

COVERSTORY

# small stylish BATHROOM

by EVELYN ESHUN | PHOTOGRAPHY by LARRY ARNAL

**n**o matter how large or how small your bathroom is, the basic elements which make a bathroom fabulous are the same. Functionality, easy to clean, lots of storage, and of course, attractive. In this case, I had carte blanche to design a bathroom for two very adorable little girls with the caveat that it had to be girly and timeless.

When clients give me their wish list for the renovation plan of their bathrooms, they usually have a tile or counter in mind, that is more often than not the jumping-off point of the aesthetic plan of the space. This is a good place to start, since it sets the tone for the look, the feeling and the colour of the bathroom. In this case, the client wanted Statuario marble for a countertop. Knowing this fact, it was easy to plug in the other elements which would make this small bathroom bright and fresh for the girls using it.

Choosing the vanity colour or finish is key to creating the mood in the space. Stained and dark tends to be masculine, while white and light tends to be feminine. A perfect white was chosen for the vanity, one of my favourite whites, Benjamin Moore's CC-20. You cannot go wrong with white vanities in a bathroom – classic, timeless and bright. The crystal knobs gave a finishing touch to the simple lined vanity.

Paint colours in the bathroom should be light and non-obtrusive in order to allow the tiles and stone to take centre stage. Getting away from all the grey and blue which is the trend these days, I chose a soft blushy pink for the wall colour. This imparts a warm glow over the entire bath.

When designing a bathroom on a budget, keep two things in mind: plumbing and tiling. Try to keep all the plumbing fixtures where they are, since moving them can really add dollars to the bottom

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line. Your tile budget can easily explode – to keep this in check, I like to use a simple white porcelain 3-by-6-in. or 2-by-4-in. tile as my main tile and add a gorgeous mosaic and bullnose tile as an accent. In this case, we used a mosaic which had glass and marble in a combination of smooth and textured square. The sparkle added the perfect girly touch the bathroom needed.

When it comes to the plumbing fixtures, we often adore the sparkle of chrome or polished nickel in a bathroom. Yes, you have to wipe the water stains away, but the sparkle is what imparts that finishing touch. I often like to use a cool polished chrome in a white, more modern bathroom space, while polished nickel suits a more traditional bathroom with creamy finishes and stained vanities. There are no hard and fast rules in this department – it is much like cooking; all the ingredients have to work together in harmony, the tiles, floor, counter, vanity, paint and plumbing fixtures.

My two little clients were very happy with their bathroom and the open storage in the upper cabinet, which allowed them to display their favourite little trinkets.





## TIPS

Save on your budget by planning to keep the plumbing fixtures where they are, work with what you have and you will shave that bottom line.

A banjo top behind the toilet will give you ample storage, it only needs to be 6-in. to 8-in. deep.

Though brushed gold is the trend for faucets at the moment, choosing the classic polished chrome will give you a timeless look. As a bonus, it tends to be the most cost effective finish.

Choose a dark coloured grout to avoid seeing dirt gather in the grout lines over time. When you do so, you create a more graphic look to your space, which can add to the design aesthetic.

Keep in mind that it will take six to eight weeks to get through the process of renovating the average bathroom and it can cost \$10,000 to \$20,000 for the average bathroom renovation.

Splurge on counters and plumbing fixtures. These elements will be put to the test daily.

Install your mirror from the counter to the edge of the vanity and all the way to the ceiling or underside of the moulding. It will double your space visually and brighten up the space tremendously.

## SUPPLIER LIST

- VANITY BY: SELBA KITCHENS AND BATHS  
905.660.1614 | SELBA.CA
- COUNTER: CROWN MARBLE  
416.655.8255 | CROWNMARBLE.CA
- TILES: SALTILLO TILES  
416.441.2224 | SALTILLO-TILES.COM
- SCONCES: UNION LIGHTING  
416.652.2200 | UNIONLIGHTINGANDFURNISHINGS.COM
- WALL PAINT: BENJAMIN MOORE : BM OC-71



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