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designer Q&A



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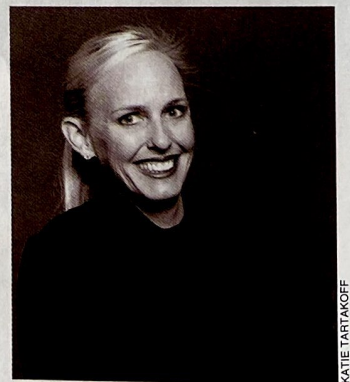
Lane Oliver has been designing high-end residential interiors for 20 years. Lane's award-winning work portrays her passion for diversity of styles and has been published in CH&LM and several national magazines. Lane Elisabeth Oliver Interior Design, Inc., Denver 80209, (303) 722-4288 (phone); (303) 722-4236 (fax).

Q. My husband and I have various personal care appliances that use electrical outlets and end up cluttering our bathroom countertops. Do you have a solution that will clear the counters and spare us the inconvenience of always plugging and unplugging the appliances?

A. A grand built-in center cabinet that divides a double sink area, *above*, is an excellent place to store your personal care appliances and adds interest to your bathroom. Install electrical outlets to the inside of the cabinet so you can keep your small appliances plugged in at all times.

Q. I have a limited budget so I cannot use granite or marble slab on my countertops. Since I do not want to use basic white tile, what would you suggest for an interesting counter treatment?

A. We are lucky that the design industry has developed so many great materials. Try a ceramic tile that looks like tumbled marble on your counter—it lends a soft look but is also durable. To give the counter more dimension, use an onyx bullnose cut on the front edge. Do the same at the top edge of the backsplash for a lovely finish.



KATIE TARTAKOFF

Send questions to: Designer Q&A, c/o Christina Armstrong, CH&LM, 7009 S. Potomac St., Ste. 200, Englewood, CO 80112, or e-mail carmstrong@ColoradoHomesMag.com