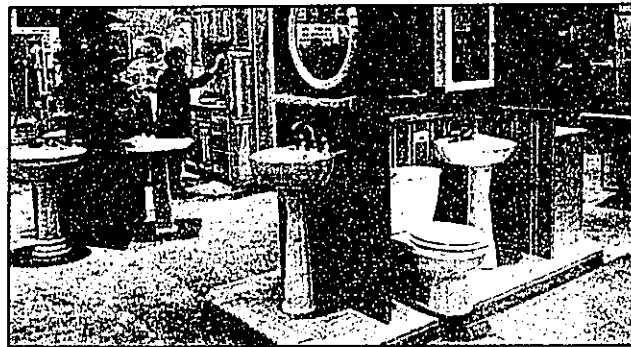


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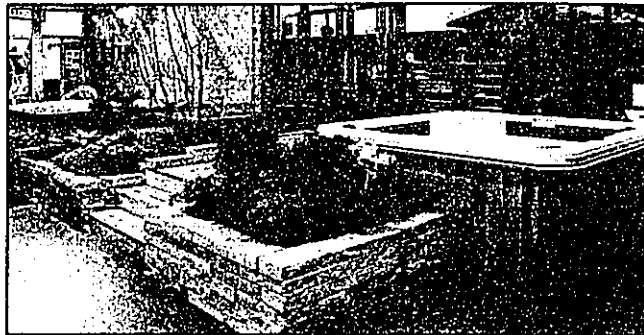


Shower-ing attention: Mathison's Kitchen, Bath and Plumbing Supply of Canton, Garden City and Livonia will present the Jason Custom Shower, which can turn your bathroom into a spa.



Fantastic fixtures: The show features items for every room in the home.

On display: Visiting the Builders Show can help you make your grounds and your interiors beautiful.



Showers do more than 'go with the flow'

By MARY KLEMIC
At Home Editor

When it comes to selecting a shower for your house, you can do more than just "go with the flow."

Modern showers offer such luxuries as whirlpools and steam, making your bathroom a personal spa.

Mathison's Kitchen, Bath and Plumbing Supply, with showrooms on Canton Center Road in Canton, Ford Road in Garden City and Plymouth Road in Livonia, will show an example of such a modern unit at the International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show at Detroit's Cobo Conference-Exhibition Center. (The show runs March 15-23. Call (810) 737-4478 for information.)

Features of the Jason Custom Shower, which Mathison's will display, include a handheld spray as well as a downpour shower, a touch pad for controls, a removable seat, scald guard, adjustable body sprays, a fragrance-releasing system, recessed shelves for soap and shampoo and a small, low shelf for leg shaving. The spacious unit comes in 25 colors.

With the shower you're being practical as you pamper. Its stain-resistant acrylic is easy to clean and eliminates tile grout problems. The handheld spray makes rinsing walls easier. The unit comes in modules that don't require a special frame, so installation is simplified.

"It can be put in new or old construction," said Frank Mathison, Mathison's owner.

"A lot of people are remodeling. This can fit into a standard area."

The unit has a 30-year guarantee and costs less than \$5,000.

Manuel Hourdakakis of Beverly Hills and his family had one of the showers installed three years ago and are enjoying it as much as ever.

"I love it," Hourdakakis said. "The size of it ... The steam unit."

Kitchens and baths are the top two remodeling projects, says the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan. A segment of the show will be dedicated to those rooms. Increases in value. Most scrutiny from potential buyers.

The BIA sites a survey in Remodeling magazine. In the survey, 240 real estate agents in 60 cities estimated the percentages of remodeling project costs that would be recouped if the project was done by a professional on a mid-priced home and the home was sold within one year of the project completion. With a bathroom addition, 98 percent of the cost would be recouped, and with a bathroom remodeling, 82 percent would be recouped, the survey said.

"The bathroom is one of the most important (rooms). You spend ... 25 percent of your time (there)," Mathison said.

Among the features of the Builders Show are the "ABCs of Remodeling" by the BIA's Remodelers Council; the "Pool, Spa and Recreation Show"; a display of children's playhouses built by the Ford Career Techni-

cal Center in Westland and the Oakland Technical Center in Pontiac for the Women's Forum of BIA's charity benefit; broadcasts by WWJ NewsRadio 950 and of the WXYT programs "Ask the Handyman" and "Money Talk"; exhibits of arrangements by area Professional Allied Florists Association members; demonstrations of cut flower arrangement techniques; contests; the erection of a 700-square foot ranch home by the Detroit Carpentry Joint Apprenticeship School; demonstration of the fabrication of solid surface vanity countertops; entertainment and even a wedding.

The Home Buyers Clinic, sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, presents Dave Mully and other O&E columnists, The Home Depot on the Right at Home design program and lawn and garden care, and Detroit Edison utility safety experts warning about electrical safety and the need to play it safe around power lines.

Builders Show hours are 2-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays. Admission is \$6.50 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors, \$4 for ages 6-12 and free for children under 6. Family tickets for two adults and accompanying children are available at Farmer Jack for \$9.

ON THE COVER

The International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show offers ideas for everywhere around the home.