

BATHROOMS

MORE THAN ONE WAY TO MAKE A SPLASH

A NAUTICAL THEME for a boy's bath is nothing new—unless it's a high-seas design delivered in high style. Instead of employing overworked themes like sailing regattas and starfish, this design makes fresh waves through subtlety. The sea isn't literally depicted, but only suggested through sophisticated materials. Because of that, there's plenty of room for the child to grow—all the way to adulthood.

A metaphor for marine life from the ground up, the design features a travertine marble floor the color of beach sand, *below*, swept with a curve of sea-blue raku tile. Tiles ranging from aquamarine to navy also stand in as wainscoting. In the shower, they envelop the walls with all the color variation—and hint of depth change—of the deep sea. A vanity countertop of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch iridescent glass is tinted and textured to



suggest the appearance of water. A bowl sink is unexpectedly mounted on top. Rope-suspended shelves continue the nautical look, along with ocean-liner-style built-in seating and wood cabinetry that curves like the ribs of a hand-built boat.

The tile surfaces are naturally easy care, and the wood surfaces are protected with marine varnish. Even the pillows on the corner bench are low maintenance. Made of terry toweling, they go right into the washer.

Pasadena Showcase House of Design

Interior Design: Cynthia Bennett, CCIDC

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For more information, see the Buying Guide on page 168.

BY CANDACE ORD MANROE

above it all

Above-counter sinks, often called vessels or bowls, appeal to artistic and minimalist sensibilities. Though it's considered a contemporary look, an above-counter sink owes its design inspiration to a simple wash basin placed on a stand—a look that predates indoor plumbing. By reducing the sink to its essential shape and placing it in a prominent position, above-counter designs turn the fixture into a focal point. The design statement is often punctuated by the use of striking colors and materials, such as designer Cynthia Bennett's pairing of a green sink and an iridescent glass countertop in this nautical-theme boy's bath.

