

Tips for Creating Your Dream Home by Sara Shragal

Make a Splash with the Latest Bathroom Trends

As the country faces tough times, homeowners are focusing their home improvement dollars on creating a safe, comfortable atmosphere, but with elegance and style. One great way to begin upgrading your home with both function and flair is to remodel your bathroom.

Relaxation is king in bathroom remodels. After a long stressful day, most everyone finds a way to unwind and escape from the worries of school or work. Often times, this means sneaking away to the only room in the house where we have absolute privacy – the bathroom.

So how do you start designing a bathroom that can be your personal sanctuary while maximizing your return on investment? The best way to begin planning your renovation is to draw up a blank floor plan of the entire bathroom, including the size of each wall. You'll need these measurements as your bathroom remodeling plans move forward. Plus, it's much easier to make changes on your paper plan than after the work is done.

With many bathroom remodels, it is not uncommon to knock out walls to provide more flexibility and make the room functional. When you enlarge the size of their bathrooms, you can experiment with chaise lounges for reading and relaxation and armoires for storage space, stereo systems and flat-screen televisions. Other popular aesthetic bathroom additions include above-counter sinks that also serve as art and vintage furnishings and fixtures in the form of towel racks and sitting chairs.

Bright, bold colors are also very much in style. Keep in mind you can add color to your bathroom in a variety of ways – tile, countertops, sinks, cabinetry and, of course, paint. You can even adorn your shower using glass tiles in a variety of earth tones to create a warm, relaxing atmosphere. Neutral colors are a safe bet, but for a more daring design try incorporating dark browns, deep reds and rust-colored hues or spring greens. One thing to avoid: placing bright reds or intense colors on walls that will reflect in your mirror. This could affect your color acuity if the bathroom will be used when applying makeup. Colors with yellow, pink or blue undertones are best for these walls.

Another timeless trend re-emerging: the split shower and bath. Separating the two provides you with more flexibility in choosing a bathtub; a sunken tub or relaxing whirlpool are both stylish, trendy choices popular today. Take it from me, if you plan on spending a lot of time in the bath, a sunken whirlpool tub can be a dream come true.

Sara Shragal is a staff writer for DirectBuy. For more information or other helpful tips for your home, or to submit a question, please visit www.directbuycares.com or write us at questions@directbuycares.com.