



Garden tubs are soothing and much more

The Associated Press

A zesty shower is nice for waking up in the morning, but nothing soothes the muscles at day's end like a slow soak in a welcoming tub. And if that tub is nestled next to a window or an array of glass, as garden tubs are, that makes the experience all that more enjoyable.

Garden tubs offer natural light (or moonlight) in abundance. Tucked into a windowed corner, they're basked in light. Since the most common tub shapes are oval or an elongated rectangle, a corner placement frees up much space. The bather can be surrounded by plants,

extra towels, candles, bathing salts and oils, a loofah sponge — you name it. Extra storage space is created beneath the tub, too, even after, say, the mechanical elements for a whirlpool are installed. Homeowners needn't worry about prying eyes, either. If the house is situated in such a way that neighbors could catch a glimpse of a bathing beauty, windows can

be made of glass block, many styles of which admit light while greatly distorting interior shapes; or simply covered with near-sheer blinds or draperies, which allow light to penetrate while blocking views. For the ultimate pampering, remote-controlled blinds are available, so that the bather never needs to leave the water. Now that's comfort.

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