

# Soaking in style

## Today's bathrooms are pretty splashy

**T**HE BATHROOM may have moved indoors years ago, but style-conscious home owners are determined to bring the beauty of the outdoors inside with them. Those who can afford the luxury, the ones with designer-color commodes and gold-finished faucets, want a view from their tub.

Some are opting for massive windows, others enjoy clear-glass ceilings or electric skylights that open to the sun and stars.

Home owners who aren't lucky enough to glimpse the ocean, bay, mountains, a river or canyon from the privacy of their privies are creating their own mini-panoramas with flower gardens and atriums just outside their bathroom windows. And inside, potted plants thrive in the humid environment.

"There's something about water that brings you back to nature," says designer Richard Kaleb. "It's very stimulating to your senses to be in water and visually relate to the outdoors."

A BATHROOM, adds Kaleb, "should be someplace where you don't mind spending time, important time in the early morning and late at night. It should feel friendly."

No longer are bathrooms just a necessary evil. "People are beginning to look at them as a very important part of their houses," Kaleb points out.

"They have become more of a

retreat area than a functional space," echoes designer Marsha Sewell.

Many home owners, according to designer Helene Ziman, are redoing their bathrooms even before they redecorate their living rooms. And they're spending increasingly more money on more spacious, elegant and luxurious baths.

As she sees it, this renewed interest is due, at least in part, to the "fitness craze." "People are so concerned about how they look. They're concerned with the care of their face, as well as their body."

AN EXERCISE room is only one part of the master bedroom and bath in the home of one of Ziman's clients. The wing - including exercise rooms, bedroom, dressing area and bath, complete with whirlpool, sauna, his-and-her toilets and sinks, and a common shower - measures a generous 1,400 square feet.

These larger bathrooms, some with cathedral ceilings, tend to be compartmentalized, with separate showers and tubs and partitioned toilets. Mirror and glass blocks make big baths appear even bigger.

"It's easy to see that utility has taken on style," says Kaleb. "Bathrooms are a meditative room, and it's important for them to have the visual impact that such a room needs."

"Bitty" and "slick" are terms used by Ziman to describe today's luxurious bath. There's an obvious

Italian influence. Also popular, she says, is art deco, "almost neo-classic - fun and fresh, using classical forms in a new way." Post-modern toilets, so to speak.

For budget-minded consumers, Villeroy and Boch put out a new sink with a hydraulic lift to change the height at the flick of a button. Meantime, state-of-the-art tubs including the Sensarum with Ambiance, an electronic marvel whose water depth, temperature and turbulence (from whirlpool and bubble makers) are controlled by a water-proof hand unit.

The unit also includes a stereo record player, radio, tape deck, disc player and television, as well as a home-security TV monitor and switches to control lights, door locks and home appliances. This kind of luxury isn't cheap - it's \$25,000 from America's Standard.

Less spectacular, but still impressive, new bathrooms are decked out in plenty of marble, granite, chrome, gold and lapis. At the same time, home owners who

aren't stuck on the real thing, are having fun with a variety of materials, including marble and granite look-alikes, geometric patterns, splatters and zigzags.

Ceramic tile in an assortment of colors, colors and textures is increasingly popular for floors, walls, countertops, tubs and even ceilings.

Multi-levels, with raised-deck tubs, are more popular than ever. So are angled, octagonal fixtures and angled countertops. Instead of the usual oval sinks, there are plenty of hexagons. And whatever isn't angled is likely to be curved.

Colors range from black and white and red to burgundy, teal, mauve and even purple. The assortment of available colors allows home owners to choose not only what they like, but what shows them off at their best.

Consults designer Ziman. "People really want to look good in their own environment. And that includes a bathroom."

## Decorating tips for the bathroom

You may not be able to move the "furniture" around in your bathroom, but there is much you can do to revitalize and beautify it without spending a fortune.

Here are some decorating tips that can help renew any bathroom from streamlined to opulent.

- Decorative containers and organizers can hold cotton swabs, makeup, soaps and other loose items that tend to get scattered around.

- Scout your bathroom with fragrant candles, soaps and potpourri.

- Add a few of your favorite things - an antique hand mirror, framed poster or a small chair for relaxing.

- Replace your existing drawer pulls with shiny new ones. Consider brass, enamel, fashion-colored plastic or the variety of novelty shapes available.

- Invest in a set of plush, colorful, king-size towels.

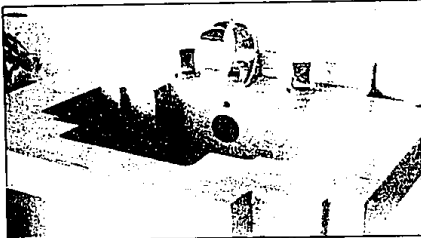
- Plants look great in the bathroom. Try hanging a plant near the window or by the sink. Be sure to choose varieties that adjust well to moisture and that don't need a lot of direct light.

- Add some decorative shelves. Paint them in a color that coordinates with wallpaper or paint. You can use them to store towels or to show off containers full of bubble bath, bath oil, perfume and cologne bottles.

- Hang a pretty shower curtain. Almost any washable material may be used as long as you protect the "wet side" with a waterproof shower liner.

- Liven your bathroom with a printed wallpaper, or try a wallpaper border along the top of the wall.

- If the bathroom has a window, have a window shade made from extra wallpaper to match the wall.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

There are plenty of new angles in today's baths. Instead of the usual sinks, there are plenty of hexagons. And whatever isn't angled is likely to be curved. Pictured is Bates & Bates Travertine marble pedestal lavatory with Dornbracht 2000 series widespread faucet. At Classic Baths in Birmingham.



Tender is the night.

Complete bedroom furnishings by  
**Scandia Down Shops**

214 S. Woodward, Entrance on Brown St.  
Birmingham 313-258-6670

Mon-Fri 10a-6p Thurs 10a-5p Sat 10a-5p

**Bright Ideas**  
AN ALTERNATIVE FURNITURE STORE

**LEATHER LASTS...**  
and lasts. But at these prices our stock won't.

Now you can own quality leather seating for the price of a dining table. Upholstered, imported from Italy, we save these \$1,000's for their sale at and deliver them to you. Give them the same care and love as your "Bright Ideas" Shop, and as quality, are limited.

CRESO	Price	Save
sofa	\$1,299	\$999.95
loveseat	\$1,299	\$949.95
chair	\$699	\$699.95
ottoman	\$275	\$199.95

At alternative furniture stores only.

**Downtown Royal Oak**  
3rd & Main (541-9940)

**Downtown Rochester**  
4th & Main (652-3388)

Prices are take-with. Delivery is extra. Financing available.

## MILLIKEN PLACE AREA RUGS, JUST \$99!

Come to A.R. Kramer for exciting values on Milliken Place® area rugs. 4' x 6' area rugs reg. \$179.00 to \$379.00, are just \$99.00. Similar savings on other sizes. Sale ends October 11, 1987.

**A.R. Kramer Flooring**  
522-5400  
15906 Middlefield • Livonia  
(between 5 and 6 Mile Roads)

Open Mon. - Wed. Thurs. and Fri. 10a-6p Sat. 10a-5p

