

WASH & WATCH



The Manhattan bath owned by interior designer Frank Webb (above) accommodates TV viewing for both sink users. So the 13-inch Sharp LCD TV wouldn't look like an afterthought, Webb framed the set within a custom-cut piece of Botticino marble.

Some homeowners believe mounting a TV in the master bath can save a person's marriage. Kevin Hooks, a self-employed Las Vegas businessman, has a TV in every room of his home and maintains that his bathroom's 20-inch Sharp AQUOS LCD TV keeps him out of the doghouse (see page 68). "It's like a get-out-of-jail free card," he laughs. "Guys typically get ready faster than most women, so they often head for the couch to watch the game, and then they hold up things. Now I get ready and watch the game at the same time." The TV's rotating arm allows Hooks to watch the game even while he's in the shower.

While installing the TV was Hooks' idea, his wife uses it, and the shower's sound system, as much as he does. "I am putting a lot of speakers in saunas and showers, and 32- and 42-inch plasma TVs," says custom installer Kevin Peltier of HP Media Group.

"It's also common for the master bedroom TV to play through the set in the bath."

Another relationship-saving television-in-the-bath installation space is owned and designed by Frank Webb of New York's White Webb LLC (above). Here, a 13-inch Sharp LCD is positioned between the vanity's double mirrors to accommodate equal viewing for both sink users. Framed with Botticino marble, the TV pivots, allowing Webb to watch the *Today* show from the shower and the bathtub. "We didn't have enough room to recess it into the wall, but we didn't want the TV to look like an afterthought, so it's framed to give it a presence."

Not surprisingly, blending a television into carefully orchestrated decor has also been known to ignite marital disputes. Such

is the case of the 400-square-foot master bath owned by a former music industry bigwig, who refused to include a TV amid the onyx flooring, crystal chandelier and custom Italian Murano sconces (see page 72). Instead, the TV peers through the mirror of his vanity.

"We discussed putting the TV on the countertop, but that would have detracted from the elegance of the space," says interior designer Peter Salerno of Peter Salerno Inc. in Wyckoff, N.J. Since square footage was not an issue, Electronic Home Architects of Bergen County, N.J., installed the remote-controlled TV in the large closet