

Hot Days?
No Sweat

page 32

CHARLOTTE
home|design

dedicated to showcasing charlotte's distinctive homes

"They're really unlike any of the other beaches in the Carolinas...It's a variation of environments from the coast up through the high dunes and into the maritime forest area."

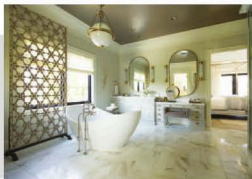
- Doug Oakley,
Bald Head Island Limited



beautiful brunswick islands

Pristine beaches, tranquility and charming coastal towns
await on North Carolina's southernmost coastline

- story on page 6



design **instyle**
tub vs. showers
p20

straight **talk**
paying cash
p24

around **the town**
lake properties
of the foothills
p26

design **trends**
staircase showcase
p36



Photo courtesy of Eichlebaum USA

Glass shower surrounds and doors will make your shower look and feel bigger.



Photo courtesy of Stone Forest

Today's freestanding tubs come in stone, porcelain, glass, metal and fiberglass.

consider an air tub. They provide soft, gentle, relaxing bubbles that soothe away stress. The cost of an air tub starts around \$1,000. A floor mounted faucet ranges between \$500-1,000, not including installation.

Jet or bubble tubs all require space for heaters, pumps, motors and anti-tipping brackets. These keep the tub from flipping with extra weight. Make sure your builder is familiar with installing the type of tub you are purchasing, so you both can review space and plumbing requirements.

If you decide to skip the tub and go for a big spacious shower, consider installing a zero threshold shower (no ledge to step over to access the shower). The floor of the shower is sloped slightly away from the entrance so the water remains inside the shower.

You will also hear this type of shower referred to as a "roll-in" shower. That's because it provides wheelchair access. What designers have discovered is this type of shower is very popular with all age groups. The cost, depending on the structural issues, can be as low as



Maximize existing spaces to make room for the bathroom of your dreams.

Photo courtesy of MIT Baths

tub vs. showers

Is one better than the other?

by Vicki Payne



You've finally decided to take the plunge and renovate your master bathroom. Biggest question on most homeowners' minds is whether to ditch the tub for a grand size shower or settle for a standard shower-tub combination.

You're afraid you'll hurt your home's resale value if you ditch the tub. So what do you do? If you have room for both, great. If not, ask yourself a few simple questions.

First, how long do you plan to be in the house? If you're going to stick around for three or more years, create the bathroom you want. Don't get stuck living in a house for future owners. It's your house, and you need to live in the manner your family wishes to live.

Second question, is this the only bathroom in the house? If yes, you might want to consider a tub/shower combo, especially if you have children.