

At Home with QMA

AUTUMN 2009

Bathroom Design Trends 2009

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It's All Happening *at the Shore*

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Many Jersey Shore homeowners are taking advantage of the current market conditions by building or remodeling their homes today. By doing so now, you can get the most value for your investment and then enjoy those returns for many years to come.

How are people improving their homes today? Pretty much in every way. In older homes, new kitchens, bathrooms and master suites are very common. In many instances we are asked to combine several small rooms into one large family or great room. Because of the emphasis on outdoor living, we also see a lot of exterior renovations and transformations. This is where we re-create the exterior image of the home while improving the outdoor living spaces. These types of projects also typically reduce the annual maintenance on your home while improving energy efficiency and reducing utility bills.

Whatever your needs, the main reason why people are remodeling or building remains the same. People want their shore homes to be convenient, comfortable and inviting for

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2006 Master Design AWARDS

Bathroom Design Trends 2009

If the kitchen is the heart of the home—the bathroom is its soul. It's the place where you ready your mind and body to seize the day. It's also the place to which you retreat in the evening to relax and sooth away stress.

These emotional needs have not diminished with the uncertain economy; if anything they have heightened. And as homeowners have decided to forego luxury vacations and spend more time at home, the need for the bathroom sanctuary at home has only increased. The following trends in bathroom design for 2009, as evidenced by the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS), take all this and more into account.

• Green plumbing fixtures galore

Homeowners are interested in being green, especially because they realize it can save them money. They can enjoy the immediate benefits of lower water bills when they install WaterSense qualified faucets, showerheads and toilets. Energy-efficient lighting, motion sensors, on-demand water heaters, and ventilation fans that automatically cycle on and off—these are all items that will provide savings on gas and electricity.

• Eco-friendly materials on the rise

A wide variety of sustainable materials is now available for use in bathrooms. Solid surface materials are created from recycled glass bottles, porcelain fixtures, marble dust, waste paper and more. Bamboo and cork, along with other more unusual materials, are increasingly used on walls, floors and vanities. Prices for recycled materials are dropping as demand is increasing.

• New products provide glitz and glamour

Add drama to your bathroom with some sensational new products that were showcased throughout KBIS. New antique gold and brushed gold fixture finishes, curvaceous faucets with crystal knobs, as well as shiny black tubs and toilets help bring the look together.



Photo: Courtesy of Hansgrohe (www.hansgrohe-usa.com)

• Universal design principles influence products

As multi-generational families increase and people are living longer, the desire is for beautiful bathrooms that are also convenient for all ages and health considerations. Showers with low thresholds, hand-held showerheads and interior benches are becoming more popular as people realize a few adjustments can provide accessibility for everyone. Elegant lever-handled faucets, stylish grab bars and comfort-height toilets provide bathroom safety without calling attention to it.

• Hi-tech features add excitement

Technology is continually putting a new, exciting slant on the bathing experience. LED lights in the shower offer the health benefits of chromatherapy. Controls allow bathers to pre-set their own water temperature and spray intensity preferences. Radiant heat technology warms the interior surface of bathtubs. Acoustic transducers built into the bathtub cause it to reverberate with the sounds of music. Touchless faucets are activated by sensors that eliminate the need to either touch the fixture or wave the hands.

• Creating a spa at home

The bathroom as a restorative spa retreat continues to be a big theme. Muted lighting, tranquil music, murmuring water, pleasant aromas, and harmonious interiors all assist in creating a serene ambience. Natural elements—such as stone, metal, glass, wood, bamboo and concrete— along with simple, horizontal lines provide a relaxing visual environment.



Happy Healthy HEATING

Did you know that fuzzy throw rugs on bathroom floors have been known to cause serious injuries when people accidentally tripped on them? If the thought of placing your bare feet directly on the cold tile floor makes you cringe, you should consider installing radiant underfloor heating.

Heat radiating up from beneath the floor warms the other objects in a room, which in turn begin to radiate heat as well. This provides a pleasant, even heat that is also very quiet and healthy. Unlike forced-air heating, there are no noisy fans creating drafts and blowing allergen-laden dust about. In addition, underfloor heating doesn't require vents or radiators and therefore provides a cleaner aesthetic in a room.

One of the most effective flooring materials to use with radiant floor heating is ceramic tile, due to its ability to conduct as well as store heat. Almost any other flooring may be used, but performance varies.



Photo: Courtesy of NuHeat (www.nuheat.com)

There are two main underfloor heating systems used today. The hydronic system uses loops of flexible plastic tubing installed under the floor to circulate hot water from a boiler or hot water heater. The boiler can be powered by gas, oil, electric, solar or geothermal energy. This system can be more expensive to install than forced-air, but once in place it can be up to 30% more energy efficient because no energy is lost through ducts.

An electric radiant system uses loops of electric wires that are installed just below the flooring material. For ease of installation, manufacturers often sew the wires to a mesh backing that holds them in place. Generally used for heating smaller areas—such as bathrooms, sunrooms and kitchens—an electric system works well for retrofit projects.

Either type of floor heating system can be controlled by programmable thermostats with setback features to ensure that the floor is being heated only when the room is being used—thereby saving energy.



Photo: Courtesy of Warmly Yours (www.warmlyyours.com)

The WarmlyYours TempZone system is used under tile, stone and hardwood floor coverings.

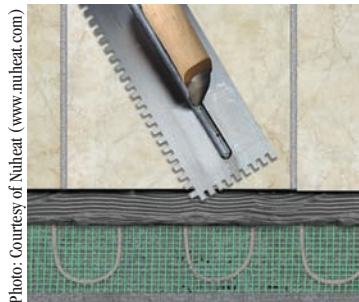


Photo: Courtesy of NuHeat (www.nuheat.com)

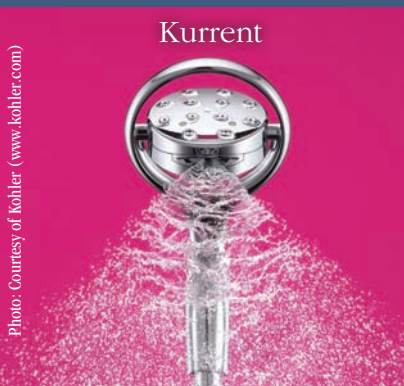
A tile installer bonds a NuHeat heating mat to the subfloor with thinset before laying the tile.

You'll ELIP Over This!

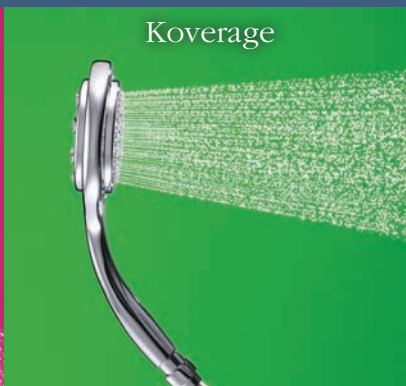
Handshowers are all the rage right now, as people have discovered how conveniently they extend to hard-to-reach areas. At the 2009 Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS) Kohler introduced an innovative and fun handshower with a sprayface that rotates on its axis. Each of the four sides of the sprayface is dedicated to a different spray mode, and in each mode the range of

movement allows users to easily angle the water stream to suit their particular requirements. These features make the Flipside handshower well suited for users of all ages and even those with limited hand mobility.

The handshower is available in three designs and two finish options: polished chrome and brushed nickel.



Kurrent



Koverage



Komotion



Kotton

Photo: Courtesy of Kohler (www.kohler.com)

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Happy Healthy Heating

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family and friends to enjoy the shore for the summer and, in many cases now, all year long. While some homeowners are waiting for the economy to get better to build or remodel, many are moving forward today, taking advantage of the current market conditions. They are also able to enjoy returns on that investment year after year. These people understand the true value of living in a home designed and built just for them.

If you are thinking of remodeling or building a new home, now is a great time to talk to QMA.



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