





# Vanity Fair

TODAY'S TRENDS COMBINE NEUTRAL COLORS, CLEAN LINES AND MIXED METALS TO CREATE A SPA-LIKE EXPERIENCE IN THE BATHROOM.

BY NICOLE MOSS UNDERWOOD

GONE ARE THE DAYS OF PEPTO-BISMOL PINK BATHROOMS WITH MATCHING PINK SINKS AND TUBS AND 4 ¼-INCH TILES ON THE FLOORS. NOW BIGGER TILES, BIGGER BATHROOMS AND, OF COURSE, BIGGER BUDGETS ARE WHAT'S IN. WHAT ELSE IS TRENDING IN BATHROOM REMODELING? WE CONSULTED WITH AREA DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS TO GET THE LATEST IN WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE BATH.



INTERIOR BY CHARITY BUCHIKA

## NEUTRAL COLORS

"We're seeing lots of blacks and whites," says Charity Buchika, principal designer and founder of Teaselwood Design in Skaneateles. "Wood tones are making a big comeback in terms of vanities, and whites are popular with a little grey still going on."

## FEWER VESSEL SINKS

Many designers are using alternatives to vessel sinks in the bathroom. "We're no longer seeing the bowl on the counter," Buchika says. "There's a lot of beautiful standard marble tops with an undermount sink, semi-raised sinks and some concrete counter tops with an integrated sink," she says.



INTERIOR BY LISA PIRRO

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## EXPOSED LIGHT

"Lighting is essential in a bathroom and as much natural light as possible is ideal," Buchika says. "Lighting over the vanity is also necessary. You will see a trend of unique lighting with glass shades, exposed Edison bulbs, and industrial-style light fixtures."

## MIX & MATCH

Everything doesn't need to match.

In fact, mixing metals is hot right now. "We're seeing golds with matte black or matte black with bronze and nickel," Buchika says. Gold, in general, is making a resurgence in plumbing hardware, lighting fixtures (see opposite page, lower right) and high-lacquer cabinetry, according to Lisa Pirro, owner and designer of Lisa Limited Interior Decoration in Syracuse. While they don't need to match, lighting fixtures and hardware should coordinate, says Pirro. "Don't buy a faucet and then lights six months later," she says. Lighting can serve as "a piece of jewelry" that gives the room its personality.



INTERIOR BY CHARITY BUCHIKA





### **BOLD WALLPAPER**

"Wallpaper is making a huge comeback," says Buchika. "It does great in a powder room, but be careful in the regular bathroom due to steam." Grasscloth and bold prints are also popular. "Big bold wallpaper seems like it wouldn't work in a powder room, but it works well," says Pirro.

INTERIOR BY LISA PIRRO





## EMERALD ON THE HORIZON

"Emerald green is happening now," Pirro says. "Living in CNY, it takes longer for a trend to hit," Pirro says. But high lacquer, gold and emerald green are starting to trend here.



## PORCELAIN TILE

"We're seeing a lot of interest in porcelain that mimics the look of marble," says Jim Angeli, a sales associate at Roma Tile in Syracuse. Porcelain tile can give you a high-end look for less. "Anything that looks like Carrara marble, especially white tile with grey veining, is popular. You really have to study it to know it's not marble," he says.

## LARGER TILE

Over the years, bathroom tiles have gotten progressively larger, says Sal Sciuga, CEO of Sciuga Custom Builders in Solvay. Sciuga has been building and renovating homes since 1966. His granddaughter, Dana Sciuga Bakowski, works beside him as customer selection coordinator. She says the subway tile look using larger tiles has increased in popularity.

## TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

Think about what you want to do with the property – stay or sell? While trends often drive people's decisions, you don't want to get too trendy if you're planning on putting your house on the market down the road. "We recommend using neutral colors, but spice it up with accessories," Bakowski says. "That way you keep it good for resale. You don't want to lock yourself into something unless it's going to be your 'forever home.'"

- ◆ Do your homework. Pick a reputable contractor – get references, see their work, talk to previous clients, and make sure the contractor is fully insured, Sciuga says.
- ◆ Be prepared for delays. "Then you're not upset when the project is running 2-4 weeks behind," Angeli says. "Delays happen on complete remodels because contractors don't know until ripping things out if there's a problem with the plumbing."
- ◆ Don't downplay the importance of light. "Try to get enough light in the mirror area to be able to put on makeup," Buchika says. "The rule of thumb is to have two sconces to illuminate your face from either side and a recessed light above."
- ◆ Keep it personal. While it's fun, and often profitable, to keep up with the trends, Pirro encourages clients to keep it personal. "Is there something that means something to you? A motif or a favorite color? It sounds juvenile," Pirro says, "but the bathroom should reflect your personality" regardless of what's trending.
- ◆ Hire a designer. "Designers save you from making mistakes because they've done it a hundred times... They work with the materials every single day," Pirro says.



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