

Best-Dressed

If you're like many Americans, spring means it's time for home improvement. And to add value and class to your home, there's no better room to improve than the bath. Whether you're considering a full-blown remodeling or just a few stylish updates, here are four trends that the best-dressed baths will be sporting now and in the future.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SIGMA FAUCET

Whether retro or contemporary, chrome is always stylish and versatile.

A hint of polish.

After a decade of stain finishes, polished chrome and nickel are coming on strong as the choices for metals in the bath. The glimmer of a polished metal adds just the right sparkle to counterbalance the popular trends of using natural materials and darker finishes. A great thing about polished chrome is its versatility—it works well with both formal and casual décor and in traditional and contemporary styles. It's much easier to match when mixing several manufacturers in one bath, and as an added bonus, most chrome fixtures are less expensive and more readily available than more elaborate finishes. Once again, what was old is new and trendy again.

FOUR TRENDS FOR YOUR OWN OASIS

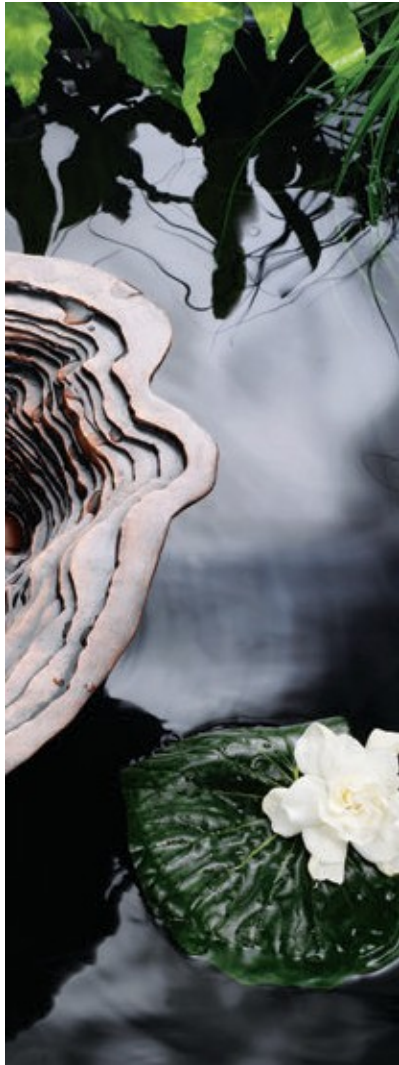
PHOTO COURTESY OF LENOVA SINKS

The natural bath.

Following on the heels of using “green” and recycled materials, a recent trend brings the outdoors inside by incorporating natural elements and motifs into the bath. Mixing rich warm woods with bamboo, rocks, pebbles, or natural stones like slate or limestone can evoke the sensation of a woodland creek and meadow. Recycled glass countertops and concrete countertops are making a big splash as are organic-feeling vessel bowls made from bronze, carved stone or bamboo. Add in other natural motifs like leaves, branches, dragonflies, or butterflies, and you have a relaxing, outdoor oasis—right inside your bath!

Baths

BY HASKELL MATHENY,
ASID, CAPS, LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE



A transitional style.

According to the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA), 2011 marked the first year transitional-style baths outsold traditional baths in 50 years. The clean uncluttered lines of transitional baths appeal to both old and young alike with their perfect blend of the traditional and contemporary. Vanities in clean white or dark espresso stains mixed with classic clean details in faucetry, lighting, and tile make for a bath experience that is calm, relaxed, and uncomplicated. Just the way you want your life—and your bath—to be.



A new generation is rediscovering the practical, as well as stylish merits of the medicine cabinet.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AKDO



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOWNSVIEW KITCHENS

Clean lines, classic elements and timeless materials all create the transitional bath, 2011's most requested style.

The medicine cabinet.

Yes, that old standby is back. Designers and homeowners are rediscovering the function of a medicine cabinet. They are incredibly convenient and nearly essential for the smaller bath that's short on space. Cabinet styles can range from a simple clean wooden frame to a more modern frameless edge. Plus, today's models often have features like built-in outlets, LED lighting, MP3 players and even refrigerated compartments for medicines. Practical and beautiful, the medicine cabinet 2.0 is here.

Would you like to have your design dilemma considered for an upcoming issue? Just send an e-mail to designerguy@haskellinteriors.com.

Haskell Matheny, ASID, CAPS, LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE is the owner and principal designer of Haskell Interiors, located in historic downtown Cleveland, Tenn. Visit www.haskellinteriors.com.