

CHIC DÉCOR

Design – Colour Consultations – Space & Furniture Planning – Window Treatments

Bathroom Oasis – Part One

Does the thought of having a luxurious oasis seem impossible given the state of your current bathroom? Well don't despair, with a little knowledge and careful planning you can have that spa like oasis you've only dreamed of.

Space Plan

If your bathroom is so tiny that you fear falling in the tub as you turn towards the sink, then you may consider having your bathroom redesigned and borrow space from an adjacent room. This type of renovation is both costly and lengthy, but if the results are a beautifully designed space with more storage and floor space along with increased resale value, it may well be worth the investment.

If however you can maintain the original footprint of the bathroom you can splurge on updating the fittings (fixtures, tub, etc.), and existing tile. Consider the options below.

Tubs

If budget will allow consider the infinity pool tub with a perimeter reservoir that allows you to fill the tub right up to the edge, it comes with chromatherapy (the use of colour to relax, invigorate, etc) lights built in to enhance your bathing experience. If that's not an option consider one of many contemporary bathtubs available from oval to rectangular, built-in or freestanding, with/without air jets. Consider a freestanding option if space is at a premium as it gives the illusion of more space.

Showers

Showers have become very decadent; they're larger, enveloped in glass and outfitted with lots of features. Consider this: a large rain shower head mounted on the ceiling, coupled with side shower sprays mounted at various heights and a floor of beach pebbles to massage your feet for a truly relaxing experience, the walls outfitted with a glass and stone tile blend. Truly gorgeous!

Vanities

When considering a new vanity ensure that it has enough drawer and counter space. Consider the new quartz products when selecting a countertop. Choose a colour that either matches/contrasts with the surrounding tile. As for sinks, porcelain is still a more durable and forgiving option in terms of maintenance. Glass vessels are beautiful but require more maintenance to keep them sparkling, use them in low traffic areas.

Toilets

Opt for the new one piece options, they're sleeker, quieter, and many come with a soft-close lid. They provide extra flushing power including a seat height that's higher and more comfortable than standard toilets turning this utilitarian work horse into a feature player. Stay tuned for Part two of Bathroom Oasis in the next issue of Home Works.

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Bathroom Oasis – Part Two

In the previous issue of Homeworks we talked about a functioning space plan and discussed the fittings (tubs, vanities, showers...) that help create both a functional and aesthetically pleasing bathroom. In this issue we'll discuss the other elements that help create a spa like space.

Colour Scheme

One of the key decisions for any room is deciding on the mood you want. For a spa bathroom you'll want to choose a palette of blues, aquas or off-whites. You could opt for paint on the wall or for a more luxurious option choose marble, porcelain or mosaic tiles for the walls and floors. Keep the size of the room in mind when making a decision, for smaller spaces avoid too much pattern and contrast.

Finishes

When choosing your faucets, light fixtures, towel bars, etc. ensure that you will be able to obtain the same finish in all of these products. In other words don't purchase a light fixture in a chrome finish and faucets in pewter, the undertones are quite different and will look out of place together.

Lighting

Lighting should be close to your face when at a vanity. Having a light on either side of the mirror is preferable to one over the mirror, if that's not possible purchase daylight simulating bulbs for the most complimentary lighting for this fixture.

Also, if the room is larger add low-voltage halogens to the ceiling. This will create extra general lighting (eliminating shadows in the room) and by having these on a dimmer switch it will allow you to soften the lighting and create a restful mood when relaxing in a tub.

Accessories

What's a spa-like bathroom without the accessories? First and foremost are the towels. Purchase the softest and plushest towels you can and layer them for a luxe look. White is the eternal favourite always looking fresh, and marries perfectly to any colour palette.

Obtain some glass vessels, in varying sizes, and place these on your vanity or by the tub. Fill them with items that remind you of a favourite vacation or are more utilitarian like cotton balls and Q-tips. Couple these with artwork in the same theme.

Treat yourself to some imported soap, scented candles and of course, a vase of fresh flowers (in colours that compliment your palette).

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You now have the basics towards putting together the bathroom of your dreams. If you require a more detailed assessment of your bathroom, or other rooms in your home, you may wish to contact **Margarida Oliveira**, designer and owner of **Chic Décor**, to book a design consultation.

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