

# BLISSFUL BATHROOMS

BY EVELYN ESHUN/ PHOTO CREDIT: LARRY ARNAL PHOTOGRAPHY



The bathroom is a private space where the personality of a homeowner can be expressed, especially in the master ensuite. More importantly, the bathroom is the second most valuable renovation one can make after the kitchen. No matter what your budget is, whether you are starting from scratch or just making over, there are some basic elements in the design process which will give you a successful and pleasing result. Classic elements such as marble, white finishes, and polished hardware will always make for an attractive bathroom.

A light countertop with a simple straight edge will keep the look classic. Marble such as Carrara, Statuario and Calcutta are natural stone finishes, which are timeless. If you like the durability and look of quartz stone, there are many options which have very little to no pattern, with colour choices to suit most applications.

Polished and shiny finishes will keep you wiping watermarks, however, they will also give you that sparkle and shine which is so pleasing in a well appointed bathroom.



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Consider the shape of the handles when you are making your plumbing fixture choices. It is easy to be wooed by the looks of an interesting shape, such as a box or a ball when you're in a showroom, but think about when your hands and eyes are soapy and you need to reach for the water fast! Remember, a lever is the easiest to manage.

Lighting is critical to all spaces in the house, especially in the bathroom. If you have the luxury of a window or skylight, the experience you have in your space will be exponentially better. There are many options to create good light in the bathroom. I recently renovated a bathroom which had a tiny window in a very awkward spot. We added a 36" x 16" skylight to the space, as well as, pot lights and vanity lights, providing the client a variety of options to use the space.

Other luxurious items such as: a dock for music, a television within a mirror, a steam unit, and shower jets are becoming commonplace now for the discerning client who appreciates a good 'bath' as the Romans did in the past, and some cultures still value to this day. Bathing is a ritual which is performed by all in a variety of ways, whether very privately, shared with a partner, daily long shower sessions, or a quick shower. We begin and end our day in the bathroom the more ergonomically sound and aesthetically pleasing it is, the happier our days and nights will be.

## TIPS:

### CALM COLOUR SCHEME

Use a set of colours with little contrast. A comfortable blend of warm creams, cool whites and sophisticated greys will give you a timeless look and spa feeling. Take cues from a classic marble like Statuario, used here in this bright and cheerful bathroom.

### CABINET HARDWARE ADDS PERSONALITY

Changing the cabinet hardware to suit your style and personality is easy with the variety of options available. From Swarovski crystal, which can be elegant and feminine, to rustic metal which can be urban and masculine, there is something for everyone.

### ACCESSORIES FOR FUNCTIONALITY

You begin and end your day in the bathroom, make it a positive experience by creating a 'counter-scape' with items which you use daily presented in attractive containers and a pot of flowers. It truly does make a difference in your day when the environment around you is presented in a calm and attractive manner.