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Lifestyles & Homes

The Best in Bath Design

Submitted by on August 1, 2012 – 1:50 am

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Bathroom winners from the 2012 Kitchen & Bath Industry Show

By Sandra Meineke

Open plan bathrooms? Concrete inside the house? While our mothers would have shaken their heads at these ideas, today's generation considers them chicer than chic, often making these trends the focal point of a room or of the house itself.

These are just two of the current trends that kitchen and bath designers showcased in their award-winning entries at the 2012 Kitchen & Bath Industry Show. Other features homeowners want in bathrooms include: repeating or complementary shapes and tile in totality.

Indoor concrete is prevalent in several contexts. In addition to its use as flooring, concrete can be shaped into countertops with integrated sinks and vanity cabinetry. A concrete surface brought to a high shine nearly belies the material and brings a contemporary look to the space.

Repeating a shape in various sizes, colors and textures forms a continuum that is soothing and easy on the eyes. Shapes capture the attention and can be carried from the floor, into the shower, up past the windows and, finally, top out on the ceiling. Tile is also making its presence known in contemporary bathrooms, occupying more wall, floor and backsplash space than ever before. Colored mosaics can be shaped to evoke a tranquil sunset, a sandy beach or a glassy lake.

Designers are also showing that open plan bathrooms are not just for large spaces. With very little in the way of walls or partial walls, an entirely open shower and minimalist accessories, a small room can be opened up to look spacious and inviting.

With those trends in mind, take a look at this year's KBIS bathroom design winners.

2012 “BEST OF” BATHROOM AWARD WINNERS

Before & After Bath Winner
Universal Design Winner
Sandra Gaylord, CKD
Gaylord Design, LLC,
Charleston, South Carolina

Greek Isles Blue — Bright blue and beautifully spacious, this bathroom is a breath of fresh air and natural light. This fantastic before and after design followed specific guidelines for a client with medical needs. The entire design was based around a ceiling hoisting system that can bring the client safely from his bed to the toilet or shower. With only two walls for the shower, it allows access to both sides for emergency and a digital controller to be programmed for water temperature. Overhead and removable shower heads allow for both movement and luxury and two windows installed in the outward-facing shower wall allows natural light to pass through to the bedroom. Details such as custom vanities with storage and bi-fold, sliding doors, a wall of closets with glass French doors and three transoms to allow for light and privacy without window coverings, are just some of the newly incorporated aspects of the design. This bathroom is the perfect marriage of functionality and aesthetics.



Photo by Matt Bolt

Greek Isles Blue — This remodeled bathroom, winner of the Before & After Bath award, (before is pictured below) was designed around a ceiling hoisting system to meet the needs of a client with mobility limitations. The result is a system that can bring the client safely from his bed to the toilet or shower and allow access to both sides of the shower in case of emergency. Photo by Matt Bolt.



BEFORE