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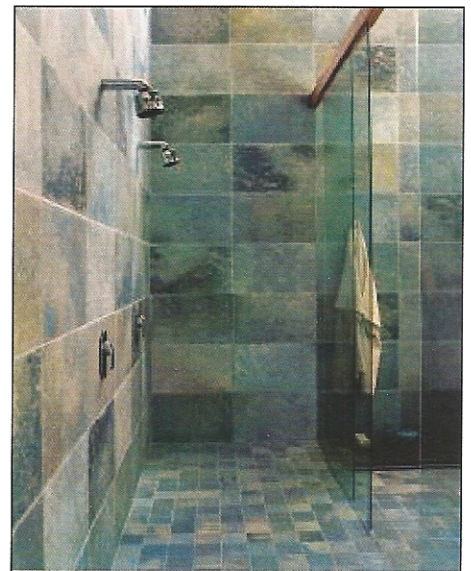
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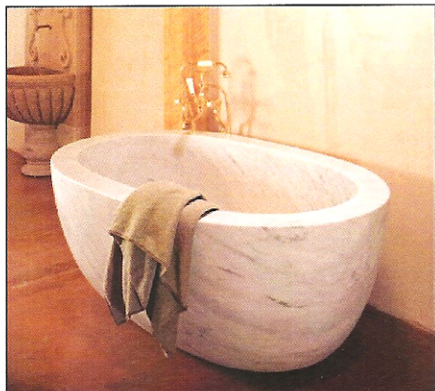
## What's Hot in the Bath!

The bathroom has become the second most important room in the house. Increasingly, homeowners are relying on showroom professionals to convert their master baths to in-home spas to create a personal refuge where they can take a few moments for themselves and escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Many designers and home remodelers consider the master bath the new den and are outfitting their personal space with a range of luxurious products that reduce stress and provide peace of mind. There is another reason many homeowners are remodeling their bathrooms. It creates value and provides a return on the investment when you go to sell or refinance your home. Our showroom has prepared the following summary of today's hottest bathroom trends as follows:

### Large Light Filled Showers

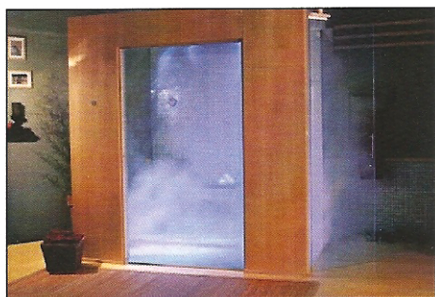
Today's shower systems have evolved in both design and technological sophistication to deliver unique experiences. Whether you prefer recreating the effect of standing in the middle of a monsoon or relaxing in an environment reminiscent of a soothing summer rain, there are components in the showroom that can help you create the shower of your dreams. Shower areas are not only growing in size, they also are providing more light. Hinged doors and heavier glass panels are replacing sliding glass doors. Many homeowners who do not use their tubs are replacing them and using the space for a larger shower area featuring two or more showerheads and multiple body sprays that can accommodate more than one bather at the same time. That way no one has to wait to shower or prepare for the day. Another shower trend is to eliminate shower walls altogether, converting the entire tiled bath into a shower. This approach is very popular in Europe and has had more than a few advocates in the United States.





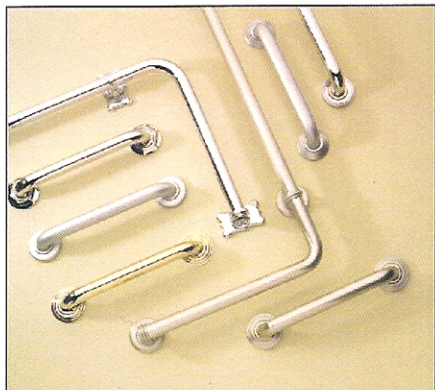
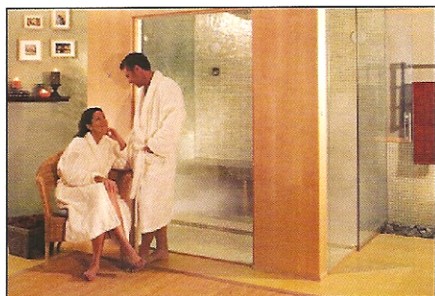
## Soaker Tubs

Soaker tubs are a type of freestanding bath that are generally deeper and wider than conventional freestanding tubs. Their increase in popularity is the result of a number of new designs that can match almost every bathroom motif and their ability to provide a serene bathing experience. Many homeowners are opting for soaker tubs because they enjoy the fact that they can bathe in a noise-free environment.



## Steam Baths

Everyone deserves a few minutes every day for themselves. Whether you work hard, play hard or both, you need a time and a place that is yours alone. Steam baths have skyrocketed in popularity because they allow you to take a moment to re-energize and wash away the stresses of the day. Almost every bathroom can be converted into an in-home spa by adding a steam shower. Our showroom professionals have the experience, know-how and expertise to help you convert a bath into a steam shower.



## Grab Bars

Grab bars have evolved from simply serving a utilitarian function. Our showroom features grab bars are made from brass or stainless steel base material that can be finished to complement and/or coordinate with other fixtures and components in the bath. Grab bars are not only valuable for senior citizens, their utilitarian functions benefit everyone in the home. Grab bars

provide a place for all family members to hold onto when shaving legs and washing feet. There are special installation requirements that need to be addressed when you purchase grab bars. Your showroom professional can review them with you.

## Dual Vanities

Many homeowners are opting for separate spaces with different vanity types, styles, and heights for each grooming station. In these circumstances, there are opportunities to separate the two spaces with mirrors, sconces and other types of lighting. A common practice to help separate space in the bath is to use wall mirrors, armoires, etageres, ceiling-hung mirrors or a wall of mirrors. Two vanities allow each person to have her or his own space for storage and to prepare for the day or a night on the town.

## Accessories

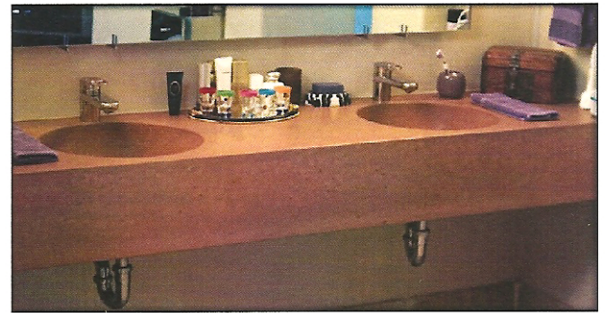
An elegant pair of earrings, just the right shoes or a dazzling handbag complete a perfect outfit. The value of accessories in wardrobe is well known and appreciated. The same holds true for exquisite accessories for the bath. Ranging from towel bars to makeup mirrors, decorative accessories accentuate bath components and the room's motif, offering homeowners and designers the ability to make a complete, personal and unique design statement.

Decorative bath accessories featured in our showroom combine the perfect mix of form and function. They serve as a personal

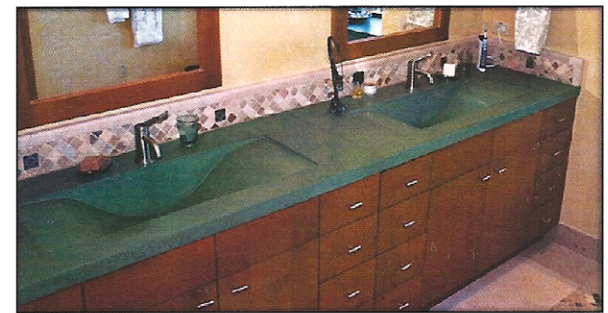
# Concrete's the Rage



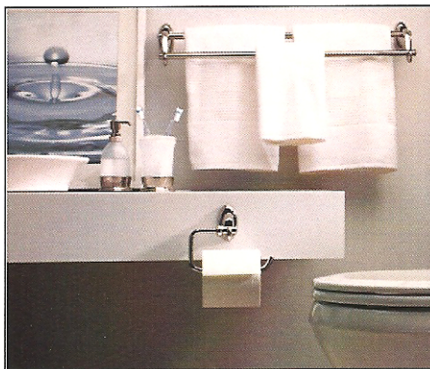
Concrete countertops are becoming increasingly popular in baths and kitchens. Using concrete as a design element opens up possibilities far beyond what most other countertop materials provide.



Concrete can be precast or molded on site into any shape, size, or design motif, ranging from contemporary and industrial to French country or rustic. Concrete also offers a rainbow of color options, often cast with warm earth tones reminiscent



of natural stones but offering a much softer alternative to the formal look of granite. Because of the color flexibility associated with concrete, countertops can match a paint, fabric or tile sample, enabling homeowners to create truly distinctive looks in their kitchens and baths. Our showroom understands concrete's distinctive qualities and can direct you to manufacturers and products that will meet your needs.



## *What's Hot continued from page 2*

valet to warm a towel on a cold winter day or keep a robe within reach as you emerge from the shower or bath. When considering decorative bath accessories, keep in mind that the small details often make the biggest difference. A matching toilet tank lever or shut off valve can create tremendous value because of their ability to complement other fixtures and components in the bath.



It is not that a toilet tank lever is decorative by itself. What makes tank levers and many of the accessories featured in our showroom decorative is the fact that each individual piece does not stand alone. Rather each piece should be viewed as the means to the end. Our decorative plumbing and hardware professionals can help you accessorize your baths to help assure that the products selected complement the other fixtures, components and the space perfectly.

# Furniture for the Bath

Beautiful furniture pieces no longer are the exclusive province of the living room, dining room or bedroom. Bathroom furniture has become mainstream.

The trend of using cabinets designed for other rooms in the home for the bath became increasingly popular around 1990. Designers and homeowners frequently converted antique cabinets, armoires and etageres into bath furniture. They soon discovered that moist environments were not always the best venues for family heirlooms or other expensive pieces of wood furniture. The decorative bath industry responded by manufacturing furniture specifically for a bath environment. This furniture not only addressed climatic conditions but also functional concerns that account for storage requirements, supplies, traps and other components necessary to bring water to faucets and basins.

The increased popularity of bath furniture corresponds to the growing size of the bathroom. In the last two decades, the size of the master bath has increased by an average 180 square feet. Today many master baths exceed 300 square feet. Homeowners and designers don't necessarily want to fill that space with countertops. Instead they are opting for freestanding etageres, cabinets, armoires and storage pieces as opposed to built-in cabinetry.

Bath furniture also has been designed exclusively for the powder room and smaller baths. Using bath furniture for a powder room enables homeowners to complement or deviate from the style of their homes.

Outfitting the powder room with unique styles, bold colors and daring motifs allows designers and homeowners to make individual design statements that run the gamut from

formal to whimsical. The style of furniture made specifically for the bath ranges from contemporary to traditional and all points in between.

A number of manufacturers make portable furniture that is easily transported in the event of a move or even to make a change in other baths in the home. A key to selecting the right furniture for your baths is to understand the amount of space available. Smaller spaces may be best served by selecting minimalist, portable furniture pieces or wall-mounted pieces that we can show you in our showroom.



Furniture made for the bath typically accounts for fixtures and plumbing unlike standard furniture made for bedrooms or living rooms that may be too shallow or low to accommodate a lavatory bowl, faucets or wastes and supplies.

The height of the piece also will influence plumbing fixtures needed to meet your goals. Cabinets less than 34 inches tall may be best served with a vessel-style sink. Another critical factor is the finish used to seal and decorate furniture. It is important to note that finish refers to both the process used to seal the wood and the materials used to change the appearance of the wood. Finishes used to seal the wood must be able to withstand moist and humid bath environments. High quality furniture that is made exclusively for the bath available through our showroom is typically finished with materials that prevent water damage and are constructed with moist environments in mind.

Our showroom professionals can guide you through a wide range of furniture made exclusively for the bath, including custom options that allow you to make unique and personal design statements while staying within your budget.



Your company name, address and phone number goes here!