



RENOVATION STYLE  
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THE URBAN ELECTRIC CO.



Style MASTERING THE BATH

Left A confetti of multihue glass tiles evoking a beachy landscape lends playful style. The framed mirror provides a rustic counterpoint. Below Heidi Bonesteel and Michele Trout favor dramatic, oversize mirrors to impart elegance.

Right and far right: Photography by Karyn R. Miller

## Michele Trout & Heidi Bonesteel

*These California designers infuse even their most traditional bathrooms with waves of colorful, contemporary style.*

*Q What's the key to a great-looking bathroom?*

*A Heidi Bonesteel:* A bathroom is usually an exercise in restraint because of space considerations, so everything you put in it has to be perfection. The hardware has to be beautiful, the shape of the sink is important—everything counts.

*Q What are your must-have style components?*

*A Michele Trout:* We always seem to use marble—to us it's more elegant than granite. We also like to make the woods we use interesting. Rather than paint them, we'll do a really pretty wood finish. We love to play with beautiful tile. And we're not afraid of color.

*Q Clearly! Will you tell us more about how you use color?*

*A MT:* In a powder room we use color very strongly. In a master bathroom it's more of an accent. But we always use it. A good way to choose a color scheme is to pick a color you love to wear, or the color of your eyes. If a bathroom has blue tile and the lady of the house has blue eyes, she will look beautiful in that bathroom.

*Q How would you finish this sentence? People don't realize...*

*A HB:* ... their bathroom doesn't have to look like the bathroom they grew up with. For instance, the mirror can be bigger than they think. With everything that's available today and approved for wet areas, even the light fixtures can be really elegant. You just have to push yourself to find the right sources.



*What Inspires You?*

Heidi Bonesteel and Michele Trout share their California-look faves so you, too, can bathe in sunny style—no matter where you live.

**1. Calacatta Marble, Empire Marble** Whether in slab or tile form, its neutral coloring and rich, random veining lend themselves well to almost any decorating scheme.

**2. Tara Collection Fixtures, Dornbracht** The two designers pour on the accolades for this modern interpretation of classic bath hardware, *batfam*. "We love its sculptural lines," Trout says.

**3. Melissa Sconce, The Urban Electric Co.** The epitome of slender simplicity, this sconce, *for right*, will illuminate your good taste. It's available with a variety of backplate options.

**4. Hemp Rugs, Mansour** Durability and natural sun resistance are just two of the many reasons these fashionable, functional rugs get high marks from Bonesteel and Trout.

**5. Glass Apothecary Jars, Waterworks** Standouts for storage as well as display, the large scale of these jars makes them clear favorites of Bonesteel and Trout.

**6. 1x6-inch Repose Glass Tiles, Waterworks** Like a sea of calm, these multitone mosaic tiles, *top left*, wash over bathroom surfaces with unparalleled depth of color.

**7. The California Coastline** Bonesteel and Trout attribute their fresh style to the coastline, *above right*, outside their office windows. "It's not hard to bring turquoise into a house because it's around us every day," Bonesteel says.

**8. Karl Lagerfeld's Online Fashion Shows** Travel by the Internet to Karl Lagerfeld's Paris fashion shows, as Bonesteel and Trout do. Even from your armchair, the sights and sounds are sure to inspire.

**9. Rialto Outdoor Market, Venice** An Italian farmer's market of sorts, the Rialto Market in the heart of Venice dates from the 11th century. Its crowds are as colorful as its wares.

**10. Mother Nature, top right** The simple truth: "Nothing beats Mother Nature," Bonesteel says.

