



BEFORE



AFTER



Bathrooms

the smart approach to design

The pictures shown in this article are of a recently completed master bathroom project by HomeWork Design Studio – they illustrate before and after of the project. The client wanted to reinvent their master bathroom, taking it from a dated aesthetic and configuration to a contemporary, sleek, calming and refined space. Anything that existed in the space was removed, from ground to ceiling.

The revised plan aimed for a better sense of flow and that involved moving all the electrical and plumbing to suit the new location of the vanity, shower, tub and toilet. The most natural light source and the best compliment to your bathroom is daylight, which means lots of windows, not only does the room look better when it's bathed with warm natural light, but it makes you look better too. I took advantage of that by adding large windows on either vantage points of the bathroom to maximize the natural light and the views this home naturally offered. Storage is always key in a bathroom design, as there should be a place for linens and everything else, so the custom master vanity with a white quartz countertop was designed to maximize on storage and accessibility to items such as bath towels and accessories. Undoubtedly, if space allows the luxury of a walk-in closet then full advantage should be taken as it will naturally create a harmonious space for bathing and dressing.

How to begin your own project

Bathrooms contain many functional elements, including fixtures, fittings, cabinets, lighting and ventilation systems. But where would function be without style? The bathroom is no exception, where you can showcase your own personal style, incorporating materials, surfaces and textures that reflect your taste.

Make a list of what you would like

your bathroom to be and how you need it to function. Will it be your at home spa? A shared bath for the family? An extra guest bath? The type of bathroom – and who will use it – may determine its size and will certainly affect the products you select to finish it.

If you are remodelling an existing bathroom, it's also a good idea to make a list of what you don't like about it and what you hope to change. Is there enough storage? Is the lighting for the vanity suitable? Are the fixtures efficient? Is the ventilation adequate?

You may choose to replace the tub with a walk-in rain shower and perhaps the tiles, countertops, faucets, light fixtures and the rest should be updated – in this case it's looking like a full gut-job and a new vision for the future bathroom can take life.

Finishes and Fixtures

Sanitary ware in my books should always be white. Colours get dated very quickly and an installed toilet, sink or tub with colour is much more difficult and expensive to replace in the future when the fashion fades. If you want colour you can add it with paint or accessories – it's a much cheaper and eas-



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ier way to update the space later on. Keep your faucets in line with the style of the bathroom you are aiming for and they should work with the overall scheme including the paint, tile, cabinetry and lighting choices – it will be successful if all the elements in the space play off of one another.

Ventilation

Adequate Ventilation is a must in any humid environment, and you can't get much more humid than the modern bathroom retreat. Ventilation combats the steam and condensation that cause mildew and deterioration of bathroom surfaces. The simplest form of ventilation is natural: a window. If you don't have access to a window there are ventilation/extractor units that can be installed that do the job just fine.

Lighting

Vanity lighting should illuminate both sides of the face, under the chin and the top of the head. Never aim the lighting into the mirror and if you use a double vanity, treat each sink area as a separate space and light it accordingly. Whether you're taking a quick shower or a long soak, you need good lighting. The tub and/or shower are also areas which require attention. You can install recessed lights for general lighting and use "eye-ball" fixtures and pendant

lighting for mood lighting for those who want to use the tub for relaxation.

Budgeting

Once you decide to remodel, or add another bathroom to your home, you will have to do important research and planning. Becoming informed and knowing exactly what you want, how much you can spend and who is going to do the work will help save you both time and money.

Set priorities, establishing a budget is the only way to determine the size and scope of the project you can afford to design. It is disappointing to plan a luxurious bath, complete with spa features, only to find that you can barely afford a rain shower head.

Make a list of "must-haves", then add amenities that you'd like to have if the budget allows. For example, some people think a tub is a must have for a luxe bathroom – however if you are strictly a shower person – then spend the extra making the shower the WOW factor in the space and no one would even think to look for a tub.

Look for the best products in sanitary ware and fixtures and compare the features and prices.

Always add a cushion in the budget for the unexpected – a 15% contingency is always a good idea.

The bathroom is one of the hardest working rooms in the home, plan it well and you will be guaranteed a return on your investment as well as years of enjoyment in the space.