

PRESS RELEASE

Big on style, small on cost

Jasmin Kraneveldt offers some professional tips on how to achieve a high-end bathroom design on a low-end budget.

23 October 2014, Johannesburg: If you are working on a tight budget – and let's face it, these days, who isn't – it is still possible to transform a bathroom from basic and utilitarian, to stylish and beautiful. If you are giving your old bathroom a makeover, completely remodelling your existing bathroom space, or building an entirely new one from scratch – Jasmin Kraneveldt from leading sanitaryware, tile and laminate flooring supplier, Bathroom Bizarre, offers some tips on how to get the most bang for your bathroom buck:

Tantalise with tiles

Although tiling can be pricey, the initial cost of purchasing and laying the tiles is a once off cost, explains Jasmin: "Tiles are incredibly durable, easy to keep clean and if they are treated or glazed, they never fade, scratch or stain. This means that they will offer years of beauty and good looks, with minimum maintenance. Although you may be tempted to only tile sections of the bathroom in order to save money, I really don't recommend it – a bathroom's walls and floor should be entirely tiled for a truly finished and well put together look. Also, although it may seem like you are saving money now, in the long run, you won't be, as you will need to repaint the walls every so often, whereas with tiles, apart from wiping them down, there is very little that needs to be done to keep them looking good."

She advises that a better way of saving money in these circumstances is to choose less expensive tiles for the main areas, and create feature walls by accenting them with more expensive mosaics or decorative tiles: "In the bathroom featured alongside for example, we used the Marina hard body glazed tile from Bathroom Bizarre for the majority of the space, which retails at a really affordable R125 per square metre. We then accented this tile with the more expensive Round Bubble Grey mosaic, also from Bathroom Bizarre, which retails at R399 per square metre. This statement mosaic was installed only in high-impact areas around the vanity mirrors and on the back shower wall, in order to maximise its visual effect."

Jasmin notes: "The wall and floor finishes in any bathroom frames the space, and lays the foundation for everything else that is to follow – as such, they can really make or break the overall design. It is better to spend a bit extra on good quality tiles, than to skimp in this area, as no matter what sanitaryware or finishes you put in afterwards – if the room hasn't been entirely tiled, it will never look completely finished."

Capitalising on cabinetry

Custom-built cabinetry may look good, but it can put a serious dent in your

budget. Says Jasmin: “Today, stock cabinetry comes in a wide variety of sizes and styles – making it possible to achieve a designer aesthetic without having to break the bank for custom work. You can even customise most stock cabinetry in terms of colour, finish and countertops to your personal preferences to ensure it blends seamlessly with the rest of your bathroom design.”

She notes that floating, wall-hung cabinetry is particularly popular these days: “Wall-hung bathroom cabinetry, such as the Reno Floating Vanity from Bathroom Bizarre for example, which has been used in the featured bathroom, helps lighten the overall aesthetic of the space in question. Wall-hung cabinetry looks as though it is floating, and the extra visible floor space under the cabinetry creates the illusion of the overall space being larger than it actually is. It also adds a definite streamlined, designer look to the room. All this without spending a fortune – the Reno Vanity for example, only retails for around R6 900,00.”

Flattering fixtures and fittings

Just because you are on a budget, does not mean you have to limit yourself to unattractive fixtures and fittings, says Jasmin: “Today there is such a wide variety of affordable bathroom fittings and fixtures to choose from, that you are sure to find the perfect options for your particular sense of style and your pocket. There are incredibly well designed taps, showers, basins, bathtubs, toilets and bidets on the market that boast streamlined, designer aesthetics, excellent functionality and durability, but all at reasonable prices.”

She advises to choose white sanitaryware, as this boasts mass appeal and added longevity of style: “White remains the most popular choice when it comes to sanitaryware, perhaps because it symbolises the ultimate in cleanliness and hygiene, and it compliments virtually any colour palette you can think of.” Jasmin recommends including a free-standing bathtub or shower, and above-counter basins for that über designer look: “In the featured bathroom, the Darlington Glass Bowl basins from Bathroom Bizarre create a classically contemporary look that screams high-end chic, while Bathroom Bizarre’s floor-standing shower columns embody the height of spa-like showering comfort.”

With regards to showers, Jasmin notes that glass shower panels and doors are the only way to go: “Shower curtains are really a thing of the past – they look cheap and nasty, they are unhygienic and aesthetically not complimentary to any design. Glass shower panels and doors create the illusion of space, as they are transparent and don’t hinder the visual lines in the room. Although they look expensive, if they are not custom-made to fit a particular space, they do not cost an arm and a leg. So if possible, try and work around standard sizes, so that you can use stock products to save money. The glass panels used in the featured bathroom for example – the Prism-Clear Shower Screens (1200mm x 2200mm x 8mm), including the various stabilisers required for installation, only cost R2 595,00 each from Bathroom Bizarre – affordable, yet oh so sophisticated.”

ENDS

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