

The Latest in Bathrooms

Anyone inclined to upgrade a bathroom to bring it into the current decade – or vault it into the future – should consider the many innovative fixtures and functions entering the market these days and in the coming months. Some are designed with pure aesthetic benefits, while others are more practical. For example, the pandemic has sparked a strong trend toward bidet installations, complementing desirable bathroom comforts such as heated floors, towel bars and toilet seats. Other ways to create a spa-like atmosphere could include a shower floor platform made of interlocking teakwood tiles, or a coordinated sight-and-sound show based on mood-enhancing chromotherapy.

Homes with more space might accommodate an open, curb-free shower area and a freestanding drainless bathtub. You might even consider a pre-programmable faucet that responds to voice commands and can draw your bath to a predetermined depth and temperature or a shower that recycles and sterilizes



runoff for reuse. For a modern option on toilets, there are low profile “no tank” pod-like toilets or ones that are self-cleaning – replacing a very undesirable household task. If you have time, you may choose to wait as future toilets are being designed to include a biological analysis of each user’s regularity!



Is your Home Leaking Water?

There was a time when homeowners had to develop unique listening skills to determine whether there was a dripping faucet or plumbing leak that was wasting water, and possibly causing damage. Nowadays, the “Internet of Things” (IoT) can be used to solve many such problems. Sensors can be attached to most household systems to monitor things like water pressure, water levels, and flow in order to detect signs that might indicate an unattended tub is overfilled or that there’s a leak in the system.

This kind of monitoring can be very helpful to homeowners, both for inside plumbing leaks and seepage from outside flooding or pooling. It can help prevent an expensive disaster, or even provide savings on insurance coverage, in some cases. Condo owners might appreciate such sensors as well, since a failure or rupture in their unit might create a liability for another unit’s damage.

Making a Small Room Appear Larger

We know that interior designers employ clever visual tricks that can make a small room appear larger. But, you may be surprised by how many seem counterintuitive or even contrary to long-held beliefs about colour choices for walls and ceilings. For example, many of us might assume that the best way to make a room feel “roomier” is to apply a consistent tone of white throughout. Yet, some designers say that such a decision can sometimes work against your objective. They find that white walls and ceilings can sharpen the eye’s focus on corners and edges or other linear intersections that create shadows, emphasizing a room’s distinct parameters or boundaries.

Sometimes a darker colour does a better job at blending such visual distinctions – helping to smooth over the delineation between a window frame and a wall, for example. Of course, every room is different, so you want to avoid buying and applying the wrong shade for the wrong reason. Fortunately, software apps are now readily available, and can help you



envision the effects of various tones and palettes before you invest your time and money on painting a whole room. Another trick employed by interior designers includes covering a seat or bed with a cozy-patterned blanket or multiple cushions to create a relaxing and inviting focal point.