





TILES ARE OVERSIZED, IN LARGER FORMATS, AND THE LINEAR DRAIN FITS THAT CONTEMPORARY STYLE. IT ALSO CAN BE MORE INTEGRATED AND DISGUISED INTO THE DESIGN."

-Jenifer Davison, Collins & DuPont Design Group

s the bathroom continues to evolve into a spa-like sanctuary to escape and unwind, luxurious tubs have become a must-have for many designers and their clients. "I continue to see freestanding tubs as a beautiful centerpiece, especially in a master bath," says Lisa Kahn of Lisa Kahn Designs.

The popularity of these tubs has grown in recent years—and remains strong as the evolution in design and materials continues. "I try not to let a project go by without a Victoria + Albert tub," says Jenny Provost

of K2 Design Group. "They're made of volcanic limestone mixed with resin, so they have a great feel and are warm to the touch. The Amalfi (right) allows one to sit up comfortably with a high backrest and no sliding—and it is absolutely gorgeous."

Kira Krümm of Koastal Design Group says porcelain standing tubs are still on trend and she sees them becoming "more of a statement piece than a functional feature of the bathroom." When it comes to marrying function and style in bath design, Krümm says many clients are asking for curbless, walk-in showers that look sleek and modern, while also proving to be practical and safe for our aging population. Designers are pairing these barrier-free showers with a linear drain, which is the hottest trend in decorative plumb-

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ing. With its sleek design, this elongated rectangular drain is a favorite among designers. Unlike a traditional center drain, the linear version doesn't require a four-way slope on the shower floor, which greatly expands options for floor tile.

"Tiles are oversized, in larger formats, and the linear drain fits that contemporary style. It also can be more integrated and disguised into the design," says Jenifer Davison of Collins & DuPont Design Group. "It is a more contemporary look."





REMOVE EXISTING MIRRORS AND USE DECORATIVE WALL-HUNG MIRRORS INSTEAD. YOU CAN ALSO INSTALL RECTANGULAR FLOOR TILE OR STONE IN LARGER SIZES. RATHER THAN THE USUAL SQUARE TILES, TO OPEN THE SPACE, TAKE DOWN THE WALLS AND USE A GLASS-ENCLOSED SHOWER OR GLASS BARN DOORS."

> -Denise Ward, Denise Ward Interior Design

1. CHANGE THE MIRRORS. "Vanity mirrors with built-in LED lighting, which can also be backlit, provide great lighting and a clean look," says Faith Fix of Freestyle Interiors.

2. REPLACE CABINET HARDWARE. "This is a simple and fun update," says Bethany O'Neil of Bethany O'Neil Interior Design. "There are so many options; Smith & Deshields has the biggest selection in town."

3. ADD A SMALL CEILING FAN, "In our super humid environment, an overhead fan when you are trying to get dry is a cheap luxury," says Jenny Provost of K2 Design Group.

4. SWAP TOWEL BARS FOR HOOKS. "Everyone in Florida knows towels can't dry quickly enough to reuse when they are folded," O'Neil says. "Hooks are convenient, and useful for other items such as bathrobes, overnight hanging toiletry bags, and clothing on a hanger."

5. GO OFF THE WALL. "Use grasscloth on the walls, or add some fun with trim or paint, such as cabana stripes," Fix says.





SINK INTO STYLE

The aesthetic of an entire bathroom can be set with the selection of the sink. For a contemporary minimalist look, trough and integral sinks in solid stone are trending among many local designers. But for Denise Ward of Denise Ward Interior Design, the wall-mounted and vessel sinks are the favored choice. "These sinks are now being made from glass, basalt, metal, and bamboo," Ward says. "Using one of them can make an ordinary space extraordinary."

Meanwhile, Bethany O'Neil of Bethany O'Neil Interior Design is noticing the industrial look "everywhere."

"Sinks are going to a square shape and

clean, sleek lines can be found on most faucets," O'Neil says. "Plumbing is even starting to show texture on some of the bases of faucets and lever handles, such as adding ribbing and stamped textures on nuts and bolts."

And with the ongoing trend of transitional design, mixing classic with contemporary, Jenifer Davison of Collins & DuPont Design Group points to a major shift in the finishes on fixtures. Traditional satin, nickel, and chrome finishes are being replaced with bronze, brass, rose gold, and even matte black. "Faucets now look like pieces of sculptured art," Ward says, "and if they operate automatically, all the better."





ME

A MELTING POT OF MATERIAL DELIVERS A WOW FACTOR IN TILE





Tile is a mainstay in bathroom design. While some may still prefer that it serve as a neutral backdrop, advances in technology have created more possibilities for customization and artistry than ever before.

"As technology evolves, the trend in tile is moving more toward waterjet mosaic design," says Jenifer Davison of Collins & DuPont Design Group. "It gives you more options because you can literally change every element to it. You can use any color stone, substitute glass or mirror, or use a combination. You can even incorporate steel or wood, such as a stainless-steel inlay with marble or wood cut with stone, in the same waterjet mosaic."

There have been dramatic and creative improvements in porcelain tiles as well, according to Jenny Provost of K2 Design Group. "We are using them as wall surfaces throughout the house," she says. "There are some very exciting dimensioned tiles, which have shape to them—they are not just flat surfaces."

Patterned tile is also on trend and making a comeback with decorative elements, according to Denise Ward of Denise Ward Interior Design.

"A mixture of glass and marble is outrageously popular these days," adds Bethany O'Neil of Bethany O'Neil Interior Design. "Artistic tiles combine the materials in a 12-inch square mesh, which makes for a smoother installation."

There is now a multitude of colors, sizes and patterns in custom ceramic tiles, adds Laura Parsons of Pure Design of Naples. She suggests California-based FireClay Tile, which uses recycled materials for its handmade and hand-painted tiles.



FROM THE REST OF YOUR HOME. YOU CAN AFFORD TO BE DARING. DON'T BE AFRAID TO PAINT IT ALL ONE COLOR—BRIGHT OR DARK. REMEMBER TO INCLUDE THE SAME FINISH ON THE CEILING. WALLPAPERS IN LARGE BOLD PRINTS WILL ALSO CREATE A WOW FACTOR."

-Judith Liegeois, Judith Liegeois Designs





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THE VANITY: "It's usually a small room, and the vanity is the major focal point, so you need to pack a punch," says Bethany O'Neil of Bethany O'Neil Interior Design, who suggests Atlanta-based J. Tribble, which makes luxury custom vanities that resemble furniture.

2

THE MIRROR: "Be creative and mirror the entire wall behind the vanity and then hang a decorative mirror onto that," says Judith Liegeois of Judith Liegeois Designs. "It creates a wonderfully unique space and a moody escape."

THE SINK: "For powder rooms, I am in love with simple pedestal sinks like Lacava's Ottavo," says Jenny Provost of K2 Design Group.

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THE WALL: "Check out some of the new digital image wall-coverings that can turn your powder room into a forest or a subway station," Provost says. "Do something unexpected like wood paneling or a crazy organic art installation."

THE LIGHTING: "This is still a bathroom with a purpose and you will need sconces," O'Neil says. "They don't have to function for everyday use; their objective is to shed light and make you feel beautiful. No one wants to see their wrinkles, so I suggest you keep the wattage at 40."

