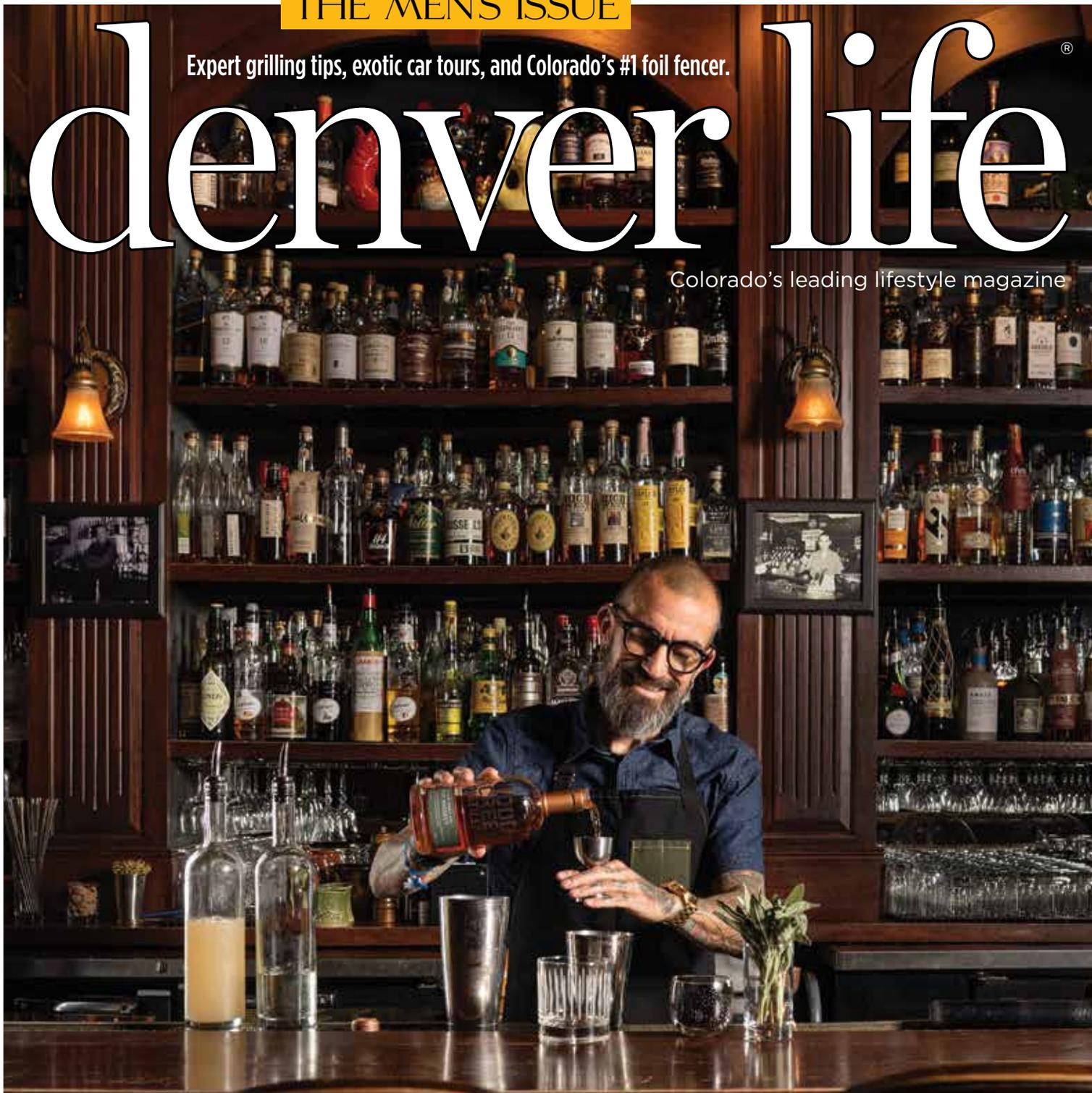


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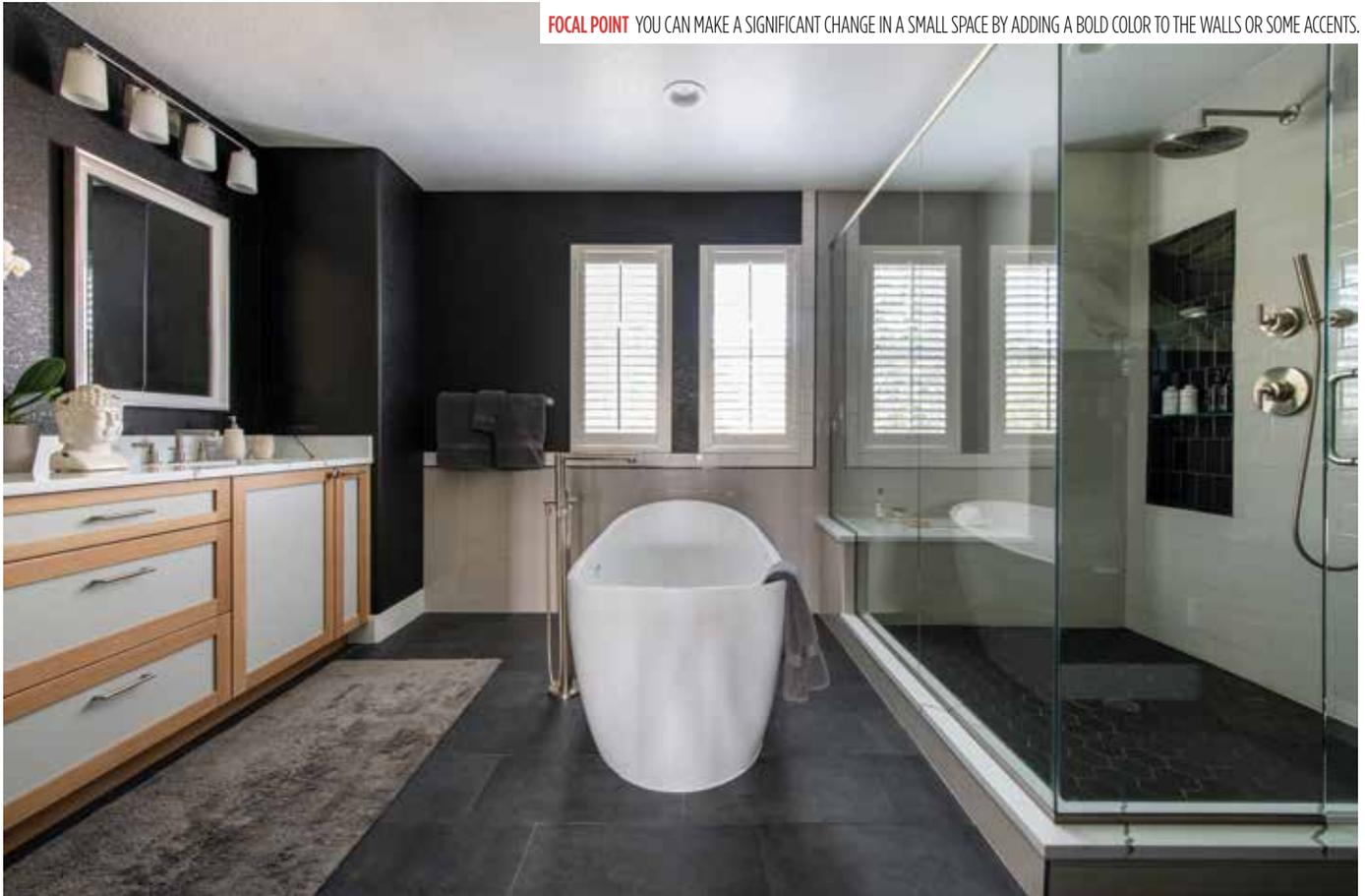
The Rally Hotel caters to MLB fans and more in McGregor Square.

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A bold move

TAKING A RISK WITH WALL COLOR CAN TURN ANY ROOM (BIG OR SMALL) INTO AN ENTERPRISING STATEMENT WHEN IT'S DONE RIGHT. *by Kerrie Lee Brown*

Tennille Wood knows that presenting a bold idea to a client—such as a black and white bathroom—can be a gamechanger. As CEO and principal designer of the award-winning design firm Beautiful Habitat, she is an expert at establishing interesting focal points, and luckily, this particular bathroom had adequate space to make her vision come to life.

“In this [owner’s] bathroom there was a real opportunity for improving the floorplan without expanding the bathroom or taking space from another room,” she says. “The clients were open to and embraced painting the walls black. While all of my



clients trust me, it is a truly special client that is ready to go so bold with me.” Wood says the male home owner (husband) was very involved in the design conversations. “For instance, he preferred geometric patterns and requested contrast. He was also very clear that herringbone and chevron patterns were not his favorite.”

MAKING BIG CHANGES

Like many homes built in the 1990s and early 2000s, the original bathroom featured a huge tub deck and a small shower. This unique space also had two separate vanities on opposite sides of the room. So, with some clever rearrangement, Wood was able to combine

PRO TIPS: ADDING DARK WALLS TO A ROOM

- Dark or bold wall colors don't need to be intimidating or overwhelming. Trust your instinct.
- Remember to incorporate balance in the room as a whole. This can be done with color or accents.
- Consider the amount of dark wall being used and eliminate if necessary. "We removed a lot of black wall between the shower tile, added a lighter vanity, and large scale artwork to keep the room in balance."

the vanity, dramatically increase the shower size, and add a freestanding bathtub. "We turned the bath tub by 90 degrees so it is now perpendicular to the windows instead of parallel to the windows. This makes a dramatic focal point upon entering the bathroom."

DESIGN DIRECTIVE

Pitching an unusual color can also be risky, but Wood makes these challenges part of her strategy. "I love efficiency and function [and] I immediately saw that this bathroom could be enhanced with a new floor plan to better use the space available," she adds. "The design directive from our clients was an update that would make the home more contemporary and clean-lined. They told me early on that they liked contrast. That was music to my ears and immediately became my inspiration for the bathroom."

Wood knew that since plumbing fixtures are usually white, the contrast was going to be black. However, black and white can be very energetic, while an owner's suite bathroom should be a place that invites relaxation. Therefore, in order to soften the black and white color palette, she added a soft gray in the shower tiles and vanity cabinets. Finally, Wood added a touch of raw white oak on the vanity. "The natural wood gave the room just a hint of warmth and kept it from feeling cold and sterile." **DLM**



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