



The Suburban Bath features earth tones and fixtures by **Brizo**.

# THREE BATHS

A DESIGNER TAKES  
MULTIPLE PATHS.

TEXT **PAUL HAGEN**

**A**s the principal at Dan Rak Designs, Dan Rak does a great deal of thinking about giving clients both what they want and need—especially in the bath. “Our philosophy is that a bathroom should be both beautiful and functional—a serene, spa-like retreat tailored to the client’s lifestyle,” says Rak. “Beyond the client’s requests, we always prioritize optimal space planning, durable yet luxurious materials, and timeless design that won’t feel dated over time.”

Rak understands that his role may involve guiding even the most indecisive clients to choices with which they will love living. “Clients often

struggle with selecting tile—whether it’s choosing between bold or neutral, large or small format, or deciding on grout color,” he offers. So how does he get them from overwhelmed to overjoyed? “To guide them, we present mood boards with different combinations and encourage them to consider longevity and practicality.” Sometimes the solution is finding a compromise between safe choices and big swings. “We also remind them that a statement tile can be balanced with more understated selections elsewhere in the space.”

Once he’s pleased the people, Rak still needs to address the practicalities. “Space constraints and plumbing

configurations often require creative problem-solving,” he notes. He recalls one project he worked on where a client desperately wanted a freestanding tub in a space that wasn’t designed to accommodate it. “We reconfigured the layout and selected a more compact, sculptural tub that delivered the aesthetic without compromising usability.”

When clients are interested, Rak is ready to help them make daring choices—up to a point. “Fixtures are a great place to take a calculated risk—whether it’s an unexpected finish or a sculptural shape,” he says. “That said, we tend to advise our clients to select simple, timeless plumbing fixtures—particularly in bathrooms. Other



The golden tones of this **Watermark** floor-mount tub filler bring a sunny glow to anyone taking a dip in the City Bath.





Elsewhere  
in the  
Suburban Bath,  
soft window  
treatments  
create a  
cocoon around  
a tub with a  
filler by **Brizo**.

elements of those spaces can be changed easily if you want to freshen things up, but plumbing fixtures—especially showers—are harder.”

To see Rak in action, we considered three of his baths—each with its own personality. For ease of reference, we’ve dubbed them Suburban Bath, City Bath, and Moody Bath.

#### THE SUBURBAN BATH

The first two baths we’ll look at were for two different

homes of the same client—one in the suburbs and the other in the city. It’s worth noting that—despite being crafted by the same designer to please the same people—they are markedly different. “We always consider previous designs, but the goal is to complement rather than duplicate.”

“In the Suburban Bath, we leaned traditional with elements like a classic vanity profile and shaded light fixtures, while keeping it fresh with bolder colors and more exciting metal finishes,” he explains—referring to fixtures by Brizo.



“Unlike the black-and-white City Bath—where contrast naturally defines the space—finding the right mix of color in the Suburban Bath required careful balancing of all the elements in the space as well as the different styles we were playing with.”

#### THE CITY BATH

Rak says shaping the City Bath required different kinds of combinations. “A black-and-white palette can feel stark without thoughtful layering,” he explains. “Texture—in the form of soft textiles, wallcoverings, and mixed finishes—is essential to making the space inviting.”

Rak also mentions the importance of the finish on the pieces from Watermark. “The golden-hued fixtures were a deliberate choice to add warmth and contrast, preventing the bathroom from feeling too cool or sterile,” he explains. “The clients also particularly loved the black-and-white bath’s wallcovering, which softened the space beautifully.”

#### THE MOODY BATH

Next, we turned to Rak’s work with a different client altogether. But we couldn’t help but ask whether he was concerned about using dark colors in close quarters when creating the Moody Bath. “The key to using dark colors without making a space feel smaller is strategic lighting, reflective surfaces, and well-placed contrast,” Rak explains. “We balanced the plum tones with lighter elements, ensuring the space remained inviting.”

Other color choices include a beautiful tub from Victoria + Albert in a rich shade of green. “The sage tub and patterned counter-top were bold choices, but we carefully curated materials to ensure harmony,” Rak says. “We



This tub from  
**Victoria + Albert**  
shines within the  
Moody Bath.





A wider look at the City Bath shows more of its black and white details—as well as additional fixtures from **Watermark.**

knew we were making bolder choices, but felt that it would come together.”

Rak is happy to report that at the end of each of these projects, his clients were thrilled with the results. “These bathrooms exemplify our approach to blending timeless design with personalized details,” he adds. “Beyond the aesthetics, our work is deeply rooted in understanding how our

clients live and ensuring their spaces enhance their daily routines.”

And together these three baths may be proof that no matter how many bathrooms one designs, every space is part of a new journey for both designer and client. “Each project is unique,” Rak says, “but comfort, elegance, and livability are always at the core.” See more of Rak’s work beyond the bath at [danrakdesign.com](http://danrakdesign.com). ■