

home design guide

hot trends in bathroom design

June 2011

Bathrooms still rank high as one of the top considerations for new home buyers. Yesterday's bathroom designs and features are dimming in light of the new fixtures and features available today. Modern bathrooms have a contemporary edge, driven by simplicity, style and price.

Bigger is better...in the shower. Most buyers prefer larger showers over rarely-used soaker tubs. Glass enclosures now have options too, like a glass screen without a door, frameless glass and in some cases, a steam shower totally enclosed with glass and tile. What else is new? The Kohler DTV custom shower experience. It has multiple body spray jets with one overhead that have digitally controlled temperatures and settings.

Splish, splash, like taking a bath? Some buyers still prefer a tub. New Hydrotherapy tubs are the newest cool thing that are replacing the dated soaker or jetted tubs. Instead of jets, hydrotherapy tubs churn up millions of bubbles – it's like bathing in champagne. Kohler's BubbleMassage Bath with optional chromatherapy (satisfying emotional reactions to colored lighting) has a 360 degree staggered airjet design along with targeted foot and lumbar airjets....wow, take me away.

Design bathrooms with privacy in mind. Buyers still prefer private toilet compartments (with walls and a door) where possible, even in smaller plans. However, if a water closet makes a bathroom feel too cramped, then hide the toilet behind a 42" high privacy wall instead. It makes the toilet feel somewhat private and the bathroom feel bigger.

Bright morning light can be achieved in a bathroom without having to compromise privacy. Clerestory (above your head) windows allow natural light to flood in



Contemporary Bathroom Styles, Porcelanosa USA, Miami

the bathroom. Below the windows, either wall space or frosted glass can provide the needed privacy...so you *can* have both.

Framed-in towel closets may take up valuable floor space. Use cabinets for towels and toiletry items. Some towels can be used for decorative purposes or color accents displayed in open racks like you would find in a spa.

Televisions are popping up everywhere in today's new home designs. Yes, even in the bathroom. A TV allows early risers to catch up on the news, sports, weather and traffic while getting ready for work.

Functionality and necessity in the bathroom are still the hallmarks of good bathroom design. The latest design trends enhance the bathroom experience, taking it to another level, with practically unlimited options and conveniences to make what's necessary enjoyable.

Do you have questions about home design or remodeling?



Contact Tony at twereameichik@canin.com or visit his company's website at www.canin.com. Years

of research in custom home design, remodeling and home building has led Tony Weremeichik, Principal of Canin Associates' Architectural Design Studio, to be a strong advocate for home buyers and home owners to get the best design and construction value for their money. He leads clients and builders through a well-orchestrated design process that provides his clients with the utmost attention and creative design solutions.



KOHLER'S Hydro/Chromatherapy Tub

Photo Credit: www.kohler.com