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HOTELS & RESORTS

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BATHROOM DESIGN TOMORROW'S HOTEL BATHROOM WILL BE, , ,



1. BEAUTIFUL, FUNCTIONAL: For hotels where the bathroom's design does not incorporate a bath, Felicia Seignior, SVP of business development and brand at Apaiser, likes "beautiful and functional" integrated basins.

2. INVENTIVE: Removing curbs from a shower area gives a hotel's team "a lot more options when it comes to design," said Darryl Jones, national sales manager of showrooms for QuickDrain USA. "It also makes a housekeeper's job easier since they can mop the space much faster."

3. ACCESSIBLE: Linear drains eliminate the need for a "curb" to prevent water from spilling away from a shower pan. "By pitching the floor away from where the curb normally would be, we can have a zero-barrier threshold, allowing anything from a wheelchair or a walker or somebody just shuffling over the threshold into the shower," said Michael Rizzuto, technical sales manager at Infinity Drain.

4. FREESTANDING: A trend in higher-end personal bathrooms, said Jay Beaumont, director of sales and marketing for Lenova, is freestanding tubs with freestanding tub fillers. "I've seen in travel magazines that suites have freestanding tubs with floor-mounted tub fillers or wall-mounted fillers," he said.

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New looks refresh showers, tubs

BY JENA TESSE FOX @JENAFOX

shotels try to one-up each other with ever-sleeker, ever-more-sophisticated bathrooms, the line between hospitality and residential is getting blurrier. Fortunately, high-end products are becoming increasingly affordable and are opening up new possibilities for showers and baths.

"Hotel bathrooms should be inspirational," said Felicia Seignior, SVP of business development and brand at Apaiser, a bathware design company. "Guests want to recreate this feeling in their home." Especially in the luxury end of the

market, she acknowledged, this goal makes it more challenging to design impressive bathrooms for hotels.

"Luxury hotels are mirroring the luxury features that consumers want in their baths," said Jay Beaumont, director of sales and marketing at Lenova. The company is seeing increased demand



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MTI Baths' Charlotte bathtub model provides lumbar support, integrated internal overflow and a white toetap drain.

for its body-spray shower systems and for its high-tech thermostatic shower system.

Showers need to be spacious, Beaumont said, with rain-style heads. "It adds to the allure," he said. "Steam capability within the shower enclosure is becoming more and more common with high-end consumer bathrooms. It will be another thing that's added for luxury hotels."

"For suites and penthouses, large, sculptural freestanding baths are the most desired product," Seignior said. "They create [both] immediate visual impact and a lasting memory."

When it comes to showers, until recently, most shower stalls had a central drain—"usually something round, nothing attractive," said Michael Rizzuto, technical sales manager at Infinity Drain. On the floors, mosaic tiles terminated at a low center point, making larger tiles ill-suited for the space.

Linear drains, on the other hand, put a channel against one of the perimeters of the shower enclosure, and the floor is slightly tilted to that side. The lack of a central drain means that the base of the shower can be solid or large-scale tile—or another material entirely. Michael Kornowa, director of marketing for MTI Baths, noted that custom drain locations in acrylic shower pans help reduce overall costs and speed up remodels.

Darryl Jones, national sales manager of showrooms for QuickDrain USA, said that the flatter floor and smaller tiles are a benefit in terms of upkeep thanks to less grout in between tiles. **HM**