

CASE STUDY

Marsh & Clark Design Awarded First Cifial Uncharted Waters Design Award

Designers Innovatively Meet Challenge to Create Illusion of Space in Modest-Sized Powder Room

Pushing boundaries and exploring new ideas have been the driving forces behind Portuguese-based Cifial's functional and artistic plumbing fixtures since the company was founded in 1904. Cifial utilizes state-of-the-art casting, forging, machining and finishing technology to create luxurious designs ranging from plumbing and bath accessories to door and cabinet hardware. In honor of its exploratory spirit, Cifial USA launched the Uncharted Waters Design Competition in 2009. The award recognizes outstanding interior designers who specify Cifial products and have pushed the envelope of design in their projects.

San Francisco design firm, Marsh & Clark Design earned the first Uncharted Waters Design Award in 2009 for its work on a pint-sized San Francisco powder room.

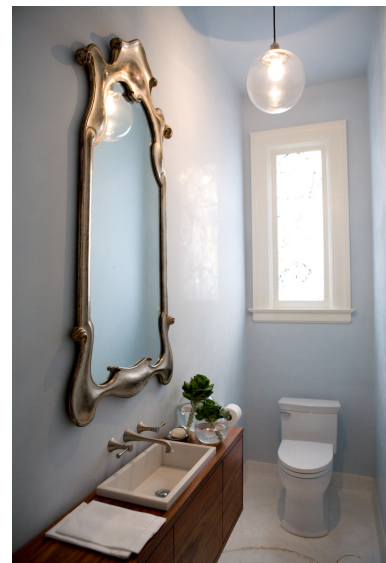
Setting the Scene

Marsh & Clark set out to create an aesthetically remarkable space that maximized functionality. The team was challenged with creating a luxurious and sustainable powder room within the dimensions of nine feet by three feet. The unusually small bathroom size forced the designers to explore new possibilities for all elements of the room. During the discovery process, the design team explored several different solutions with local businesses and craftsmen. They considered custom-built furnishings that incorporated reused materials, as well as functional yet distinctively luxurious accessory elements, including fixtures and hardware.

"Our vision was that we wanted to make a space that really was beautiful - it was a tiny space so we wanted it to stand out," said Christiana Ferroggiaro, project manager and interior designer at Marsh & Clark. "We wanted to focus on the beauty of the handcrafted elements and take that small space and make it really shine."

Bringing It All Together

To solve its space limitations, Marsh & Clark utilized custom cabinetry and an atypical faucet mounting to not only conserve space but also to create the illusion of ample space. The sink area was outfitted with a wall-mounted faucet from the Cifial Brookhaven collection. Cifial's handcrafted Brookhaven



faucet was chosen for its modest and graceful curvature and slim profile. Additionally, the fixture's design united the room's modern elements and classic detail. The faucet, which saved room for counter space, complemented a custom-built suspended vanity with a depth of only 12 inches. Together, the wall-mounted faucet and custom vanity defied limited dimensions and opened the area for light and space.

Marsh & Clark Design also utilized existing surfaces to give the room an air of elegance. A mosaic of limestone and hand-cut marble tiles formed a curved vine-shaped pattern that led a tendril up a powder-blue wall. A stained-glass style window mosaic was created to geometrically mimic the floor. Both elements recycled used materials, reducing the environmental impact of the project.



Form Meets Function

The result was a timeless powder room, outfitted with elegant details, both modern and traditional. Marsh & Clark's use of the Cifial Brookhaven faucet and the custom vanity lent functionality to the sink and the walkway space. By taking an innovative approach to materials and design, Marsh & Clark created a distinctive design with classic appeal that truly capitalized on available surfaces and space.

An Award-Winning Look



The design was selected as the winner of Cifial USA's 2009 Uncharted Waters Design Competition. The competition was open to all residential and commercial interior designers in the continental United States. All projects included Cifial product and were completed after Jan. 1, 2008. Entries were judged by the Cifial USA design team, headed by internationally-renowned industrial designer Carlos Aguiar. His long list of accomplishments include recipient of the Design Plus, Good Design and Red Dot awards for Cifial product design.

As the 2009 Uncharted Waters Design Competition winner, Marsh & Clark received \$20,000 worth of Cifial product. In addition, Marsh & Clark designers joined two other finalists in an all-expense paid trip to Cifial's Atlanta headquarters to meet the Cifial design team.

"Marsh & Clark truly captured the spirit of the Uncharted Waters competition," said Jim Osborne, director of sales at Cifial. "The firm embodies what we created our handcrafted finishes to do: push the limits for exceptional design."