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— FINDS —



VICTORIA + ALBERT

Sculpted from volcanic limestone to retain heat, that come in a range of designs, free-standing traditional tubs to modern. Prices vary; ferguson.com



MIRRORED BRAIDED DRESSER-TOP TRAYS

Elevate your lotions to this mirrored tray that evokes a bygone era of the ritual of getting ready for a night out. \$39-\$59; potterybarn.com



BUBBLES CERAMIC SIDE TABLE

A pretty stool combines style and serves as a great perch for a towel, robe or reading material. \$129; westelm.com



BRUSHED 16" GRAB BAR WITH ACCESSORIES

Rehabbed grab bars provide shelving for go-to shower items, yet offer support should you ever need it. \$64; lowes.com

High-Tech
BATH PRODUCTS
Classic touches, along with high-tech gadgets, turn bathrooms into one of the most popular places in the house.



SAGE SPOT RESIST BRUSHED NICKEL TWO-HANDLE LOW ARC BATHROOM FAUCET

Thanks to spot resist technology, touch the faucet all you want. \$186.15; lowes.com



DTV DIGITAL INTERFACE

In-shower touchpad that remembers the settings of your personal shower experience. \$1,823.95; us.kohler.com



KOHLER SAN SOUCI TOUCHLESS TOILET

Hold your hand above the sensor on the top of the tank for a hands-free, germ-free flush. \$933.85; us.kohler.com



WYATT CONSOLE LAVATORY

Angular console sink, in canvas white with chrome legs, includes a functional glass shelf to stash extra towels in easy reach. \$1,320; dxv.com



IBBY.COM

Build your bathroom before the construction with this 3D computer design program. Ibbly will mail a box of free samples that contain your choices.



GATCO TOILET PAPER HOLDER

"There's nothing worse than designing a beautiful bathroom and seeing a roll of toilet paper on the back of the toilet tank."—designer, Shanon Munn. \$24.98; lowes.com



CACHET NIGHTLIGHT TOILET SEAT

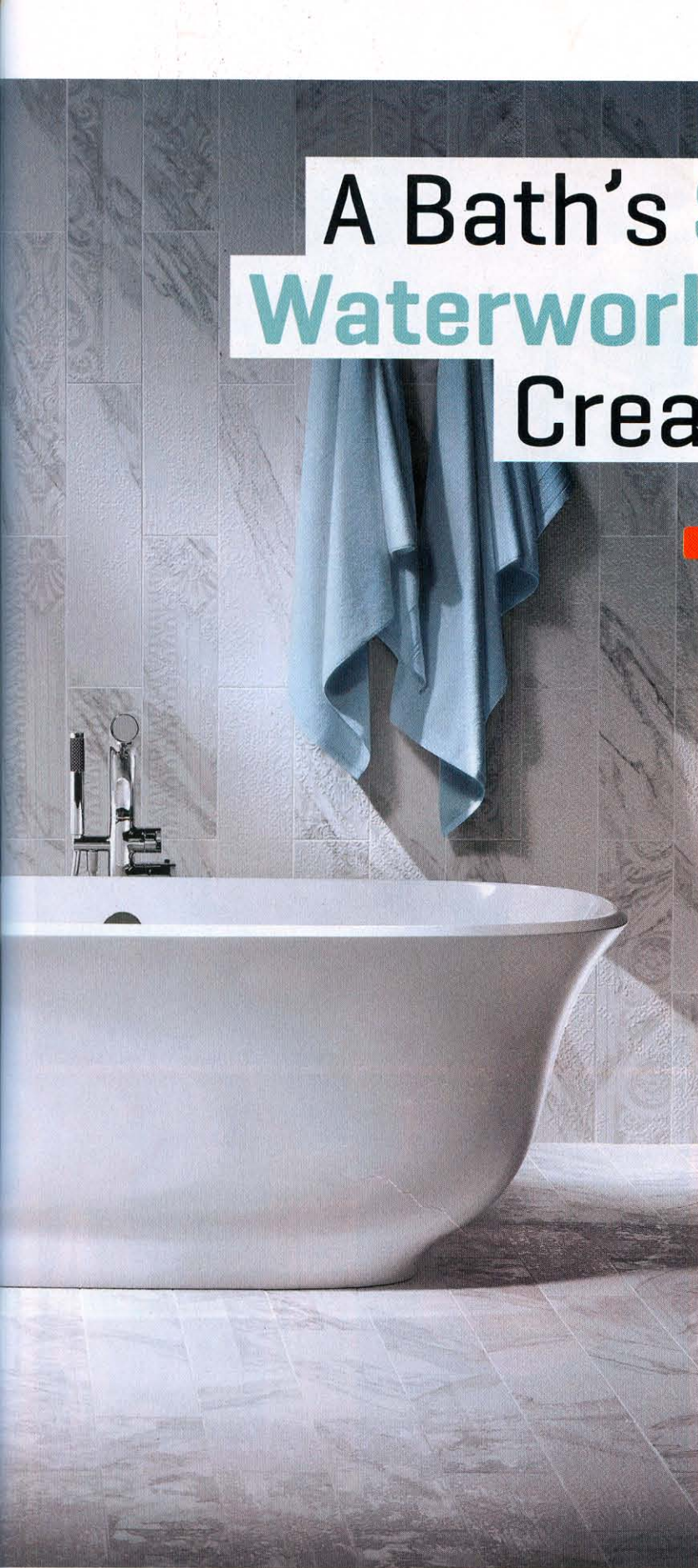
Kohler's smart LED toilet seat beams a non-jarring blue and is set on a seven-hour cycle. Q3 technology ensures quiet closing. \$75; us.kohler.com

COURTESY OF VICTORIA + ALBERT (BATHTUB); COURTESY OF POTTERY BARN.COM (MIRRORED BRAIDED DRESSER-TOP TRAYS); COURTESY OF WESTELM (BUBBLES CERAMIC SIDE TABLE); COURTESY OF KOHLER (BRUSHED 16" GRAB BAR, FAUCET); COURTESY OF KOHLER (DTV DIGITAL INTERFACE); KOHLER SAN SOUCI TOUCHLESS TOILET; CACHET NIGHTLIGHT TOILET SEAT; COURTESY OF AMERICAN STANDARD (WYATT CONSOLE LAVATORY); COURTESY OF LOWES.COM (BRUSHED NICKEL TWO-HANDLE LOW ARC BATHROOM FAUCET); COURTESY OF LOWES (TOILET PAPER HOLDER)



▶ Victoria + Albert Amiata freestanding tub and Amiata 60 counter top basins

COURTESY OF VICTORIA + ALBERT



A Bath's **Sculptural Waterworks** Lets the Creativity Flow

BY JENNIFER SHAPIRA

Tucked away in the late 1920s-era DC Design House last spring was a retro-style, jewel box of a guest bathroom. The sophisticated yet playful palette, in unconventional purple and black, was a dramatic departure from the trendy cool gray tones that comprise so many bathroom remodels.

“We really wanted to show with a smaller bathroom that you don’t have to be afraid of putting in some color or some drama into the space,” says interior designer Jenna Randolph, of Grossmueller’s Design. “I feel like a lot of the time people think a small bath has to be light and bright. But what we really did there was actually play with the reverse of what everybody’s doing.”

In fact, that idea was precisely what got Randolph’s creative juices flowing. The end result: the room’s dazzling high-style was reflected in the tile choices. An already existing window brought in lots of natural light and Randolph kept the home’s original commode and medicine cabinet, which she says lent a vintage flair, providing just the right vibe to the “boudoir-ish” space.



to get creative,” when it comes to sizes and shapes. And although their use is universal and their components strictly essential, a powder room’s imaginative solutions often involve a floating vanity, a micro-pedestal sink or a corner basin.

For a guest or hall bath, the challenge, aside from function, is to provide enough utility and storage space for the intended user. If it’s a shared bathroom for children, it’s important to select materials that they can grow into. Don’t commit to a tiled mosaic fit for a toddler. Instead, go neutral and consider pops of color in paint choices, which can easily be redone years later, or coordinate color in

towels and other accessories.

Julia Walter, showroom manager at Boffi in Georgetown, says today’s bathrooms of all sizes are big on texture and high on design. Walter says the design of accent walls in gorgeous, textured tiles in high-gloss and matte finishes, or a chiseled lava stone that adds a light-reflective interest, ensures that “the whole wall is basically a piece of art.”

Available in reclaimed wood and stone materials, “a floating cabinet is the way to go,” she says, adding, “it’s very high-style.” Wall-mounted fixtures will save space, keeping the countertop sleek and uncluttered, for purely utilitarian purposes.

Even in a small bathroom, a floating cabinet can make a bathroom look bigger. “You don’t have any of the materials touching the floor so it makes it much easier to clean and it just looks much nicer,” says Walter.

FOR A GUEST OR HALL BATH, THE CHALLENGE, ASIDE FROM FUNCTION, IS TO PROVIDE ENOUGH UTILITY AND STORAGE SPACE FOR THE INTENDED USER.

▶ [from top left] Drayton bathtub from Victoria + Albert Baths; ibby DC Design House bathroom with floating wall-mounted vanity with ample storage space; Boffi bathroom with Lotus mirror integrated with LED light.

“And the way the cabinets are done nowadays, even though they’re not going all the way to the floor, and don’t have that overall height, they have much more storage capacity.”

Think back to the classic under-sink cabinets that housed the bulk of plumbing. Most of that space was unusable. Now, a lot of manufacturers are creating clever, space-efficient drawers around the plumbing fixtures so that no space is lost, says Walter.

Rodriguez offers up another sophisticated storage choice: cabinets fronted with antique mirrored glass. The look can be a traditional or modern touch, and, she says, “you can use a little or a lot,” depending on the size of the room. The mirrors create light and the cabinets will serve as an attractive way to conceal a bathroom’s necessities without the pressure to keep things tidy all the time, says Rodriguez. Just another example of how today’s bathrooms work hard to look good so you don’t have to.