

MAY/JUNE 2019

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MAY/JUNE

SINKS/FAUCETS/LUXURY BATH TRENDS

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## Trends



# A Room in Which to Indulge

*How today's bathrooms are becoming destinations to retreat and revive*

**D**EALING WITH THE PRESSURE OF DAILY DEMANDS, distressing headlines and the constant influx of emails, texts and notifications, consumers are looking to escape when they come home. The bathroom has only recently become a space in which to linger and enjoy, and developments in wellness and technology have turned this formerly neglected room into a luxurious oasis.

“Consumers want the bath to not only be a place for privacy but also for self care, relaxation and well-being,” said Daniela Fantini, CEO of Fantini. “It is for this reason that architects and designers are committed to its design and finding solutions in terms of aesthetics, technology and functionality that can meet the expectations of consumers.”

### IDEALIZING THE LUXURY SPA

According to a recent report from the American Psychological Association, people of all ages are reporting higher stress levels. Having a place that reminds homeowners of less-vexing times – such as a vacation – can make a difference in lowering those levels of anxiety.

“More and more the hotels we visit on holidays inspire us to bring those feelings of pure relaxation home,” said Erica Moir, vice president of new product development at Jacuzzi. “Recreating a memory of an amazing trip and the experience at the hotel can bring you back to that escape without having to go out of town.”

Hotels and spas are further encouraging glamorous bathrooms with their new designs, which often include lots of natural light, showers and tubs with therapeutic features and soothing layouts and palettes. In these luxurious spaces, everything seems cleaner, less cluttered and more efficient than at home.

**ABOVE** The Euphoria Smart-Control Shower System from **GROHE** delivers all the benefits of a fully customized system, including a thermostat, showerhead and hand shower. Features include push-button technology, which makes it easy to turn the shower on and off, and intuitive icons select spray, outlet and flow.

**RIGHT** The Veil Bathroom Collection from **KOHLER** features integrated lighting adjustable for task, guide and ambiance – or a combination – that works off of circadian rhythms to more naturally enhance well-being. Products include an intelligent toilet, freestanding bath, lighted mirror and three-piece vanity that work together as a system.

**BY ERINN LOUCKS**

“All projects have a common theme: Homeowners are asking for a beautiful, spa-like bathroom that is easy to maintain,” said designer Michelle Fee of Atlanta-based Change Your Bathroom. “Since the bathroom is the first room your client enters when they wake up in the morning, it’s a big responsibility to make it the most thoughtful space that emanates this experience.”

According to Fantini, this trend for a spa-like space actually harkens back to ancient times when the Greeks, Romans and Middle Eastern civilizations made a lifestyle out of the Turkish bath. In those cultures, bathing was a therapeutic ritual that played a huge part in health – mental and physical.

“The magic of water has always had to do with the regeneration of the individual body and even the collective body,” said Fantini, explaining that the traditional Turkish bath was a spa experience that used a mixture of cold and hot water and steam to rejuvenate. “Today, the market demand is to bring the pleasure and benefits of this back inside the house.”

### INTEGRATING WELLNESS WITH TECHNOLOGY

Instilled in showers, baths and even in mirrors and lighting, recent developments in tech are allowing multiple therapeutic solutions to be subtly integrated into luxury projects.

“This means that in addition to having a simple soaking tub, air bath or whirlpool bath, you can also integrate aromatherapy, chromatherapy and audio therapy,” said Michael Kornowa, director of marketing at MTI Baths. “The sensory therapies are beneficial unto themselves, but when combined with the hydrotherapies, they create a very powerful offering.”

Hydrotherapy is what the ancients embraced, and today it is still effective. Between steam and hot or cold water, hydrotherapy can reduce pain, boost immunity, increase blood flow, ↓





HYGEA, the eco-friendly, smart toilet from **USPA**, is inspired by natural elements. The integrated bidet function is detachable from both the bowl and the seat. A stainless-steel nozzle provides intimate hygiene, while drying is performed by a high-efficiency device.



From Aboutwater by **BOFFI** and **FANTINI**, the AK/25 Collection by Paik Sun Kim is inspired by origami and spans wall- and deck-mounted faucets, tub fillers and shower fixtures. Available in a matte, gun-metal, PVD finish, the faucet opens and closes on a hinge so the user has the option to keep it tucked away when not in use.



Inspired by the natural beauty of pebbles shaped by water over time, the NEOREST NX2 intelligent toilet from **TOTO** has a sophisticated elliptical silhouette and offers high-tech sensor operation. Features include ACTILIGHT cleansing technology that breaks down waste, lime scale and mold; auto open/close and auto flush; an integrated WASHLET personal cleansing system; and energy- and water-saving elements.



## Trends

**RIGHT** **LENOVA**'s new FTS01SS freestanding tub faucet has a compact design ideal for small spaces needing a luxurious statement. Made of solid 304 stainless steel, the faucet includes a user-friendly, 360-degree swivel spout and works well with vintage-inspired or contemporary décor.

reduce blood pressure and relieve stress. Combined with sensory treatments like audio and music therapy, chromatherapy – which uses light and color – or aromatherapy's scent applications, a shower or bath can go a long way in improving the user's health.

"Technology and wellness work together to create bathroom spaces that allow people to unwind after a long day," said Lynn Schrage, interior designer at Kohler, explaining that the best bath tech is easy to use. "Integrating technology into bathroom spaces enhances the overall experience for consumers."

Having a simple way to control these therapies is crucial to relaxing, and designing the technology to be stylish, durable and subtle is just as important so it doesn't detract from the overall high-design appeal.

"Items in the bathroom have constant contact with water and perfume," said Roberto Gavazzi, CEO of Boffi. "Products have to be both beautiful and high performing."

The resulting products – like systems with customizable shower settings or mirrors that work with the circadian cycle – are being developed out of durable materials like high-grade stainless steel and natural stone. Their microtechnology is also well hidden for the smallest impact in the project, ensuring tech takes a backseat to the stylish design.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF MATERIALS

Along with a personalized feel, homeowners are asking for products that are natural, durable and simple to clean. This usually starts with surfaces, including countertops, shower tile and bathtub interiors.

"The trend is toward softer materials like solid surfaces, which are actually very smooth to the touch while still being incredibly sturdy," said Bob Gifford, director of business development at Hastings Tile & Bath.

According to Gifford, there has been a surge of popularity in quartz and porcelain countertops because of their durability and eco-friendly make. Marble and other natural stones are still popular for countertops, while wood is also growing as a prominent accent. To pair with these organic choices, consumers are drawn to neutral finishes and palettes.

"The sinks and bathtub are most often white, allowing for the 'easier-to-change' faucet or floor tiles to be the accent," said Moir. "This is where we see the matte-black and brushed-brass faucet finishes really trending because a short-term commitment is required."

Matte materials are a huge trend on both surfaces and plumbing products because they have the softer and more welcoming touch clients are looking for in their lavish bath.

### TIPS FOR DESIGNING A LUXURIOUS BATHROOM

With so many products catering to spa-like bathrooms, professionals have a lot of choices to design their client's dream space.

"When I work with a homeowner, I want to make sure their bathroom flows with them," said Fee, adding that her main focus is on two elements in the bathroom: functionality and fun. "Designing a bathroom to be beautiful is easy, but to be ergonomic and feature loaded is the best part." ↓



**BELOW** Designed by Martin Brudnizki for **DRUMMONDS**, the Leawood Collection includes a floor-standing bath and shower mixer, wall-mounted bath taps, shower controls and wall- and deck-mounted basin taps and is available in brass, chrome and nickel.

**ABOVE** The Aquatica Tessera Spa from **AQUATICA SPAS** combines various hydro massage circuits. The tub can be fitted with the company's Bluetooth surround sound system, which comprises four powerful speakers and a subwoofer, as well as chromotherapy treatments thanks to the four LED spotlights.





The Bayonne Console Sink from **STONE FOREST** is sculpted and beveled from a single block of Carrara marble and rests on tapered legs that are available in a range of options, including all-brass material with a variety of finishes. Optional walnut wood legs feature warm tones accented with hand-tooled metal fittings, with optional hammered ball fittings and an optional combination wood/metal front crossbar.



**WATERWORKS** has expanded its existing Aero Bath Collection to address client requests for a more all-inclusive design experience. A gooseneck lavatory faucet, tub fillers, bath accessories and cabinet knobs and pulls are included. These additions boast Aero's original modern styling and detail that is reminiscent of 19th-century telescopes.



Now available in matte black, the **JACUZZI** transitional round tub filler is floor-mounted for a distinguished freestanding look. A hand shower with a flexible hose is included in this faucet featuring a ceramic disc cartridge for a lifetime of drip-free use.



**RIGHT** The Urban Collection of bathroom vanities from **HASTINGS TILE & BATH** offers a customizable look. Countertop and cabinet features include glossy or matte options in 45 colors, porcelain in 11 finishes, cement resin in 10 colors and high-pressure laminate in nine finishes. The vanity is also offered as a wall or floor mount.

Beverly Hills, Calif.-based designer Christopher Grubb stressed the importance of maximizing function and making the space feel as large as possible. One of his key tricks to doing both is installing optimum lighting, particularly with eye-level sconces.

"This way you get the beauty of the fixture, but more importantly, you have light on your face for applying makeup or shaving," said Grubb, adding that a dimmer allows users to control the level of lighting, which can affect mood.

Choosing subtle ways to make the space feel customized to the homeowner is important, like including designated storage for the accessories they use every day. Using art or furniture in a bath can also make it feel more personal and indulgent.

"Try fabricating a custom vanity from an antique cabinet or creating a lounge area with a chaise or cozy chair and lamp," said Brittany Zwickl, principal at West Hollywood, Calif.-based Studio Life.Style.

A personalized design might also mean incorporating living-in-place elements. Fortunately, a lot of bathroom trends – like curbless showers and an open floor plan – naturally embrace universal design, but installing additional safety features can make a big difference in the long run.

"We are designing most showers for living in place with linear drains and grab bars," said Portland-based designer Robin Rigby Fisher, who added that she also finds it important to install vanities and toilets at a height most comfortable to her client.

#### **THE LAVISH BATH FOR ALL SIZES & BUDGETS**

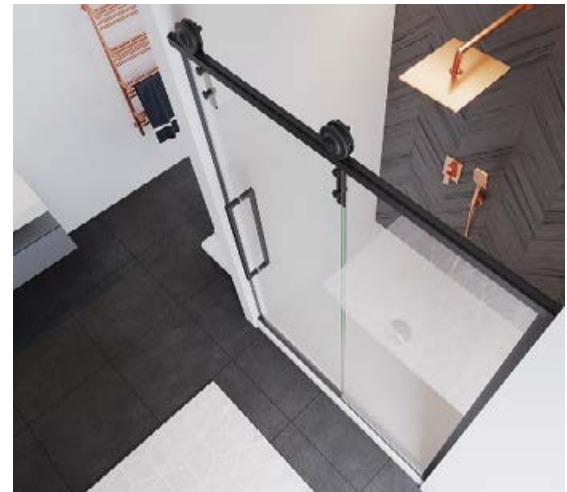
As technology improves, products designed for a spa-like bathroom will become more accessible and affordable for consumers. It is likely that designers will start to see more requests for thermostatic shower systems, plumbing products with added therapies and personalized designs.

"Homeowners want the bathroom to reflect their taste and style, but they also want a room that is practical and provides a luxurious experience," said Patrick Cobb, vice president of marketing for Coastal Shower Doors. "We have only scratched the surface of what the bathroom space has to offer for design."

While clients will continue to ask for an open feel in their baths, it is also likely that designers will be asked to do projects with less square footage. Creating the feel of a bigger room in these spaces will be challenging, but the growing availability of small-space products helps.

"We love larger bathrooms but have many city clients that are looking for modern and space-saving options," said James Lentaigne, creative director at Drummonds. "Smaller vanities and bathtubs will help save space in smaller apartments."

Whatever the size, wellness and the bathroom will continue to intertwine. The benefits of therapeutic technology – particularly how well it subtly integrates into the design – will be a huge part of the health benefits in the bath. Consumers will be able to truly feel like they are on vacation, all while never leaving their home.



**ABOVE** Introduced at KBIS 2019, the ECLIPSE Series from **COASTAL SHOWER DOORS** is a sleek, modern and adaptable shower door collection inspired by the iconic barn door. It features overlapping panels and smooth-gliding rollers. The barn doors are available in a black finish, with customizable glass styles, textures and hardware; anodized aluminum frames and stainless-steel handles; and brackets and fasteners.

**BELOW** **MTI BATHS** introduces microbubbles technology, which super saturates the water with up to 50 percent more dissolved oxygen than regular water. The result turns the bath water milky white through the infusion of tiny oxygen-rich bubbles the size of the head of a pin. This option is available on most Designer drop-in or Sculpted Finish Andrea soaking or air bath tubs.



# 9

## What's Hot

9. The Nice Collection of colorful bathroom sink handles was designed by Matteo Thun & Antonio Rodriguez for **FANTINI**. A 4mm strip of color at the bottom is reflected throughout the glass, creating an illusion of a fully-colored handle. When looking at them from different heights, the handles show different amounts of color, and the collection is available in red, black, blue, turquoise, green and white.



# 10



10. From **GRAFF**'s G+ Design Studio, the Harley Collection was inspired by classic motorcycles and an industrial aesthetic. The collection includes one-, two-, or three-hole versions of the sink and bathtub; wall-, floor- or deck-mounted models; and a linear lever option – also knurled for a user-friendly handle, as well as a two-hole lavatory faucet ideal for narrow spaces.

# 11

11. **RUVATI** introduces the Verona Series, a collection of apron-front workstation sinks. The sinks' large proportions accommodate oversized pots and pans, while integrated racks allow built-in accessories to slide quickly into place. Features include a deep, stainless-steel colander; an adjustable roll-up rack for drying dishes; and a stainless-steel rinse grid and drainer basket.



12. Created as a collaboration between designer Thomas O'Brien and **WATERWORKS**, the new Foro Bath Collection was inspired by classical elements like an antique Danish serving bowl and the Roman Forum. The design of the faucets features tailored, rounded bases, slightly tapered spouts and elevated levers and cross handles.



13. The new Rhapsody Sink from **NATIVE TRAILS** is an artistic twist on the traditional farmhouse style. Using techniques passed down through generations, a typical copper sink takes several days to perfect, resulting in hand-hammered detailing and a bowed apron front. The sink is offered in both brushed nickel and antique copper (shown here).

# 12

# 13

14. Available in polished-chrome or brushed-nickel finishes, the new **LENOVA** Solid Brass Faucet Line boasts a top-quality ceramic cartridge for drip-free and durable performance. Features include a stainless-steel pullout side spray and a user-friendly, 360-degree swivel spout.

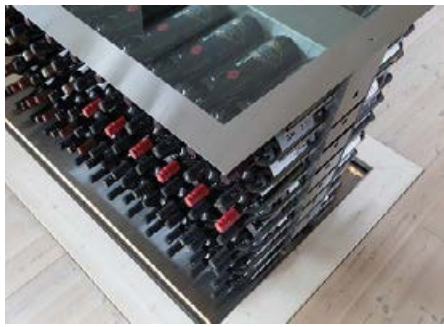


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# 15

15. **MEGANITE** now offers thermoformed sinks with all the hygienic properties and benefits of solid surface materials. The sinks feature the look of real marble with non-porous properties and the ability to limit bacteria growth, while also eliminating the difficulties of maintaining real marble.





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## What's Cool

# What's Cool Everywhere Else

1. **VINOTEMP's** VinCave Wine Cellars are now available in 200- and 450-bottle capacities. The VinCave Wine Cellar 200 features a glass covering and a push-button elevation function, which raises the bottles above ground for easy access, while the VinCave Wine Cellar 450 features a sleek glass door that opens electrically.

2. The ProLine linear shower drain by **QUICKDRAIN USA** is easy to install in zero-entry showers and wet areas that allow wheelchair access. Ideal for tub-to-shower conversions, the ADA-compliant and UPC-approved drain accommodates finished shower dimensions from 32 to 72 inches.

3. Derived from the Italian word for apple, Mela by **SONNEMAN – A WAY OF LIGHT** features blown crystal glass that surrounds an LED core of etched white acrylic. Available in three sizes – as single pendants or in multiples of the same size – Mela is part of the company's 2019 collection.

4. NeoConcrete from **AMERICAN OLEAN** is a concrete-look tile available in five colors and two finishes, as well as a contemporary 3D cube mosaic. Stepwise technology makes NeoConcrete 50 percent more slip resistant than regular tile when compared to tile meeting ANSI Standards, making it ideal for indoor and outdoor installations.



4



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3



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