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## HOME TRENDS

## SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

# New bathroom fixtures are designed for the comfort of kids and adults

Miniatures often delight us. We smile when we see child-size tea sets, pint-sized rocking chairs and pedal cars that look like their life-size inspirations.

Bathroom fixtures are no exception. But there was a time when

only the very wealthy could afford to create bathrooms featuring small-scale bathtubs, toilets and sinks for their pampered children. Gradually, however, child-sized fixtures became less popular even among the wealthy. Also, the expense and need to have bathrooms that could accommodate all ages made the idea less practical for the middle class.

But today's bathroom fixtures that preach safety-first for kids are gaining more attention from parents. Small-scale sinks, usually used for powder rooms or half-baths, can work fine for younger children if accompanied by a small stepstool, one preferably with side rails.

But those standard-sized toilets, with what looks like a Grand Canyon hole to a youngster, can be unsafe not to mention terrifying to young kids. (Yes, we know there are toilet seat adapters, but not all work well.) The Elementary toilet from Mansfield Plumbing is just 1 1/4 inches high for easy access and the smaller bowl



**Jill Sell**

allows for a more comfortable fit.

In addition, the two-piece toilet includes a lid cover lock and a custom-made SmartClose toilet seat. The seat closes slowly, eliminating banging seats and smashed little fingers.

Of course you will want to make this investment when the kids are just coming out of diapers instead of waiting until they are in high school. But then there are always grandchildren.

On the other end of the spectrum is Mansfield Plumbing's Summit toilets lines with MagnaFlush capabilities. These super systems easily flush away up to 21 ounces of toilet paper and waste. We don't recommend flushing your car keys, iPhone or your child's teddy bear, but it probably would handle those things.

(And just in case you are ever asked on a television quiz show or are playing a trivia game, most people spend 30 minutes a day in the bathroom. They will use about 57 sheets of toilet paper a day -- about 8.6 sheets per bathroom visit, according to the Toilet Paper Encyclopedia and the Toilet Paper History website.)

The Continuum sink from MTI Baths and designer Matthew Quinn is for those of us who like the unusual. This semi-recessed sink utilizes the countertop hole cut-out as the sink bottom. Two notches where the countertop is cut out allow the water to run into the sink. Only two inches of the

sink rim rest on the countertop (although the rim can be extended to 4.25 inches upon request) and there is no overflow.

The sink is available in white or biscuit with a matte or gloss finish. The sink is stain-, mold- and mildew-resistant and quite pricey. But very different.

Freestanding tubs are still popular and the TOTO Neorest Freestanding Tub is quite a beauty. Made from reinforced

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marble, this deep soaking tub offers a generous length and can comfortably accommodate two.

Designers realize, however, that not everyone has a large master bathroom. Victoria + Albert debuted its ionian tub this year. The oval soaking tub has a wide rim, a slightly greater angle of recline than many tubs, and takes up only a small footprint. The seamless tub is made from its trademarked Volcanic Limestone mixed with resin and won't crack or flex.



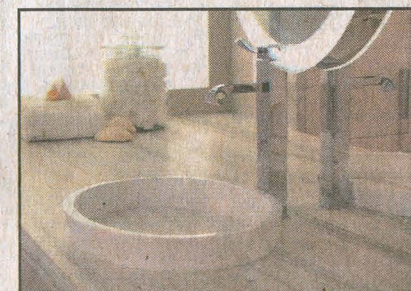
The Elementary from Mansfield Plumbing is a kid-size toilet with a safety seat that won't hurt little fingers.

Photo Credit: Mansfield Plumbing



The TOTO Neorest Freestanding Tub is an elegant sculpture made from reinforced marble.

Photo Credit: Edelman



Guests will be mystified when first seeing MTI Baths' unusual Continuum sink that uses the countertop cut-out to form the bottom of the sink.

Photo Credit: MTI Baths

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