

# Freestanding baths are a popular choice for today's bathrooms

By Jill Sell

There was no more glamorous place on earth in the late 1880s than Paris. The city still has not lost its reputation for romance and rendezvous. So it was a smart move when MTI Baths named its new series of bathtubs the Parisian.

The oval-shaped Parisian has pleasing, flowing curves, exaggerated rounded

areas and an interior with curved backrests for those long luxurious baths. Sorry, if you are a shower-only person, you won't understand. The high-gloss Lucite cast acrylic tub can be ordered with several options, including a heating system that warms the interior surface and underwater LED lighting. The tub is available in white only and in two sizes.

But perhaps the tub's most important feature is that it is freestanding – today's preferred type of tub, as opposed to a built-in or recessed/corner bathtub. Veronica Money, showroom manager for Welker-McKee in Independence, said freestanding tubs have been very popular over the past three years. The tubs are more affordable and there are more style choices than ever.

"Customers are

ripping out corner tubs from 15 to 20 years ago, deciding that those took up too much space. A freestanding tub gives them a much more airy space. People want something now that is a piece of art in their bathroom as well as a something that is functional," said Money, adding that originally freestanding tubs cost about \$5,000 to \$6,000, but many now come with a \$2,000 to \$3,500 price tag.

The "tried and true" colors for bathtubs are white and biscuit, said Money, but Welker-McGee represents one manufacturer who will paint the exterior for customers.

"You can do all kinds of shocking colors if you wanted to, but I try to convince people to stay with neutral if possible," said Money. "We do show a tub that is a battleship gray and it has a beautiful artistic touch. Right now gray is a very hot color, so this tub could really work well, especially if the homeowners are doing a gray, white and black bathroom."

Homeowners who are completely remodeling their bathroom's plumbing –

sink, bathtub and toilet, have the advantage, of course, of coordinating the look of all those features. But if only one part of that trio is going to be changed, Money has some suggestions.

"There is a real easy way to refresh a bathroom. If you are going from a polished gold finish to a brushed nickel finish, do all the lighting, hardware and the faucets pretty much in the same tone," she said. "You can also rip off a laminate countertop and replace it with granite or quartz, although that is more expensive. As long as the toilet is clean and functioning and doesn't show too much of a statement, it will do fine if you don't want to replace it."

Homeowners are going for cleaner, simpler looks in the bathroom. Money said even traditionalists are giving up "a lot of detail and an age category, like Victorian." But people are not going "very, very contemporary."

"It's a transitional look," said Money.

Jill Sell is a freelance writer specializing in real estate, home and garden. Sell can be reached at [jillsell22@windstream.net](mailto:jillsell22@windstream.net).



The new Parisian bathtub from MTI Baths is made in the United States but has the iconic style of Paris. | Photo Credit: MTI Baths

## Own It!

### Three stunning homes available in North Royalton's Pinestream development

These three homes are located in one of North Royalton's Premier developments, Pinestream, which features gently rolling and wooded terrain with spectacular views. Built by Sandvick Builders, these custom homes boast open floor plans, soaring ceilings, gorgeous woodwork, solid wood doors, wood flooring, spacious kitchens and fabulous master retreats.

#### Step Inside

The first home, 17375 Sawgrass Cir., is located in the center of a cul-de-sac. This first-floor master Cape Cod offers Brazilian cherry wood floors that flow into the gourmet kitchen and nearby sunroom. A slider leads to the deck, stamped concrete patio and stone fireplace, which create a perfect outdoor living space. The finished lower level has a wet bar and all the accoutrements for entertaining during winter months.

An elegant colonial, 17344 Creekside Cir., sits on a beautiful wooded lot. Entertaining is a breeze with the spacious kitchen, formal dining room and a sunroom

with a wet bar – all overlooking a spectacular salt water pool and professional landscaping. The finished lower level also includes a wet bar.

The final home, 17359 Waterbridge Dr., backs to the Rocky River preserve. This spacious colonial features a formal living, a formal dining room and a great room that opens to the kitchen and a sunroom. A light-filled library with access to the deck stretches across the back of this home, offering privacy and beautiful views. In addition, it includes a finished walkout lower level.

#### The Community

North Royalton is a charming city featuring summer concerts, home days and community activities on the square. The city is conveniently located near Interstates 77, 71 and 480 and the turnpike and offers quick access to Cleveland, Akron, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, SouthPark Mall, Southwest and Parma hospitals and Cleveland Metroparks. It also boasts a top-rated school district, a state-of-the-art YMCA and a brand new library.



This ideally located West Side home features open floor plans and great entertaining spaces.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

**ADDRESS:** 7375 Sawgrass Cir., North Royalton

**PRICE:** \$545,000

**SQUARE FOOTAGE:** 3,852 SF

**BEDROOMS:** Four

**BATHROOMS:** Three full, one half

**CONTACT:** Diane Joeright, Howard Hanna (440) 526-1800

