



A CRAGGY WALL OF MULTICOLORED SLATE LINES THE BACK OF THE SHOWER (ABOVE, LEFT), WHICH IS EQUIPPED WITH 13 SPRAYS, HEATED MIRRORS AND FROSTED WINDOWS ADJOINING THE MAIN HALLWAY. AN ELLIPTICAL VANITY (ABOVE, RIGHT) FEATURES BACK-TO-BACK GROOMING STATIONS SET BENEATH A HALO OF COVE LIGHTS. THE WET ROOM (OPPOSITE) ADJOINING THE SPA IS WRAPPED IN IRIDESCENT TILE AND FEATURES A SPACIOUS STEAM SHOWER FURNISHED WITH A TOILET AND SINK, SO IT CAN DOUBLE AS A GUEST BATHROOM. DORNBRACHT SHOWER FIXTURES, PORCHER SINK AVAILABLE FROM THE FIXTURE GALLERY, (206) 632-4488.

Most people see their home as a refuge from work. But the two are almost indistinguishable for Michael Zanoni and Christopher Wheeler.

"The jobs that we have are just incredibly stressful," says Michael, a financial consultant. "We're working from the moment we wake up until the moment we go to bed."

Four years ago, he and Christopher, the chairman and COO of a software company, purchased an unfinished condominium on Alki. After rollerblading around its 4,000-square-foot interior a few times, the pair headed off to Europe for a rare vacation. There, while lounging in a German spa, they had an epiphany: Why not create a home that feels like a spa?

Today, the two don't have to travel to Baden-Baden to indulge their senses; heaven is as close as the bathroom door.

Actually, "bathroom" hardly seems sufficient to describe the luxury layout designed by Don Mackay, Todd James Bertellotti and Lori Naig Wilwerding of GGLO. Woven-wire screens at the end of the main hall part to reveal a spacious bathing room dominated by a heroically

scaled stainless-steel tub. The tub sits in a river-rock-lined moat fed by a pair of gurgling basalt pillars. Cypress beams cross the grass-cloth ceiling, offering a warm counterpoint to the ebony slate floors. A neighboring vanity boasts ample towel storage and refrigerated drawers stocked with bottled water.

Iridescent glass tiles line the "wet room" next door, which features a spacious steam shower equipped with a toilet and sink. (The shower doubles as a bathroom for guests, who sometimes ask friends to stand guard at the swinging door while they use the facilities.)

To one side sits a home gym; to the other, a spacious master bath replete with freestanding back-to-back vanities and another shower—this one equipped with five spray heads, eight body jets, heated mirrors and frosted-glass windows adjoining the toilet and main hallway (clearly, this isn't a home for the bashful). Closets faced in sapele wood are echoed in the snug bedroom, where a three-sided fireplace warms a reading nook upholstered in purple chenille.

If the private spaces look like something out of a Club Med brochure, the public parts seem lifted from an episode of *The Real World*. Home electronics wink behind sliding panels of diffused glass, while sinuous cove lights suffuse the interior with a serene glow. A



60-inch plasma TV swivels around on a central column, allowing the owners to watch from every corner of the condo. "You can actually see that TV from the street," observes Michael, "so we get lots of people who hang out down there and watch the movies with us."

At the owners' request, walls and doors were kept to a minimum, and the home office (where the pair estimates they spend three-quarters of their time) was left open to the surrounding area. "We don't like a lot of compartmentalized space," says Christopher. "Our life is really one of interaction rather than trying to find quiet spaces to get away."

Since guests always congregate in the kitchen, the owners asked GGLO to make that the focal point of the interior. Anigre cabinets topped with inky concrete counters surround a central island capped with lava stone—volcanic rock treated with an enamel glaze the color of an Alpine lake. Dirty dishes are whisked to a scullery in

the adjoining hall.

Michael and Christopher never entertain formally, so they decided to forgo a dining table in favor of an extendable breakfast bar that seats eight (an idea that actually *was* inspired by *The Real World*.) A window-lined circular bay houses the grand piano, where Christopher can tickle the ivories surrounded by sweeping views of Elliott Bay, the Olympics and downtown. "It's almost the dream place to play," he says.

Furnishings are few and artwork is nearly nonexistent. "We wanted the house to be the art," says Michael. Consequently, drywall was banished everywhere except on the ceiling, replaced with swirling expanses of Venetian plaster, glittering mosaic tile or craggy slate.

"The whole purpose of the house was to just come in and feel completely relaxed," says Michael.

It might not be Baden-Baden. But you can't beat the commute. ■