



# TOP BATHROOM TRENDS

Bathrooms are becoming less showy and more focused on user experience. The emphasis for bathroom design this year and going forward will be comfort, personal preference, and private indulgence. This forecast is from the 2016 National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) Design Trends Survey with input from 450 designers. If you are planning a bathroom remodeling project, this report can help give you confidence as you make your design choices.

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## Open Kitchen Brings Family Together

This Victorian era home is blessed with a generous amount of space, but there was never a logical layout of the rooms. The dining table had been moved from one room to the next as the homeowners looked for the best arrangement to foster family togetherness. As things stood, the family was usually separated, with some members in the family room and others in the kitchen. Those in the kitchen felt cramped and isolated since it was walled off from the rest of the home. In addition, the kitchen lacked a functional layout and offered only minimal storage and prep space.

By removing the chimney, we were able to create a large gathering area for the family. Now the kitchen has multiple work and seating areas. There is room for stools at both the peninsula and island, allowing family members and guests to be close together, but out of the work area. The large peninsula is designed at two heights, so those people seated will not encroach on the sink and prep area. A TV installed above the refrigerator is within everyone's view.

We maintained the Victorian feel by matching the existing woodwork and installing white painted cabinets with Traditional styling. To keep everything open and light, there are only two wall cabinets, both recessed into the wall. Wedging these cabinets into the wall required some creativity in locating the mechanicals. The wall cabinet used for



drinking glasses is located to the right of the kitchen sink, and the other used for oils and spices is to the left of the range. Everything else is floor cabinets that include specialized organizational systems, such as a deep drawer with a peg board system for organizing dishes. The kitchen space is subtly defined by new oak wood flooring in variegated widths of 6", 7" and 8". The dining room retains the original 2-1/4" wide oak flooring.

—Dan Tibma  
Tibma Design/Build *(continued on page 4)*



# TOP BATHROOM TRENDS

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1. Greater acceptance of aging-in-place amenities: zero-threshold showers, grab bars, higher vanity heights, chair-height toilets.
2. Transitional is pulling away from contemporary. Transitional is the most popular style.
3. Neutral colors rule in the bath. White is most popular fixture color. Whites and grays are most popular overall color schemes.
4. More open shelving and floating vanities.
5. More built-in storage functionality: more roll-out shelves in bath cabinetry, more "hidden" electrical outlets for blow dryers, etc.
6. Undermount sinks are by far the most popular style. Emerging: 15 percent of the designers specified trough sinks, which may increase.
7. When tubs are installed in master bathrooms, they are most likely to be freestanding.
8. Increasing use of shower amenities such as lights, built-in seats and benches, and hand showers in addition to the mounted showerhead.
9. Polished chrome is the most popular faucet finish.
10. Other amenities specified by at least twenty-five percent of NKBA members in 2015:
  - a. Easy maintenance features
  - b. Electric radiant floor heating
  - c. Master bathrooms with coffee bars, microwaves, and wet bars
  - d. TV in mirrors
  - e. Quiet or soft-close toilet seats
  - f. Steam showers

Gray color schemes for the bathroom are gaining ground—currently equal in popularity with white and off-white. Beiges and bones are the third favorite bathroom color, while 30 percent of the designers reported spicing it up with colors of blue, green and brown. The top faucet finish is polished chrome, but satin nickel and brushed nickel are still very well liked. Bronze/oil-rubbed bronze appears to be on the decline. About 34 percent of the designers reported using thermostatic shower valves in guest or second bathrooms. Pressure balance valves are also in favor, with 23 percent expecting to install more of them in 2016.

Large zero-threshold showers currently take precedence over bathtubs, but the bathtub is not becoming obsolete. While 67 percent of the designers reported removing tubs and whirlpools from master bathrooms last year, an equal number reported adding a freestanding tub to the master bath. Chair height or comfort height toilets are the top choice, and one-piece designs are preferred by almost half of the designers.

Wood is overwhelmingly the most popular material used for vanities, and floating vanities are favored over the console type. Quartz and granite continue to be the favorite picks for vanity top materials, although quartz is outpacing granite and 50 percent of the designers expect to do more with quartz this year. Linen storage and medicine cabinets are very desirable in the bathroom. Ceramic and porcelain tile are dominant for bathroom floors and show no signs of slowing down in 2016.



Photos: Courtesy of Moen ([www.moen.com](http://www.moen.com))



# The Beauty of What You Don't See



Even though we may be used to having a round drain in the middle of our shower floor, this type of drain is definitely utilitarian rather than attractive. It totally interrupts whatever beautiful design we are trying to create with the floor tile.

The new WallDrain from QuickDrain USA eliminates any breaks in the smooth flow of tile in a shower floor. The system was engineered to sit flush along the wall, creating a sleek and unobtrusive look where the shower drain is nearly invisible, yet incredibly efficient.

The innovative WallDrain features a stainless steel body with a sloped trough designed to remove all the water and debris from the trough after each use. It is ADA approved and easy to install. WallDrain won the Architizer A+ Popular Choice and Jury Award for its revolutionary design. ■



Photos: Courtesy of QuickDrain USA ([www.quickdrainusa.com](http://www.quickdrainusa.com))

# Ultimate Guest Suite



Photos: Courtesy of Jeff Davis Photography



One of the most spectacular spaces in the 2016 The New American Home (TNAH) is the VIP Suite on the upper level. TNAH is designed each year for the International Builders' Show as a showplace of ideas and inspiration for remodelers and builders. In this case, the VIP Suite was conceived as a guest suite for visiting friends or family members of any age. To make this suite easily accessible for everyone, it is conveniently reached either by a nearby elevator or stairway. The suite occupies the entire space on the top floor and has its own private balcony. This location offers by far the best views in the entire house. The floor-to-ceiling windows are shaded by large roof overhangs that block intense sunlight during the daytime. Windows higher on the wall give privacy, but provide lots of passive daylighting.

The VIP Suite has a modern, angular vibe that is softened by the whimsical curve of the bed frame and the natural organic feel of

the cloth-covered furnishings and area rugs. The bedroom and bathroom both feature dramatic three dimensional wall graphics comprised of wood-look porcelain tile and sparkling glass tile.

Built-ins flow seamlessly from the bedroom to the bathroom, making the suite feel like one big, open space. A convenient kitchenette provides everything guests need to prepare an early morning or late night snack: a sink, 2-drawer undercounter refrigerator, built-in coffee machine, and convection warming drawer. The long, lean horizontal fireplace with its gray stone surround creates a welcoming atmosphere, along with providing extra warmth on cool evenings.

The spa-like bathroom features a zero-threshold shower with a floor-to-ceiling frameless glass enclosure. The shower is outfitted with the Kohler DTV shower system—an advanced digital platform that wraps water, sound, light and steam together in a seamless and totally customizable system. The vanity countertops are two inches higher than the standard, making them more ergonomically comfortable to use. Tankless water heaters provide instant hot water on demand. ■



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# Open Kitchen Brings Family Together

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"We are extremely excited about our beautiful new kitchen/dining area that exceeded our expectations and what Dan Tibma has done to open up and modernize our Victorian home, while not sacrificing its charm.

Since Dan offers both design and building services, he was involved with every aspect of our planning and, while taking all of our input into consideration, he came up with a creative layout that turned out to be great. He has relationships with many high quality vendors and was closely involved with all the selections necessary to make our kitchen spectacular, from the cabinets to granite to the faucet. He was detail oriented and was committed to providing an excellent result.

During construction, Dan set us up with a temporary kitchen that helped get us through the difficult period of having ongoing major construction in our home. In addition, he was always promptly available if we called with any concerns.

There was a lot of planning up front, so not many surprises occurred during construction. We were able to stay within the agreed upon budget, and the project ended on time. **We would highly recommend Dan and his team to anyone considering a similar home renovation project."**

**-Rob and Sandy White  
Needham, MA**

