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The Complete Guide to
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Updated 4th Edition



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The Complete Guide to

BATHROOMS

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Design • Update • Remodel Improve • Do-It-Yourself



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Introduction

More than any other space in the house, a bathroom represents the intersection of form and function. Every design feature in the room—no matter how good it looks—must take safety, efficiency, and comfort into account. And it's not just a matter of practicality; legal and code restrictions increasingly affect the design elements that can or must be included in a modern, up-to-date bathroom.

That represents a huge design challenge, but one that bathroom manufacturers are meeting in high style more than ever before.

It shouldn't be surprising, given that there is so much potential payoff in bathroom design. Bathroom remodeling projects remain some of the highest return-on-investment changes you can make to your home. Homeowners and prospective homeowners alike clearly understand how much impact a handsome, thoughtfully designed bathroom can have on day-to-day living.

It's almost an understatement to say that impact can be profound. And no more so than for the growing number of homeowners and residents with disease and age-related mobility issues. America's aging population and increasing awareness of the functional challenges people with disabilities face, have spurred ever-growing design and code-related changes when it comes to bathrooms. Whether grouped under the general category of *Universal Design* or filed under the more contemporary and

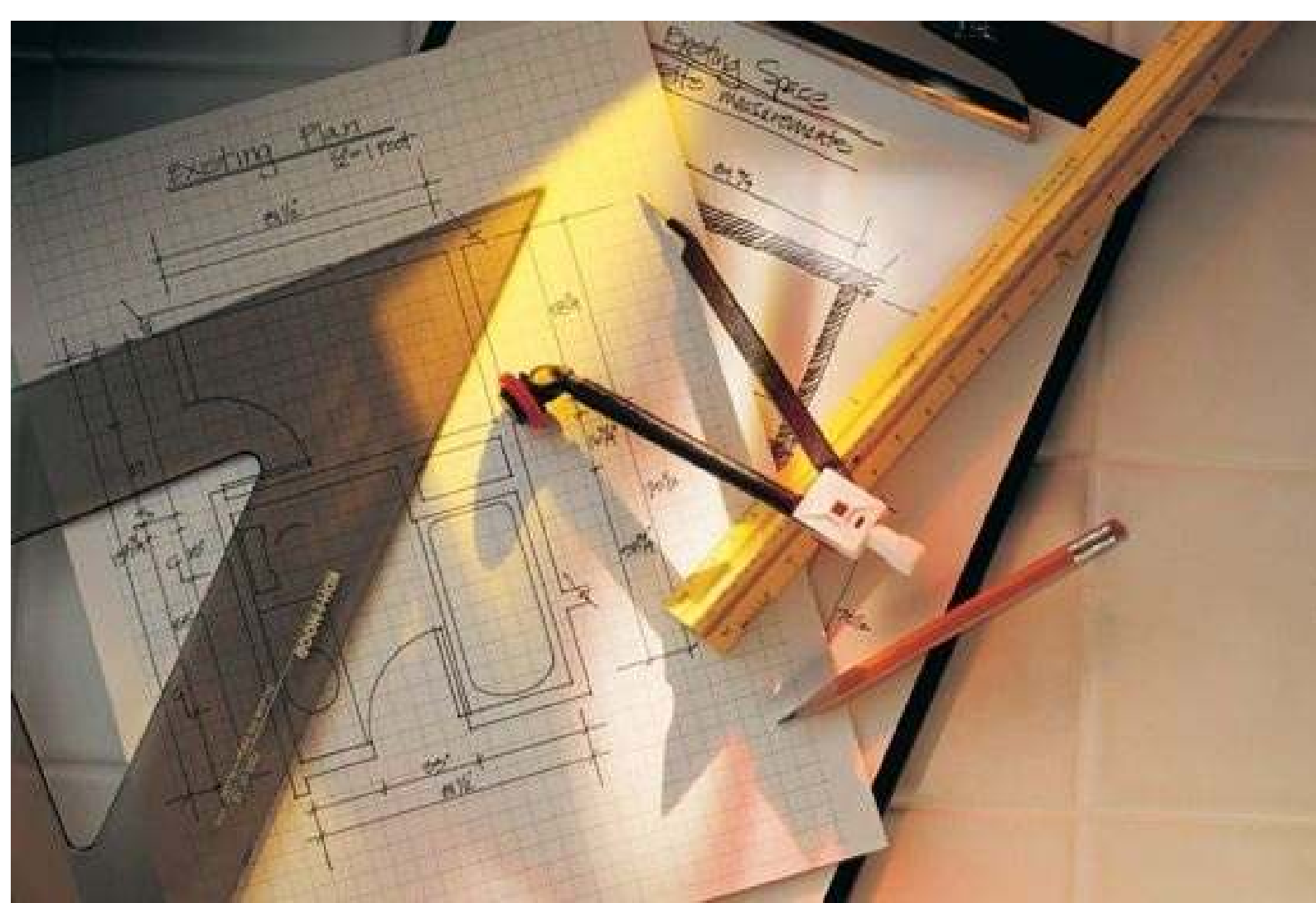


overarching term *Aging-in-Place*, these changes are intended to make a bathroom more usable for anyone who might occupy or visit the house.

Consequently, this updated edition of *The Complete Guide to Bathrooms* includes a wealth of new information and projects addressing the issue of bathroom accessibility. It's not just a matter of accommodating those people with limited mobility; these innovations help everyone. A curbless shower may be a great improvement for someone in a wheelchair or walker, but it also means less possibility that an unencumbered homeowner stumbles as he shambles bleary eyed into the bathroom for his watery wake-up call. A hands-free faucet doesn't just serve the grandparents with arthritis, it can also be a big help to little ones who lack the fine motor skills or height to reach and use traditional faucet handles.

Of course, no matter how functional the element, there's no reason to give up style. That's why you'll find a vast range of design options to choose from in the pages that follow, whether you're looking to update your master bath with a full complement of grab bars, or simply want to introduce a new faucet and vanity top to a powder room. Want to install a cool retro clawfoot tub? You'll see how on [page 107](#). Looking for new sink options (including chic roll-under alternatives)? Check out [page 134](#). No matter what you're looking to add or change in your bathroom, you'll find the latest and greatest in this revised edition of *The Complete Guide to Bathrooms*.

PLANNING & DESIGNING YOUR BATHROOM





Gallery of Bathrooms



The bathroom fulfills many functions. First and foremost, it addresses the specific wishes of the homeowner—whether it’s a standalone shower enclosure that’s easier to walk into than a tub, or small luxuries like a towel warmer or an in-floor warming system. But the bathroom must be comfortable to use, with grab bars where necessary, vanities and cabinets that provide sensibly placed storage space, and

surfaces that feel good to the touch.

The specific features of a well-designed bathroom also depend on what type of bathroom it is. A half bath for guests, or a powder room, may require only a quiet, highly efficient toilet and a focal-point vessel sink. The design of a family bath is more involved, with upgraded ventilation and multi-user features such as double sinks and a segregated toilet area. A master bathroom suite may include luxury touches such as a sunken tub or a shower with multiple heads and a sound system.

Regardless of the type of bathroom you're looking to create, you'll find a wealth of design options in the following gallery pages. Even if the specific features shown in these pages aren't exactly what you want for your own project, they will inspire and help you to discover your perfect bathroom.



The polished stone tub deck and flooring lends a feeling of luxury to this bathroom. The hard surfaces have the added benefit of water and mold resistance. The wood floor adds warmth, but is kept away from the tub and toilet areas. The large window bathes the room with natural light.



A clean European look combines functionality with style in this simple and elegant bathroom. The wood floor is easy to keep clean because of the clear space under the wall-mounted toilet and vanity. Wall mounting bathroom elements continues to grow in popularity for just this reason. The toilet can also be mounted at a custom height to better accommodate a wheelchair user.



Vessel bathroom sinks have become so popular that the range of styles and materials is very nearly limitless. This sleek fixture is formed of volcanic rock and the sophisticated color won't chip, fade, or stain.



A tray vessel sink offers style and ample space, while a freestanding soaking tub will afford an incredible bathing experience in a tub that fits into tight spaces.



If traditional is your style in the rest of the house, you can define the bathroom with the same flair. Use signature elements including framed mirrors and shower doors, wood structures like the face-frame double vanity cabinets shown here, and traditional fixtures like the dual, double-handled faucet in this restrained and appealing bathroom.



A freestanding tub is the ideal accent for a contemporary or modern bathroom. It is easier to install, pleasing to the eye, and the tubs come in a vast range of styles, sizes, and features.



The widespread bathroom faucet is mounted to the countertop and is paired with a stainless steel under-mount sink, adding to the high-tech look of the room. A striking backdrop of metal wall tiles reflects light and creates a bright atmosphere.



This wall-hung sink with its traditional two-handled faucet reflects the Art Deco style of the floor tiles. The glass-and-steel base is mostly decorative.



Gorgeous bathroom design elements deserve a proper stage, and few are as ideal for a bathroom setting as the luxurious quartz floor in this room. Durable, scratchproof, moisture resistant, and wonderful underfoot, a quartz surface is as useful as it is beautiful.



A towel warmer drawer built into a linen cabinet is a discreet yet extravagant addition to the bathroom.



Storage space is at a premium in bathrooms. Employing some kitchen-style cabinet organizing tricks helps boost efficiency.



Style and accessibility can go hand in hand, as this stunning shower illustrates. A chic trench drain ensures no water from this curbless shower makes it onto the floor outside, and a seat and hand-held shower wand on a sliding bar make showering as easy for people with mobility issues as it is for anyone else in the house.

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