

PRESS RELEASE

Small wonder

Shower rooms are a growing trend – Jasmin Kraneveldt from leading sanitaryware, tile and flooring retailer, Bathroom Bizarre, offers us some reasons why, as well as a few tips on how to successfully achieve a streamlined and elegant shower room in your own home.

08 January 2014, Johannesburg: Perhaps your existing bathroom is really small, and you would like to give it a makeover and make it look bigger than it actually is. Or perhaps you would like to shave off some floor space from one of your bedrooms to turn it into an en-suite. Or, maybe you have a really small and awkwardly shaped room that you would like to transform into another bathroom. In any of these cases, you should be considering transforming the room into a shower room.

What is a shower room?

Says Jasmin Kraneveldt from leading sanitaryware, tile and flooring retailer, Bathroom Bizarre: “Essentially, a shower room is just like a bathroom, but instead of having a bath tub in it, it has a shower. As such, you can fit a shower room into very tight spaces, as it only needs to accommodate a shower cubicle, a toilet and a basin. It has become a very fashionable trend, and a practical one too – so many homeowners today are turning large children’s bedrooms into en-suites by shaving off a narrow space and using this to create a shower room. Although shower rooms can be large and spacious as well, they are particularly suited to small and strangely shaped bathrooms.”

She notes that shower rooms are incredibly practical, and eco-friendly to boot: “With today’s fast paced lifestyle, showering has become the preferred way of cleaning yourself – it not only saves you time, but it saves you money as well, as it uses considerably less water to take a shower, than to draw a bath. On average, a full bath uses up to 80 litres of water, whereas a 5-minute shower uses around 35 litres – this is a saving of 45 litres every time you take a shower!”

The shower

Although fitting a comfortable and usable shower into a small area can be a challenge – Jasmin notes that there are ways to optimise the space: “Ideally, a shower cubicle should measure a minimum of 900mm squared for a comfortable fit, however, cubicles as little as 750mm squared can do the trick if necessary. If you are working on a tight budget, I suggest seeing what ready-to-install showers you can find, and see if any of these will fit into the space in question, as it is a much cheaper option than having a shower enclosure custom-made to suit your particular measurements. For the featured shower room for example, we used Bathroom Bizarre’s glass AD90X Pivot Shower Door & Side Panel Set, which measures 900mm x 1850mm.”

Jasmin explains that if space is limited, it is always better to spend a bit more and invest in a frameless or semi-frameless glass shower cubicle: “A glass enclosure makes the room appear larger than it actually is by opening up the view and not breaking any visual lines of sight. It is also a great option for darker spaces, as it allows any natural light that may come into the space through.”

Shower cladding

Glass shower enclosures also offer the added benefit of being really easy to maintain and keep clean. Says Jasmin: “You can roll this benefit out, by cladding your shower walls in similarly easy-to-clean, high-gloss materials, such as Lustrolite for example. It is available in a number of different colours, but has been used in brilliant white in the featured bathroom so that it can reflect any light to create the illusion of space and airiness.”

Available at Bathroom Bizarre, Lustrolite is an optical quality, high gloss, acrylic décor sheet used for indoor residential decorative panelling. It has a mirror-like reflection and comes in a variety of trendy colours. Lustrolite features a unique blend of polymers and technology that delivers high performance and gorgeous good looks, similar to that offered by glass. However, unlike painted glass, Lustrolite has an integrated, fused colour layer behind the thick optical grade clear layer, which means the colour will never crack, chip or scratch. Its outer surface is also coated in a high performance micro hard coat, which adds extra scratch- and chemical-resistance to the end product. It will not scratch, crack, warp, stain or discolour from normal residential or commercial use.

Adding colour with tiles

Traditionally, white is used for creating the illusion of space, however, it can leave a room looking sterile and clinical. Muted shades can also work well in small areas, and they have the benefit of adding warmth to the composition – making it more inviting. Says Jasmin: “Warm bathroom colour palettes are an ever popular trend, and are reflected in a wide range of available wall and floor tiles. When choosing your colour palette, be sure to include different textures and finishes in the composition to ensure that it doesn’t seem flat and boring – this will not only serve to create added interest, but it will also make the space appear larger than it actually is by giving the eye lots to look at.”

In the featured bathroom, the floor has been tiled with Bathroom Bizarre’s Toscania Sand glazed porcelain tiles for a subtle grey finish that beautifully complements the soft beige of the walls. The walls have been broken up by tiling them in two different, but complementary tiles, for added visual appeal – the Flair glazed ceramic tiles were used as the wall staple, and then highlighted with the Leaf Flair glazed ceramic tiles that boast a relief leafy pattern for added texture. Floor-to-ceiling tiling was applied to emphasise the height of the room and provide an added sense of space.

Storage is key

The trick to designing a streamlined and successful shower room is to ensure that it boasts a sleek and uncluttered appeal. As such, providing adequate storage is pivotal. Says Jasmin: “Keep your bathroom looking neat and calm by storing all your potions and lotions away. Sleek vanity units with hidden storage can be used to hide your clutter – wall-hung units, such as Bathroom Bizarre’s Panama Double Floater Vanity in Greyed Oak for example, are especially suited to smaller spaces, as they do not take up any valuable floor space and therefore make the room appear larger. The organic wooden appeal of this vanity and matching Panama Mirror really draw the eye in and add a sense of rich luxuriousness to the space.”

Suitable accessories are another must-have, such as the Bathroom Butler Loft 4-bar heated towel rail, available at Bathroom Bizarre. Says Jasmin: “By choosing your accessories wisely, you can guarantee that all your bits and pieces have their place and you can easily keep the bathroom looking uncluttered and tidy. Heated towel rails are a great choice, as they provide ample storage for your towels, as well as the added bonus of drying them, which is especially useful in humid areas and during the colder months.”

ENDS

Released on behalf of Bathroom Bizarre (www.bathroom.co.za) by The Line (www.theline.co.za, ant@theline.co.za).