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Charles Allem

Then creating baths, designer Charles Allem draws inspiration from the spa: "It should be a place where you can relax and make yourself feel gorgeous." The master bath he designed for writer-producer Steven Bochco and his wife, Dayna, on the Kohala Coast of Hawaii (see Architectural Digest, August 2005), is a prime example of Allem's bathas-sanctuary principle. The space, set in a 2,500-square-foot master suite pavilion that also includes a massage room and kitchen, features a porcelain Kohler tub with a rich mahogany case. Mahogany floors, wovenlinen wallcoverings and bamboo shades give it a cocoonlike ambience. Sliding glass doors that open to a lush courtyard add to that natural feel, transforming the room into an indoor-outdoor space. "Luxury is my word for baths," Allem remarks, and to achieve that, he suggests, yes, using sumptuous materials—but in moderation. Today people expect their baths to be more than a place for personal hygiene, but that shouldn't translate into an overdesigned room, he says. For him, cohesion equals calm. "All of us have frantic lifestyles," he explains. "For the bath, you want that feeling of retreat."

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