

designer's eye



Function meets form in an elegant bathroom update

A spa-like retreat by DIANA BASTONE

Bathroom design has taken priority with an increasing number of homeowners who are seeking ways to improve their home — and themselves. This has given way to bathroom retreats inspired by the spa experience, where function, fashion and indulgence can co-exist in beautiful harmony.

This was the goal behind the design of a primary bathroom for a family of four who wished for a utilitarian space that had a luxe look and feel. The challenge was for it to be super functional yet elegant and bright, while maximizing storage space.

The wish list also included dedicated spots for towels, a clothes' hamper and a primping area with



organized toiletries, a magnifying mirror and hair styling area. To control costs, the plumbing was left intact and a luxurious shower with all the bells and whistles was added — shower jets, rain head, hand-held shower system and a storage niche.

Here are some of my best tips, so you can create your own spa-like retreat.

Storage is always in style

Before diving into the aesthetics of your bathroom design, it's crucial to address the practical aspects of the space. Adequate storage is essential for keeping the room organized and clutter-free. Think about the daily items you use and make sure everything has a dedicated "home." This can include cabinets, shelves and hidden storage solutions, such as recessed compartments.

Recessed storage really is a hidden gem. It can be seamlessly integrated into a wall as an alternative to traditional storage. Alternatively, it may be cleverly concealed behind a large mirror, serving the dual purpose of function and aesthetics.

Making a case for classic

When it comes to cabinet colours, I advise to stick to tried and true classics. White, gray, white oak and walnut have stood the test of time for a reason. These neutral shades are a great canvas to layer in other design elements, while ensuring your bathroom renovation retains its charm and sophistication for years to come.

Remember, trendy colours may

seem appealing, but can quickly become outdated. A classic colour palette lets you achieve a sense of permanence and more flexibility when updating other design elements.

Textile trends

While cabinets and fixtures provide the foundation of your bathroom's design, adding textiles such as a rug, towels and a shower curtain can speak to the trends. They are easy and affordable to replace when styles change. A bold rug, art or spa accessories and eye-catching towels can breathe new life into your bathroom's look, with no major overhaul required.

Design for multiple users

A functional bathroom isn't just about individual needs; it should also cater to multiple users, particularly in a family setting. Incorporate features that accommodate simultaneous use. For example, double sinks are a popular choice, allowing two people to get ready at the same time without crowding each other. A separate "water closet" or toilet can also provide privacy and convenience for multiple users.

A large shower with multiple showerheads and space for shampoos, soap and other necessities can make busy mornings run smoother. Finally, ample storage for everyday items such as towels, toiletries and cleaning supplies is essential. Storage solutions can be customized to meet to each family member's needs, ensuring a clutter-free and organized bathroom.

Luxury with low maintenance

Many of my clients, including this one, look for luxury with low maintenance. In this case, we selected full porcelain slabs for the shower walls and large-format 24-by-48-in. porcelain tiles for the floor. Fewer grout lines added a level of elegance, and the practicality of porcelain for no sealing, means easy cleaning and minimal on-going maintenance.

The right balance

It's not enough for a bathroom to be just beautiful, or just functional. The right renovation has to check all the right boxes, to ensure the space meets your household's daily needs while looking stylish for many years to come.



Photo: Stephani Buchman



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