

*Feeling Blah?*

# beat a retreat . . .

What was the cry of that famous movie actress?

"I want to be alone!" How many times during the last month have you uttered a similar cry as you shoveled snow, scraped car windows and generally battled winter.

Sure, you probably "wanted to be alone" on some sunny, palm treed isle, but why not beat a retreat to the bathroom?

Not just any old bathroom, but one that has been given the Victorian treatment. A bathroom that isn't aseptically tiled, but one that is large, cozy and colorful.

Affluent Victorians appreciated spacious and comfortable bathrooms, but the first half of the twentieth century saw them dwindle both in size and importance.

Today's new houses are being built with more bathroom space, and old houses are having spare rooms converted or added. With increasing emphasis on leisure and luxury, the bathroom has become a place to spend more time, a place to relax in the tub or in a comfortable chair after a bath or shower.

Designers are finding more and more ways to make the bathroom as non-functional in appearance as possible, to give it the living room look. Soft carpeting, gay wallpaper, shimmering beadangles, elegant marble, restful lighting is only a beginning. Add an armchair, or better still a chaise lounge, and you have all the comforts of the coziest room in the house.

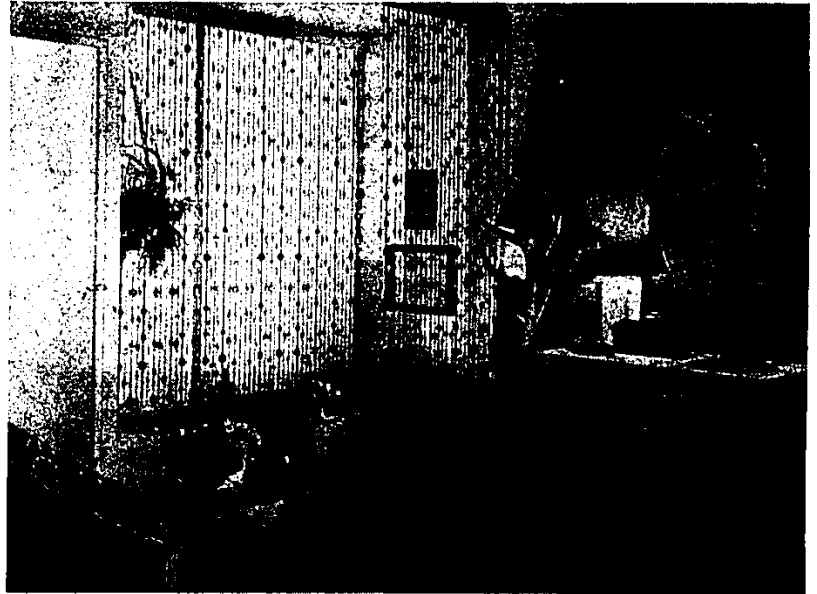
Toweling and fabrics have taken all the colors and patterns once confined to living rooms and bedrooms. Hardware, from antique gold to crystal, can be found in local stores. Carpeting in wall-to-wall or rug size is fluffy, pretty and washable.

All can be planned for the maximum of convenience, privacy and luxury combined with a minimum of maintenance. Vinyl-coated wallpapers, stabilized fabrics, synthetic carpeting and paints which are impervious to dampness are the hidden practical assets of today's materials. Even the wood finishes of accessories give a living room look, but are unaffected by heat or moisture.

Fixtures now come in practically every color of the rainbow and in many shapes and sizes. There are contoured tubs and furniture-styled lavatories. Even the flow and temperature of the water can be controlled with electronic push-buttons.

Function has increased in effectiveness but is much less obvious. Storage space, for instance, should be plentiful but hidden. Towels, soap, cosmetics, health equipment, children's toys and the small comforts of the bath can be kept in good supply behind louvered doors or on shelves veiled with bead curtains or pull-down shades.

All of it adds up to a room that has been transformed from a very dull, cold place that was left in a hurry, to a retreat where you can settle down to dress, make-up, have a sauna, a nap-or even take an old-fashioned shower or bath.



A NEW OUTLOOK--Closet yourself amid this kind of luxury and something has to happen to your mid-winter mood. An extra exotic touch can be added to your hide-away with moisture-proof, unbreakable beading in an appropriate new droplet shape. These decorative beads can be purchased by the yard and in pre-strung strands ready to hang on hollow rods and install anywhere. They can be used as shown here or as a full shower curtain backed by a transparent plastic liner.

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