

LOCAL LOOKS

luxury bath trends in southwest florida



Wall mounted vanities can be ultra modern or have a traditional feel. This vanity by LineArt incorporates natural wood tones and decorative wrap around towel bar.

Design trends are in the forefront of people's minds as they consider buying or improving a home. Every region has its own unique approach to melding form, function, and lifestyle into design, and Southwest Florida is no exception. There is no room where this is more apparent than in today's luxurious bathrooms.

Kelly Reese, ASID Allied Member and Showroom Manager at Richlin International in the Miromar Design Center is at the forefront of luxury bath design trends. There are many factors to consider when remodeling or designing a bathroom. Space planning, cabinetry, finishes, fixtures and fittings, and lighting, all factor in, but here are a few clear trends to get you started.

"We are seeing a focus on fixtures and vanities. With so many stylish designs from companies like Rifra, Graff, Lacava, Topex, LineArt, and Gessi, people are using quality products to make a personalized statement," says Reese.



With its unique circular design, this Ametis rain shower head by GRAFF beautifully creates a 'full-body' experience.

One fixture that is in high demand for today's larger shower areas is the rain shower head. They create full-body water coverage at lower water pressures. The even dispersion of water creates a luxurious spa-like feel to the shower.

Another popular shower feature is a thermostatic system that allows you to preset your desired water temperature to automatically return to that perfect temperature each time the shower is turned on. "It's convenient, practical, and in high demand in the S.W. Florida market," says Reese.

As much as the form, or actual style of the fixtures, the finish will add just the right amount of sparkle to your room. "Polished Chrome is very popular right now because it trends with a more contemporary and luxurious look. We are also seeing a lot of Satin Nickel. It can be used in more transitional motifs and hides water spots and fingerprints well," comments Reese.



This Light freestanding tub by LACAVA is a beautiful example of why freestanding tubs are being added to high-end master baths. Sleek and elegant, these tubs are a decorative focal point.

Corner tubs covered in tile and stone, so popular 10 years ago are definitely out of vogue. They are a thing of the past in luxury new homes, and bathroom renovations reflect that trend. "Virtually every remodel we are involved in requires removing a corner tub," Reese states.

Freestanding tubs are their replacement. These timeless tubs make a great statement and help transform any bathroom into a true retreat. Freestanding tubs are available with massage jets as well, so comfort doesn't have to be sacrificed for style.

Wall mounted vanities have become very popular. "There is an idea that they don't provide enough storage space, but actually wall mounted vanities can be just as functional as those with a base and legs," says Reese. And because they are mounted off the floor, there are no legs to clean around or toe kicks that can gather dirt and dust. They come in a wide variety of styles and materials. "Most people think of wall mounted vanities as being exclusively modern, but there is a style conducive to any desired look," Reese explains.

Also popular is the use of natural woods, both on the floor and in the vanities. Natural woods can be used to achieve a modern or minimalistic look, a rustic look, or even a 'beachy-chic' environment. "While it's a trend right now, wood really is timeless and will help your new bathroom remain stylish for many years to come," concludes Reese.



Thermostatic shower systems allow each user to set their ideal water temperature once, and the system will remember that temperature each time the water is turned on. Shower system and floor mounted vessel filler by GRAFF.

