

REMODEL TRENDS

Bathrooms Becoming More Sleek and Chic

Don't look now but bathrooms are taking on a whole new look. Going, going, nearly gone are jetted tubs. They're being replaced with spacious, walk-in showers and/or sculptural, stand-alone bathtubs. Also vanishing are glass enclosures. Why? Too much trouble to keep clean. And all the necessary bathroom features, from vanities to mirrors to towel racks, are either taking on a more arty flair or becoming sleek and chic. Picture the bathrooms in fashionable boutique hotels and you'll get the idea. We asked local experts in the remodeling industry what the latest bathroom trends are and here's what they had to say:

"Kitchen warming drawers are being used in the master bath as towel warmers, too. But make sure it's a unit suitable for the bathroom."

CATHY BAME

THE WESTYE GROUP

"The bathroom trends are pull-outs and drawers instead of wall-mounted medicine chests, electrical outlets in drawers for hair dryers and shavers and linen storage right in the cabinetry instead of a linen closet. Every space is used for a



Today's bathrooms are more sleek and chic than ever. Quartz Motivo surfaces (top and left) feature an embossed, textured look achieved through a patented polishing method. This new technology produces a sand-blasted effect and offers the ability to create pattern-designed finishes from a range of surfaces.

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A vessel sink sits atop an onyx countertop with a sculpted backsplash. Both were cut from the same slab so the grain would match. Illumination installed beneath the translucent stone makes it glow in the dark (top). Squares of pencil tile cut to achieve a striking basket-weave pattern make a distinctive shower floor (center). Do the walls around this bathtub (bottom) look like rice-cloth wallpaper? In fact, they're porcelain tile. Still, you won't find any seams or grout lines.



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function. With our recent drought issues, water conservation has been a real concern. The dual-flush toilet from Kohler has become very important. If we're using multiple shower heads in the master bath, then each shower head is plumbed to function individually as well as together. That way, there's no waste of water by running both shower heads at once."

JOHANNA GOLDLUST SELDES
INTERIOR DESIGN CONSULTING

"Some people are starting to edge into the green movement by asking for sustainable building products. About 80 percent are asking for granite or the quartz products because they'll last forever. And then we've got some people who don't really care about that. They want the rain showerheads and body jets, the vessel sinks—the glitz and the glamour."

JOHN MARZULLI
EMERALD CONTRACTORS

"We're seeing appliances in other rooms like warming drawers in the bathroom, and sometimes under-counter refrigerators in bedrooms and bathrooms."

STACI ZICCARDI
FLORIDA BUILDER APPLIANCES

"The trend is that bathroom tiles are getting bigger. Floor tiles are larger than they used to be."

JON GREAVES
GREAVES CONSTRUCTION

"Trends? Making the most in small spaces using pedestal sinks, wall-mounted fixtures and vessel sinks. Also frameless glass enclosures, granite tops, tiled trims, recessed niches in showers and converting tubs into walk-in showers. Natural stone products such as travertine, better lighting, video connections for the TV, steam systems and comfort-height toilets are catching on as well."

DOUG KING
WEST COAST REMODELERS