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SPLENDOR IN THE BATH

Bathroom design continues to get more spa-like and glamorous. Today's hot-button items include soaking tubs with comfortable angles for relaxing, floating cabinets for a clean, contemporary look and stone lookalikes that are lighter weight and easier to clean. We look here at four residences on top of the trends transforming baths from blah to beautiful.

By Charlyne Varkonyi Schaub





DESIGNER: ANDY FISCHMAN
PHOTOGRAPHER: DARYL NOBLES

An elegant quartz product resembling stone is the backdrop for the stylish and comfortable soaking tub in this Boca Raton master bath.

“We wanted to have a feature to set the backdrop for the tub,” Andy Fischman says. “We almost went with a slab of granite with a lot of color and movement, but the clients are more comfortable with a timeless look.”

Neolith, a quartz product that is lightweight and comes in slabs like natural stone, provides the backdrop for the soaking tub. The surface is easy to work with, durable and scratch-and-stain resistant. It makes a stylish room divider for an open shower that features his and her showerheads with thermostatic controls.

“You can book match the slabs and create the perfect backdrop that is subtle, timeless and sophisticated,” he says.

The freestanding Toulouse tub by Victoria + Albert is constructed of volcanic limestone and resins. It is easy to clean and has a high-gloss finish. Fischman says more clients are selecting soaking tubs rather than whirlpools and air baths that require a surround.

The design features his and her wall-mounted vanities, a popular option. These cabinets require additional reinforcement, which means the walls have to be removed so plywood can be added between the studs. The cabinetry has a linear silver acrylic finish that has a bit of a grainy appearance. Another luxury? A wall-mounted television.

The popular soaking tub becomes the focal point with the help of a quartz wall that looks like natural stone. A wall-mounted television adds another amenity.



Bathing beauties

The big news in bathrooms isn't the tile, the sinks or the cabinetry. Designers tell us more clients are seeking freestanding soaking tubs, where they can comfortably lie back and enjoy a bubble or plain bath.

By Charlyne Varkonyi Schaub

Cinderella's tub

Forget the glass slipper. Modern-day Cinderellas will find this shoe-shaped soaking tub fits just fine. The resin-enforced acrylic tub with adjustable feet needs a large bathroom for its size – 78.7 inches long, 31.5 inches wide and 61 inches high.

Victoria acrylic bathtub (\$3,554.88) available at Baths2go, 518 N. Pine Island Road, Suite 112, Plantation, 954-424-0044, baths2go.com.



Classic comfort

This freestanding soaking tub is Lucite acrylic reinforced with Fiberglas and has an easy-to-clean high-gloss surface. It is 68 ¾ inches long, 31 ¼ inches wide and 21 ¼ inches deep. Price and more information upon request. Available in biscuit or white at Casabella Designs, 1650 S. Powerline Road #H Deerfield Beach, 954-354-8404, Bathroomremodelingboca.com.



Juliet's gem

Smaller bathroom? No worries. MTI Baths has designed a smaller version of the larger Juliet tub with the same organic shape (\$6,595). Manufactured in MTI's proprietary Engineered Solid Stone, it is available in white or biscuit in matte or high-gloss finish and measures 66 by 29 inches. Available at Ferguson Bath Lighting and Kitchen Gallery, see ferguson.com for showrooms.



Sculptural statement

The Dioniso bathtub, designed by Samuele Mazza, looks like it could be in a museum, with its graceful slope on a black glass non-slip platform. The perimeter band is polished stainless steel over water-repellent leather. Available for \$31,212 at Visionnaire Miami, 2063 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, 786-577-4370, visionnaire-home.com.



Victory for Victoria

The Warndon tub by Victoria + Albert, inspired by the timeless designs of Romanesque architecture, is made of a one-piece casting of volcanic limestone and resin harder and more durable than acrylic. It is available in seven colors with a comfortable angle of recline for one or two bathers. Dimensions are 67 inches long, 31 1/2 inches wide and 23 1/2 inches high. Price start at \$5,400. Available at Allied Kitchen & Bath, 616 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, 954-564-1611, alliedkitchenandbath.com.

