

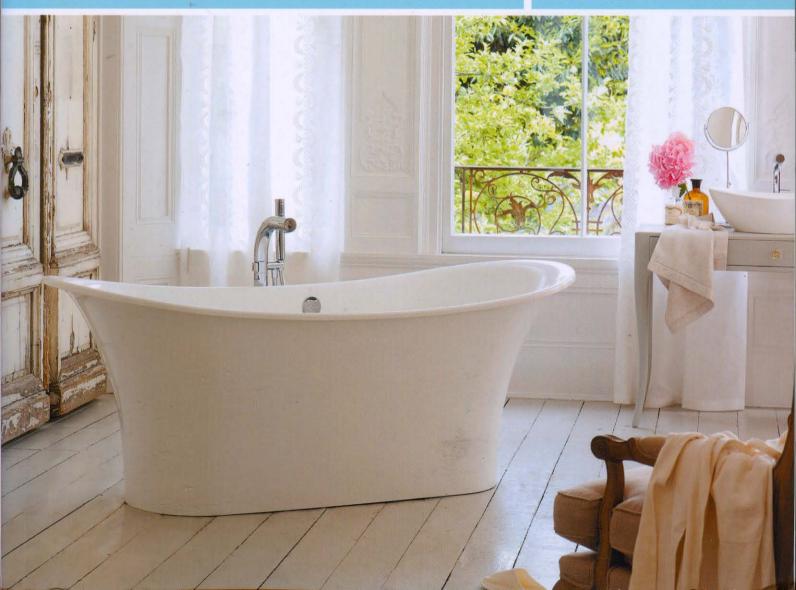


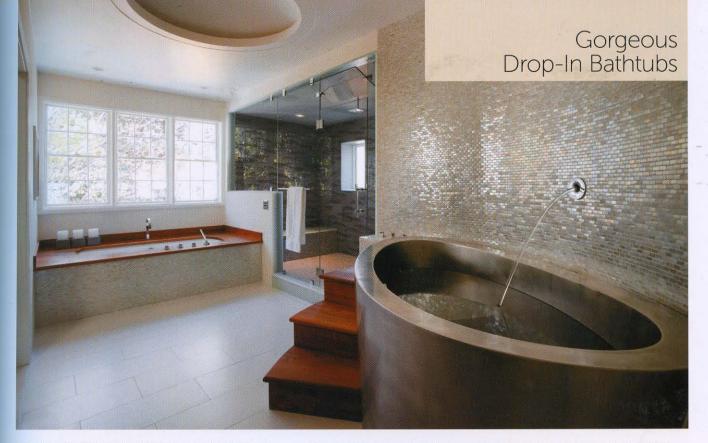


Bathroom Ideas You Can Use

Secrets & Solutions for Freshening Up the Hardest-Working Room in Your House

CHRIS PETERSON

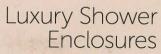




CHOOSE UNDERMOUNT TUBS FOR SUBTLER LOOKS. If you aren't fond of the drop-in look, but you want to install a large whirlpool tub in your bathroom, you can turn to an undermount version such as this. The tub sits under a deck, just as an undermount sink does. This position minimizes the look of the tub's lip, and allows you to create a deck in any material that suits your design and tastes. The wood here has been finished top and bottom to ensure against moisture infiltration and provides a wonderful warm and comfortable top surface for getting in and out of the tub.

EMBELLISH DECKS WITH BORDERS OF FINE TRIMWORK OR STONE. Take the opportunity of building a surround for your drop-in whirlpool bathtub to create a unique, scene-setting feature. This tub has been framed in an enclosure that includes a river-rock border inside the tub's deck. It's a naturalistic look that complements the wood deck and the plants used in the room, and it gives the bather the sense of dipping into a serene stream. Special, innovative features such as this give you an opportunity to put your fingerprints on a bathroom design.





SHOWER CURTAINS ARE ALSO LUXURIOUS. Who says a shower enclosure has to be a freestanding, separate construction? In keeping with the period look of this footed tub, the shower is run up from the Victorian-style faucet fittings with a periodappropriate shower curtain ring. The shower includes a luxury head with porcelain lip and a handheld head with its own diverter controls. It's a lot of shower luxury in a small amount of space and keeps the distinctive look of the room in perfect order.



Chic Vessel Sinks

CREATE A FOCAL POINT WITH UNUSUAL MATERIALS. Looking for a standout sink? Vessel sinks may be the perfect option for you, and they are available in an astounding selection of materials and forms. This example is one of the more unusual, crafted in a slightly irregular oval of green onyx with the appearance inside of an abalone shell. It's a distinctive style that works perfectly with the surrounding decorative elements.





METAL VESSELS CAN MAKE A DESIGN. Metal vessel sinks are becoming increasingly popular, and if you want to add unique textures and interesting finishes to your bathroom, you could do a lot worse than one of these incredibly interesting fixtures. This formed metal bowl carries a tempered copper finish, with distinct mottling that makes it different from any other sink. A material such as this is best matched to other raw materials in the room, such as the interwoven copper wall surface and stone vanity counter.



MOUNT VESSELS WITH WIT.
Use a vessel sink to craft a oneof-kind look full of personality.
This box-shaped stone vessel
sink has been mounted offset
from blocks framed out from the
wall and clad in different types
of stone. Coupled with a long,
skinny mirror, orb lighting, and
a wall-mount faucet, the look
is full of style and surprise. You
can create an equally impressive
scene by placing your vessel sink
in an unusual relationship to the
counter or support.



MOUNT GLASS ON GLASS. If vessel sinks have captured your imagination, you'll find clear glass vessel sinks almost magical in how they confuse the eye. Water in the sink seems to almost be floating in midair, and the illusion is made even stronger by mounting the sink on a glass vanity counter. The look isn't right for every bathroom, but it can be stunning in a modern or streamlined contemporary bathroom—especially when coupled with a support such as this dark wood pillar. A combination like this can even serve as the focal point of a powder room.



TROUGH VESSEL SINKS ARE UNCOMMON BUT UNIQUE. Use a trough vessel sink in place of his-and-her sinks for an unusual, but every bit as useful, look. This sink is made of tinted and polished volcanic rock, with a back-edge drain. A vessel sink in an unusual shape and material can be a design centerpiece in the bathroom. Just be careful in choosing colorful sinks, because overly bold or trendy colors can become dated rather quickly.

Exceptional Accents



EVEN HANDLES PRESENT DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES. Accessorize your bathroom with door and drawer handles that say "special" in subtle ways. You would expect to find crystal handles like these on a dresser or nightstand. Added to vanity doors, the handles delight the eye and add points of sparkle in the bathrooman outsized effect for such a small decorative feature. Handles are the perfect decorative feature with which to experiment in the bathroom because they are inexpensive and so easy to change.

Exceptional Accents



MATCH ACCENT FINISHES TO FAUCETS AND FIXTURES. Antique finishes have become more and more popular for the bathroom, not only for faucets but also for matching accents as well. This towel and hook combo shows the fine detailing available in accents, with slight distressing of the finish that makes the pieces look authentically antique. You'll find these types of accents available in copper tones, nickel and stainless steel surfaces, and even brass and gold.



ACCESSORIZE DRAWER PULLS, KNOBS OR OTHER BATHROOM HANDLES OR SPOUTS. Special drawer pulls are your way of adding a bit of flash to an otherwise visually sedate or subtle cabinet or vanity. Special design features, such as the tiny row of crystals in the center of these pulls, are ideal because the audience in a bathroom is often captive due to the functions of the room. Unexpected design flashes are a real treat to the eye and have outsized visual power in the limited space of a bathroom.

refinished vanity can do the same. Of course, you can change the look even more dramatically if you're willing to resurface the walls or floors, or make bigger changes such as adding a standalone shower enclosure, a bidet or a jetted tub. Larger changes can also make the room more usable. Add his-andher sinks, and you alleviate marital friction and make the morning bathroom rush hour a lot less stressful for everyone.

Luxury, though, is the highest calling for a bathroom design. Steam fittings in a shower stall, towel warmers, super-deep soaking tubs and mini-saunas are all ways to turn the bathroom into less of a purely functional space and more of a spa-like experience. The examples that follow illustrate the full range of possibilities for your bathroom. Choose the options that suit your space, your life, your budget and your tastes, and turn this functional space into a more comfortable design gem that adds to the look, comfort and enjoyment of your home.



LUXURIATE YOUR **BATHROOM WITH** PERIOD-STYLE CHAIRS AND ENDTABLES. Turn to unexpected style features such as the chandelier and period-style chair used in this room and include top-of-the-line fixtures such as this dropin whirlpool tub. Captured in a highly detailed custom oval surround, this model includes heated backrests, 36 jets, molded armrests, color-matched grab bars and room enough for two. A luxury shower stall or bathtub like this not only elevates the bathroom's look, it can vastly improve your day-to-day life.



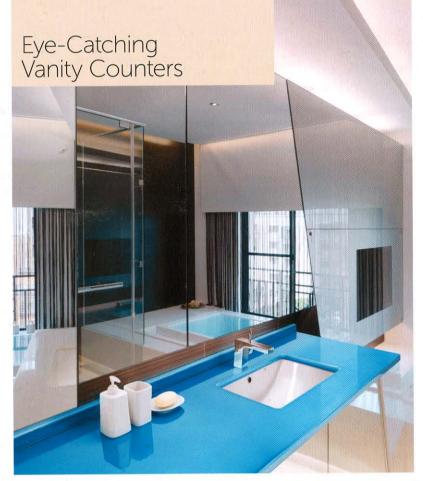
MATCH WOOD FLOORS WITH OTHER NATURAL ELEMENTS. Create a welcoming, informal appearance in your bathroom with a handsome wood floor. This tough oak floor has been finished to withstand the occasional splash of water from the tub, and it looks beautiful in a space that features a stunning freestanding bathtub with chunky wood-block "feet," a leaning towel rack made from bamboo and a simple, textured wall covering. All the elements combine to make this a simple and pleasing bathroom design.



USE TILE TO CREATE SCENES. You can lay a highly detailed floor such as this in your own bathroom using prearranged borders provided by the tile manufacturer. Retailers and manufacturers offer medallions, simple borders, special insets and complete floor centerpieces like this wave design in mesh-backed, pre-fab sheets that are incredibly easy to lay. If you like the look of mosaic tiles, consider using them to their full potential in an intricate and splashy bathroom floor design.

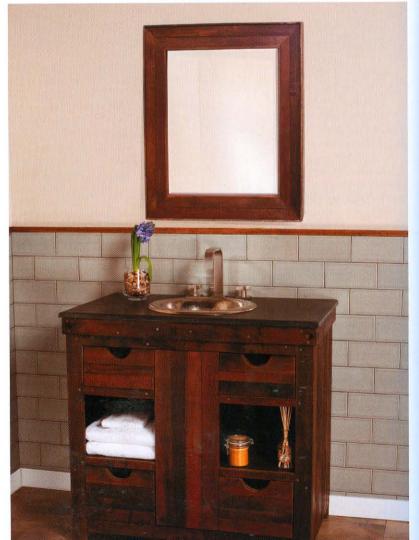


MIX CLASSIC AND MODERN WITH CONCRETE AND WOOD. Go with polished concrete floors for an extremely durable surface that screams modern design. This sleek floor is easy to clean and waterproof and is also fairly easy to install. However, it is a little cold on the feet during chillier months, a drawback you can deal with by setting down wood slats, as has been done in the shower area of this bathroom.



MARRY COUNTERS TO OTHER SURFACES. Mix and match your vanity counter successfully to the other surfaces in the room, and the look can be pure magic. Here, a supercolorful counter in polished volcanic stone supplies a burst of color in a bathroom with mirrored walls and white fixtures. It's a fun, dynamic and exciting look in which the surfaces all support one another.

MATCH NATURAL SURFACES TO NATURAL WALL TREATMENTS AND FLOORING. Consider matching natural vanity materials to a natural vanity countertop in your bathroom. The Craftsman-style rough wood vanity here is perfectly paired with a slate counter. Stone vanity surfaces naturally complement wood vanities, especially those stained natural. Slate is just one of many alluring types of stone that could serve well in the bathroom.





MAKE A GLASS COUNTERTOP THE DOMINANT DESIGN FEATURE. You can make a design statement with your vanity counter just as you would with your choice of materials for any of the other dominant surfaces in the space. Here, a cast-glass countertop provides a riveting visual focal point for the room. It offers an incredible surface that invites the brush of a finger and features a unique front edge relief. It's a one-of-a-kind surface that is also durable and easy to clean.

Handy Cabinets & Shelves



HIDE STORAGE IN WALL-HUNG UNITS. Look to wall-mounted cabinets for space-efficient storage. This example is especially effective, combining abundant storage space behind a flip-up mirrored front panel. It's a sleek design made even sleeker with interior lights and glass shelves. Find storage solutions that work as hard as possible in combining fabulous function with eyecatching form and details.

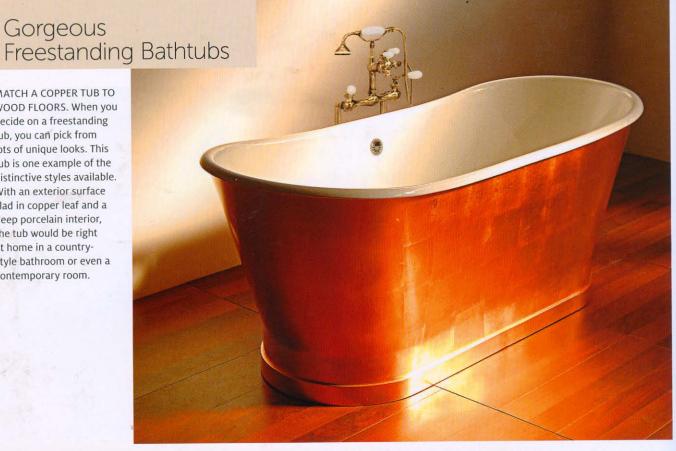
Gorgeous Freestanding Bathtubs

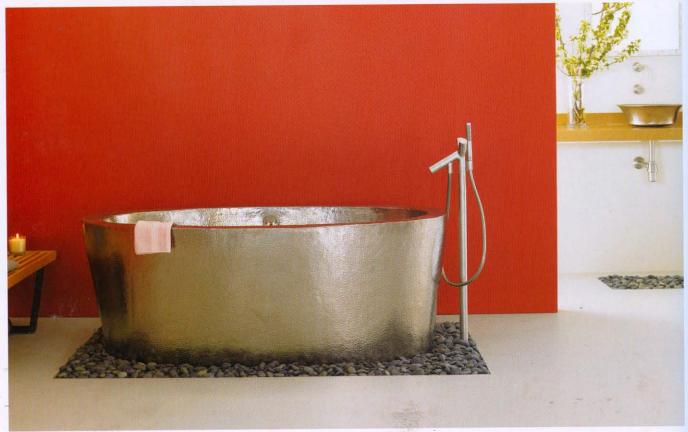


COLOR YOUR BATHTUB TO MATCH YOUR BATHROOM. Add a little color to your bathroom by choosing a freestanding bathtub with a tinted body. A tub such as this brings plenty of seductive form to a room, but the muted color is a nice added touch that complements the room's color scheme and makes the showcase whirlpool tub even more of a standout. This particular tub is an interesting model, containing the motors and plumbing for the jets within the streamlined body—most whirlpool tubs are drop-in style, meant to be used with a larger enclosure. A tub like this allows for that same luxury without requiring the fuss of a custom-built platform.

MATCH A COPPER TUB TO WOOD FLOORS. When you decide on a freestanding tub, you can pick from lots of unique looks. This tub is one example of the distinctive styles available. With an exterior surface clad in copper leaf and a deep porcelain interior, the tub would be right

at home in a countrystyle bathroom or even a contemporary room.





SITE YOUR TUB ATOP UNEXPECTED FLOORING. Do your tastes run to the unusual in tub finishes? Freestanding tubs may answer your desires because many are crafted in unusual materials. This tub, for instance, is brushed nickel and made from recycled materials. It's a completely unique look that seems right at home on a bed of river rocks. Don't limit yourself to white porcelain, because so many more options are available to the open-eyed tub shopper.



Gorgeous Freestanding Bathtubs

VARY TUB COLOR FOR EYE-CATCHING EFFECTS. It may be the most popular look, but don't feel locked into choosing a white bathtub. If your bathroom design is better suited to another hue, you'll find tubs in off-white, brown, and black, like the one in this room. A black tub can be stunning, especially when coupled with other black decorative elements, such as the marble-tile floor in this room. This particular tub features gold-colored feet and faucet fittings, a wonderful touch that makes the tub appear even more sumptuous.



WHITE COMPLEMENTS A WIDE RANGE OF STYLES. Choose an unassuming contemporary freestanding tub style for a fixture that will be appropriate for bathroom styles from country to modern. This unassuming yet elegant bathtub has been positioned in a large dressing room of a summer house but would be just as at home in a marble-clad, minimal modern bathroom. A tub with a form that is this adaptable is unlikely to ever become dated or need replacement.

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Resources

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Their website includes information on Universal Design principles and resources and a list of members who practice Universal Design architecture.

www.aia.org

(202) 626-7300

American Association of Retired Persons

Provides articles and information on Universal Design to accommodate elderly and disabled

www.aarp.org (888) OUR-AARP

American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)

The society provides consumers with information about bathroom design, Universal Design practice and implementation in the design and a list of designers. www.asid.org

(202) 546-3480

The Energy & Environmental Building Alliance (EEBA)

This organization offers networking and educational resources in promotion of sustainable building practices. www.eeba.org

(952) 881-1098

National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI)

Offers comprehensive information on budgeting, planning and executing home remodeling projects, including bathroom redesigns, additions and remodels. The website provides listings of member contractors of all types.

www.nari.org (847) 298-9200

National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA)

The NKBA inspires homeowners with a gallery of stunning bathroom designs, helps you plan and design your own bathroom remodel and

provides contact information for professionals that can help you bring it all together. www.nkba.org (800) 843-6522

United States Environmental Protection Agency-

Indoor Air Quality

In-depth information about materials and practices—including bathroom design concerns such as mold-that affect indoor air quality in homes nationwide. www.epa.gov

United States Green Building Council

A non-profit dedicated to educating and helping consumers remodel, design, build and live in more environmentally friendly homes. www.usgbc.org (800) 795-1747

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