

Project Profile



USG DUROCK® Brand Cement Board

Application/Building Type:

Single-Family Construction

Project Name:

2 Contemporary Mediterranean Baths
Custom Pampering Bath

Location:

Miami, Florida
Stuart, Florida

Architect:

Barry Sugerman, PA, AIA

Featured Products:

DUROCK® Brand Cement Board
DUROCK® Brand Underlayment
SHEETROCK® Brand Gypsum Panels



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Beautiful Bathrooms Built to Last

Three Florida bathroom renovations had one thing in common hidden beneath the colorful tile and granite—[DUROCK® brand cement board](#), a durable portland cement board that is specifically made for long-term performance as a tile substrate.

Miami, Florida

Two of the bathrooms were in a Miami residence occupied by a family with three sons. The house has a contemporary Mediterranean exterior design that influenced interiors, including the bathrooms.

“The master bath features a light soffit that is a contemporary version of a Mediterranean crown molding,” explained Barry Sugerman, PA, AIA, Miami, the architect. “The soffits have facets that are stepped, but of unequal size. The windows also are unequal size to add a feeling of fun to the design. The floor has three different granite tiles in a pattern that suggests an area rug. The use of wood in the ceiling and in cabinets adds warmth to offset the coolness of the large mass of granite. The tub deck and risers have 2-inch-by-2-inch reveals to create a floating effect.”

“The design here was a three-dimensional tile bathroom with lots of niches and ledges, and a colorful combination of tiles,” continued Sugerman. “Also, since the bathroom was the only one without an outside view, we created a large, dramatic skylight.

“The substrate on floors, walls, and other tile surfaces in both bathrooms was [DUROCK cement board](#), which we believe has better adhesion and workability than other types of substrate. We chose it to provide long-term, trouble-free performance for our expensive tile surfaces,” Sugerman said.

Besides using [DUROCK cement board](#) as a high-performance substrate for ceramic tile, [SHEETROCK® brand gypsum panels](#) from the United States Gypsum Company were applied to wood framing to enclose the large skylight.

Stuart (Sailfish Point), Florida

In another Florida house, Sugerman created a custom bathroom to meet a completely different set of criteria. Here, the house was occupied by empty nesters who wanted a winter home where they could pamper themselves.

“The bathroom in the Sailfish Point house looked out into a front garden enclosed by a wall,” he said. “We created a large window to take advantage of the view. The bathroom features his-and-her showers and washbasins, and contains built-in benches. ‘His’ shower features rain bars and magna showers and has no door, while ‘her’ shower is enclosed for warmth. The wall and floor surfaces of the entire bathroom are all marble with the marble running horizontally and the grain running vertically.

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Even the towel stack is enclosed in marble, and has a marble base that matches the articulation of wood bases throughout the house,” Sugerman said.

[Durock cement board](#) was used as a substrate for the marble slabs on walls, ceilings, benches, and the towel stack. Besides being uniquely made for top performance as a ceramic tile substrate, it is warranted for 30 years against defects resulting from water penetration. It is available in several sizes, including 3 feet by 5 feet, which is ideal for typical bathroom applications. The standard thickness of [Durock cement board](#) is 1/2 inch, but 5/8-inch-thick cement board is available where needed to match up with other wall surfaces; and 5/16-inch-thick [Durock® brand underlayment](#) is recommended for most floor and countertop applications because it matches up well with other floor materials.