



Plumbing fixtures can completely transform your experience. **BOBECHE INTERIORS**

DESIGN A SPA-LIKE BATHROOM AT HOME

Incorporate elements that make daily routines feel 'indulgent'

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If you're thinking about renovating your bathroom, you may breathe a sigh of relief to learn spa-inspired spaces are still very much on trend.

"But I'd say the focus has shifted slightly from just the look to also incorporating the functionality that makes it feel like a spa," says Dorothy Tsui, co-founder and creative director of Bobeche Interiors in Markham. "That might mean heated floors, layered luxury lighting, a steam shower, a smart toilet or even built-in sound systems – those elements that make the daily routine feel indulgent."

Certainly, there's lots to consider when renovating the bathroom, beginning with how you want to use

the space. For example, do you want a bathtub, a shower or a combination? "A bathtub can be great for families or those who enjoy a good soak, while a shower, especially a curb-less one, is fantastic for accessibility and creating a clean, open look," she says.

Wet rooms are "niche" though can be "incredible" when done right. "They allow for a more open shower space and can work well in smaller bathrooms, especially if you incorporate a tub inside the same enclosure to keep water contained," says Tsui. "That said, they require a lot of planning and precision to make sure the drainage, waterproofing and layout work perfectly. In larger bathrooms, I still find most homeowners prefer a separate walk-in shower and a stand-alone tub if space allows."

STORAGE, FIXTURES

Storage is another important consideration. "I always recommend thinking about practical options like linen closets, mirrored medicine cabinets and vanities with good internal organization. Those little details make everyday life so much easier," she says.

Plumbing fixtures, meanwhile, can completely change your experience. A rain shower head, for instance, offers a spa-like feel, a hand shower offers flexibility and body jets offer a luxurious touch. "Lighting is often overlooked but it's crucial. Think facial lighting around the mirror for getting ready, softer mood lighting for winding down and even under-vanity lighting that doubles as a night light."

What's on trend? "Right now, bathrooms are leaning into clean lines, natural warmth and thoughtful details. Wall-mounted fixtures are big. Think floating vanities that reveal more floor space – sometimes with soft lighting underneath – wall-mounted faucets for clutter-free counters and even wall-mounted toilets for a sleek, streamlined feel."

Fully-tiled bathrooms that create a "calm, seamless, retreat-like atmosphere" are also trending, Tsui reports. "Large format tiles are everywhere right now: 36 by 36 inches, even up to 48 by 48 (inches). They give that seamless look with fewer grout lines, which not only feels more luxurious but is also easier to clean. We're also seeing organic-inspired accents for personality: terracotta, honed or leathered finishes and more matte surfaces rather than glossy. These details add texture and warmth without overwhelming the space."

FLOOR TILES

Floor tiles should be slip-resistant, especially in wet areas. "I love using honed ceramic or porcelain tiles because they provide texture and won't become slippery when wet. Natural stone is another beautiful option but choose one that offers grip," she says.

Tile size matters, too. "I recommend smaller tiles for floors, especially in smaller bathrooms, as they provide better traction and prevent the space from looking overwhelmed. For walls, larger tiles or polished finishes can help create a streamlined, modern look. If you want to make the room feel bigger, use large-format tiles to give the illusion of expansive, uninterrupted stone."

A pro tip: If you're renovating a smaller bathroom or condo bathroom, consider using vinyl wall coverings. They're water-resistant, easy to clean and deliver beautiful texture, Tsui explains.

"Colour palettes are moving toward earthy tones: warm neutrals

with subtle textures that feel inviting and timeless. In stone, understated veining is in, offering a softer look that works in both modern and traditional spaces, with warm-toned marbles and natural stones leading the way," she says.

For finishes, brass and gold remain favourites for their versatility and warmth, while matte warm finishes are growing in popularity. Vessel sinks are also expanding beyond the classic white Vogt.

SMALL UPGRADES

If you're not ready to tackle a full renovation, consider investing in small upgrades, such as swapping out cabinet hardware for something more refined, updating faucets, adding statement lighting like sconces or changing the mirror. "Even layering in beautiful towels or a small piece of art can make the bathroom feel more designed and personal," Tsui says.

In the end, thinking about how you live day to day should be your most

important consideration. "The most beautiful bathroom won't feel right if it doesn't work for your lifestyle so invest in quality where it matters – reliable fixtures, good lighting, smart storage – and choose finishes that you'll still love years from now. Trends are great for inspiration, but comfort and functionality are what you'll appreciate every single day."

"Redesigning your bathroom is about more than just updating an old space," says Tsui. "It's about creating a sanctuary that works for you and enhances your daily routine. With thoughtful design, attention to functionality and a focus on style, you can transform your bathroom into a space that's both practical and beautiful. Whether you're adding a luxurious steam shower or a relaxing soaking tub, the right choices will elevate your home and make the bathroom a place you love to spend time in. And remember, a well-designed bathroom adds lasting value to your home."



Dorothy Tsui, co-founder and creative director of Bobeche Interiors in Markham. **SUPPLIED**



Matte black vessel sinks are on trend. **BOBECHE INTERIOR**



Spa inspired bathrooms are still in demand. **BOBECHE INTERIORS**