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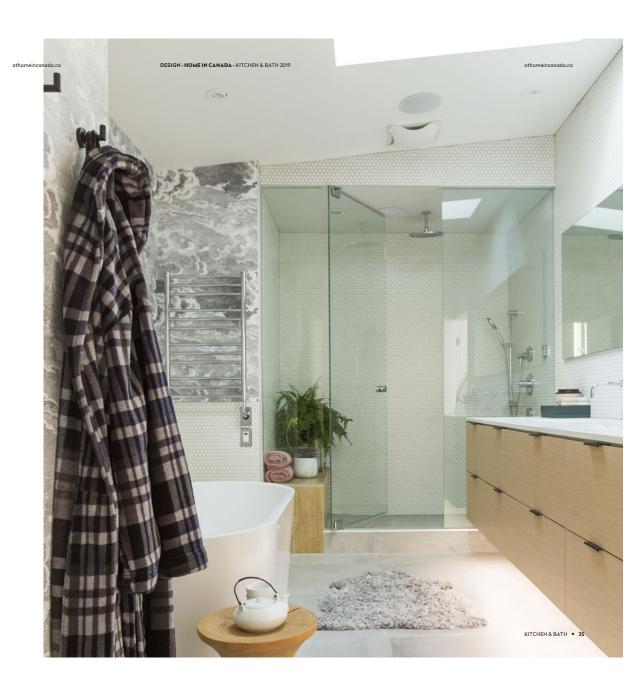
### FULL STEAM AHEAD

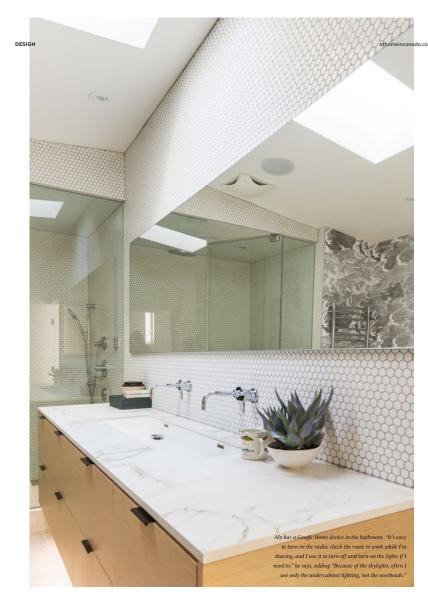
A Calgary bathroom is designed with luxurious amenities that recall those in top-quality hotels

> BY PHILLIPA RISPIN PHOTOGRAPHY: LORI ANDREWS STYLING: ELENA DEL BUCCHIA

**ALY SUMAR TRAYELS** – a lot. This hard-working banker has had the opportunity to stay in top-quality hotels, and he wanted similar low-key luxury in his new home in the Altadore neighbourhood of Calgary.

Aly asked his friend, interior designer Elena Del Bucchia, principal of clena del buchia DESIGN, for help in getting exactly the look and feel he wanted. He had discovered this home in the process of being built, so he and Del Bucchia were able to design it almost from the drywall up before he moved in just over two years ago. →







Aly didn't give Del Bucchia a lot of specifics when discussing the design of the ensuite not sure," Del Bucchia recounts. "But he master bathroom except that he wanted to always has a suit and tie on, so I said 'I know feel as though he were in a luxurious hotel. you like suits and shoes; why don't we refer "I relied a lot on Elena to help with ideas," he to them? We'll give the bathroom more massays. "We tore apart a lot of different concepts, culine features - plaid and monochromatic but I did know I like a modern aesthetic."

Says Del Bucchia, "I asked him 'Is there a specific way you want your space to look, room's function. In the space (10 feet wide feel and function?' and he said 'Not really. and 20.5 feet long) he wanted a heated towel I trust you and you know what I like.' He rack, natural light, and the water closet separlikes high-end things and referred to 'subtle ated with a door. But the big thing was steam: luxury.' He recognizes craftsmanship and he wanted a steam shower, and the builder quality of materials."

In terms of colour, "he kept saying 'I am - but it will feel like a spa."

Aly, however, was very decided about the accommodated with a large space. →

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sept the room's eme and then to acklook tiles, made oak caborces the Euroundermount ed faucets. The urable Dekton, neither a stain e porcelain tiles are usurfaces in the unatural sheepee, "I sugested also see in the bothing look of the twas added to om's sleek, unn both tone and natural light," on the lights, is the combinated towels and go home from a winter. My first ace to let go of evening." a

In the shower, Del Bucchia kept the room's monochromatic colour scheme and then added a shower bench clad in oak-look tiles, which is a nod to the custom-made oak cabinetry in the room.

The floating vanity reinforces the European sauna look, with an undermount trough sink and wall-mounted faucets. The marble-look countertop is durable Dekton, which is practical and needs neither a stain nor sealing.

On the floor, 24-inch-square porcelain tiles that resemble concrete sit atop an underfloor heating system. Similar but smaller tiles are used on the shower floor.

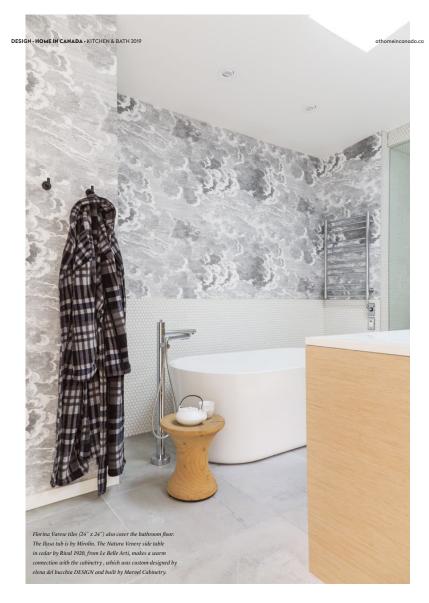
To counter all the smooth surfaces in the room, Del Bucchia provided a natural sheep-skin rug. To add more texture, "I suggested wallpaper, something he can also see in the mirror," she says. "It has a soothing look of captivating clouds."

In addition, an extra skylight was added to the bathroom.

While appreciating the room's sleek, unfussy style, Aly finds it warm in both tone and temperature. "There's lots of natural light," he says. "I rarely need to turn on the lights."

"But my favourite aspect is the combination of steam shower, heated towels and heated tiles. Especially coming home from a long dog walk in the dead of winter. My first steam was amazing. It's a place to let go of thoughts and unwind for the evening."

Florina Varese tile (2" x 4") in Cenere, from Tierra Sol, gives a cool, subtle pattern to the shower floor. The walls here and in most of the room are covered in one-inch hexagonal tiles from the Contract Mosaic Mosaico series.



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