products have a unique, upscale look,” she says. “I can get people who wouldn’t normally be interested in fixtures, interested in them because the styles are so unique. Now when I talk to my clients about fixtures, I start with the Brizo brand. It has become my ‘go-to’ line.” *i*

A trio of Brizo Virage shower components gives Angie Gardeck a spa-like experience for her relatively small space.



## LUXURY IN A SMALL SPACE

Designing a custom shower that provides for a luxurious and personal spa experience doesn’t necessarily require a large footprint, as many people may assume. Angie Gardeck, New Perspective Design, achieved that goal in a space no larger than 4 feet by 6 feet.

When the designer set out to update her master bathroom, increasing the shower’s footprint wasn’t an option, so Gardeck focused on changing its perceptual size and enhancing it with a mix of shower components designed to pamper.

Removing one shower surround wall and replacing it with glass gained a few precious inches, but more importantly it allowed her to capture natural light from the nearby window, resulting in a space that feels twice as large as the previous one.

Equally important, she focused on adding components that enhance the shower experience, directing water where desired. “There are a lot of interesting options available now to make a small shower luxurious,” she says. “You don’t need a large shower to get the feeling of a spa.”

As such, she included Brizo Virage wall mount and ceiling mount raincan showerheads with H<sub>2</sub>Okinetic™ technology and a handshower. “Evaluating needs is an important part of creating any custom shower,” she notes. “For my husband, a raincan showerhead was important. And with the three-way diverter, all three pieces can be used together to provide a feeling of being surrounded with water, even though we don’t have body sprays, which we felt we didn’t have the physical space for.”

In addition to identifying needs, Gardeck stresses the importance of evaluating budget, look and function, while ensuring water demands do not exceed water capacity and pressure. “If you have a large shower with a lot of body sprays, you want to make sure you have enough hot water to enjoy them,” she says. “In a space where you can spend thousands of dollars in the blink of an eye, focus on what you’re trying to accomplish.”