



## “Suite” Bathroom Trends

Creating the ultimate escape right in your own home

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WE ALL CRAVE REST AND relaxation – getting away from the stresses of work and our busy schedules. Sadly, for many of us, we don’t have the time to take a weekend away at a spa as often as we’d like. As a result, creating bathroom “retreats” in our homes are becoming more and more popular.



*Here are some of the top trends in bathroom design today:*

### 1. Expanding Size

The bathroom is becoming much more than just a functional area. Homeowners are dedicating more square footage to accommodate a soaker tub plus a shower, double sinks, or a separate room for the toilet. Custom built and tiled, two-user showers with two shower heads and custom made glass doors are also popular.

### 2. Increasing Number of Fixtures Used

Increasingly, people want a separate shower for daily use with vertical spa jet systems for an “all body” shower experience. But, for that get away spa experience, we also want a luxurious soaker/jet tub to relax in. Double sinks are also in high demand, with many people opting to use “vessel” (or above-counter style) sinks for a higher end look and solid surface countertops like quartz or granite.

The type of toilet you use is also important in today’s bathroom. Toto has come out with a sleek styled, dual flush (2 and full flush) 6 ltr flush

toilet which optimizes the aesthetics as well as conserving water and improving ease of cleaning. Not to be forgotten, there are new self closing and soft closing toilet seats which improve the look and function of your toilet.

Electric or hot water heated towel warmers are another addition to the bath which reinforce a luxurious hotel feel that many homeowners crave in their personal bathroom retreats.

### 3. “Suite Bathrooms”

As we spend more time “luxuriating” in our bathrooms, they are becoming more like a suite and less like a bathroom. Built in stereo/sound systems, the addition of televisions and built in units, chaise lounges for reading, coffee centers with capaccino machines, as well as walk in closets or exercise areas directly off the bathroom are becoming more common place in today’s bathrooms. The idea is to create a space that once you’re inside, you can get ready each morning without ever leaving that space.

We are also becoming more creative with cabinetry and adding a furniture feel to the space. Ideas like converting antique dressers into vanities and using free standing armoires for storage instead of a traditional linen closet are all the rage. The master bedroom and bath are becoming more like a self contained hotel suite than just the standard bedroom and bathroom of the past.


With bathrooms looking so fabulous, it's difficult to ruin the beautiful look with a toilet. A separate space for the toilet is a new trend – a room within a room often separates the toilet area from the rest of the suite. The toilet area becomes a private, self contained space which doesn't interfere with the flow and style of the rest of the bathroom.

#### 4. Upgrading the Finishes Used

Many people are choosing to heat their tile floors by using electric pads underneath. You control the temperature of the floor with a thermostat mounted on the wall. Using granite, quartz, stone, glass and metal are just a few of the upgraded surfaces and finishes being used in today's bathrooms. The current hospital lottery showhome on display in Regina (built by Fiorante Homes) showcases many of the trends in today's bathroom design. They have combined glass mosaic tile on the face of the jetted soaker tub and backsplash areas of the sinks, a sleek glass countertop makeup area, tiled floors, quartz countertop and double vessel style sinks, custom tiled shower with glass front door, with a closet off the ensuite and a separate toilet area. (Design by Glenda Mabbott, colour consultant with south and east Benjamin Moore locations.)

#### 5. Lighting

We want to show off our fixtures and finishes with decorative lighting. Home owners are opting for soft wall sconces flanking soaker tubs, pot lights on dimmer switches in main areas, lighting inside showers for maximum visibility, even chandeliers for a dressy effect. The traditional row of lights above the vanity mirror is becoming a relic of the past. Using framed mirrors above sinks instead of custom cut mirrors with sconces on either side or semi flush light fixtures hanging from the ceiling is another hot new trend today.

Whether you're remodeling an existing bathroom or building a new house, the sky is the limit with respect to bathroom design. With a little research and imagination you too can have a spa oasis in your own home to relax and enjoy. 

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