

bathing
Beauties

Outfitting a deluxe master bath

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Private Retreat



Photo by Erica George Dines, courtesy of Small Carpenters at Large.

Today's master baths have become spaces for escape, pampering and indulgence.

by Sarah Gleim

Once just a place for tending to our most personal needs, today's bathrooms have become luxurious retreats—and homeowners are sparing no expense to make sure these rooms have all the creature comforts imaginable. Of course, privacy still plays a major role in the design, but bringing together just the right elements to create a bath that is relaxing and elegant, yet still functional is what it's really all about.

"People spend a lot of time in their bathrooms, as much time there as in any other room of the house," says Warner McConaughy, owner of HammerSmith in Decatur. "Why shouldn't they make it something that makes them feel comfortable and relaxed?"

But, McConaughy says, just because it's a luxury bath doesn't mean it has to be large. "It's really the details that make a bath comfortable," he says. "If you don't have much clutter, the room tends to feel cleaner and more relaxed." William Fadul, owner

HammerSmith
807 Church Street
Decatur
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Home Rebuilders
1629 Monroe Dr.
Atlanta
(404) 876-3000
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John Wieland Remodeling Specialists
2355 Log Cabin Drive
Smyrna
(770) 703-3100, ext. 171
Southwest and North Atlanta
See ad on page 21

Leveson Inc. Restoration & Remodeling
(404) 569-4775
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 35



Photo by Erica George Dines, courtesy of Small Carpenters at Large.

Pedestal sinks and furniture pieces with drop-in sinks are also still popular. "We have a lot of requests for more decorative pedestal sinks in master baths," Johnson says. "While vanities offer more storage, the look of a pedestal sink seems to appeal to peo-

ple more." But top-mounted bowls, combined with wall-mounted faucets still combine to create a look that's hard to beat.

Just as the right sink can add a touch of artistry, so can the right decorative faucets. Sculptured taps and wall-mount units are

Photo courtesy of HammerSmith.



increasing in popularity, as are the brushed and hammered nickel, chrome and pewter finishes. And because faucets are available in many styles, finishes and prices, they're ideal for personalizing the room. "When you do a bath project, you should pick a couple

of bells and whistles to personalize the space," McConaughy says. "Faucets are perfect for that." Just keep in mind, the overall price of a bathroom can weigh heavily on the price of the fixtures. "You can spend tons of money on fixtures alone," Fadul says.

Lovell Construction, Inc.

Newnan
(770) 253-0383
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 104

Miller Construction

3285 Craggy Point
Atlanta
(770) 429-0539
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 39

Peach State Kitchens & Bath

Alpharetta
(770) 740-9965
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 56

Portis Building & Interiors

4681 North Shallowford Road
Atlanta
(770) 455-4319
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 59

R.S. Miller Design.Build

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(770) 429-0539
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Residential Construction Specialties

Norcross
(770) 368-0646
Metro Atlanta
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Reynolds & Associates

Atlanta
(404) 441-8680
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 126

Riverside Residential

102 Gopher Ct.
Waleska
(770) 479-3756
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 129

S&S Design Inc.

2857 Henderson Mill Road, Suite #4
Atlanta
(770) 934-4717
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 101



Photo courtesy of Schuon Kitchens & Baths Inc.

Countertops and cabinets

Sleek cabinetry, and even new and antique furniture, are replacing the generic wall units of the past. And because pedestal sinks are still so common, concealed storage spaces and small

side cabinets on top of countertops are ideal for storing hairdryers, bathing products and other accessories.

"Linen and toiletry storage cabinets have been popular in master baths," Johnson says. "The look of an older cabinet

Photo courtesy of Custom Wood Cabinets.



in a bath with some of the traditional detailing like wood beaded-board wainscot is nice. Medicine cabinets designed with the same traditional style are also popular storage solutions.”

And when it comes to countertops, granite slab and tiles, solid surfaces such as Corian, Silestone and Cambria, and even concrete are replacing the standard cultured marble tops.

Southern Styles Remodeling

849 Pickens Industrial Dr.
Marietta
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Metro Atlanta
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Square Foot Design Build

8351 Roswell Road, Suite 344
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(404) 247-3225
Metro Atlanta
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Summers & Sons Development

1700 Montreal Circle
(770) 934-2700
Metro Atlanta
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The Building Firm

5356 Peachtree Road
Chamblee
(770) 452-8151
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Tile/flooring**Bell Carpet Galleries**

6223 Roswell Road
Atlanta
(404) 255-2431
See ad on page 112

Enhance Floor Trends

2550 Sandy Plains
Marietta
(770) 565-3808
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 5

Georgia Flooring Outlet

I-75 South at Hwy. 138
Stockbridge
(866) 557-4377
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 100



Photo courtesy of Georgia Lighting.

Let there be light

In keeping with the open and airy designs, lighting is getting more attention, too. "Lighting in a master bath has to be designed just as it needs to be in another room," Fadul says. While there used to be just one light in the middle of the space, now you can have decorative wall sconces, vanity lights, recessed light-

ing and even chandeliers—all with dimmers, of course. "We're seeing lighting used not as much for giving off light, but more for looks," McConaughy says. "Some light fixtures can really make a statement in a room."

Large bay windows and vaulted ceilings with transom windows are also incorporated to allow in natural light.

Photo courtesy of Expo Design Center.



Myers Carpet Company

1500 Northside Drive NW
Atlanta
(404) 352-8141
Metro Atlanta
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Wood & Tile Factory Outlet

6185-C Jimmy Carter Blvd.
Norcross
(770) 300-0700
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 63

The Floor Gallery & Interiors

3491 Chamblee Dunwoody Way
Atlanta
(770) 936-8774
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 76

Tommy Lee Carpets

252 Shannon Way
Lawrenceville
(770) 963-0583
Metro Atlanta
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Extra creature comforts

As if jetted tubs, over-sized showers with multiple showerheads, decorative lighting and fixtures weren't enough, many homeowners are taking the idea of luxury one step further. Heated floors, towel warmers and even re-circulating water for hot water on demand are

not uncommon. And don't forget about the high-tech electronics. "We've had baths with built-in flat screens, TVs on small shelves and music from the radio," McConaughy says. "There's just not one bath style right now. You can go in so many different directions."

Cantoni Inc., one of the leading contemporary furniture, accessory and design studio retailers, has acquired the assets of contemporary retailer Innovations based in Atlanta. Under the terms of the agreement, Cantoni will continue to conduct business under the Innovations name for 90 days, selling off the existing inventory. At that time, the store will operate as a fully owned entity of the Cantoni Corporation, in turn establishing the fifth showroom location for Cantoni in the United States. Since 1985, Innovations has been the source for modern classics and eclectic home furnishings in midtown Atlanta, with a collection that includes furniture, lighting and office furnishings. Located on Monroe Drive, the showroom features 21,000 square feet of space, which will be utilized for Cantoni's international and domestic line of fine home furnishings. In addition 1,000 square feet will be dedicated to Cantoni's design studio area, which is a trademark service provided by Cantoni's in-house design team. www.innovationsintl.com

Estes Heating & Air Conditioning was recently named "Best Contractor to Work for in the Southeast" by The Air Conditioning Refrigeration News.



The company, which has been family owned in Atlanta since

1949, says it is stronger and more determined than ever to continue to improve. www.estesair.com

The **National Association of the Remodeling Industry** (NARI) held its prestigious National Contractor of the Year (COTY) awards in Orlando in April. Several Atlanta remodelers were honored. **Warner McConaughey**, owner of **HammerSmith**, (right)



received a regional and national award in the Residential Specialty category for a meditation room and spa. **SawHorse** (below) was also honored with two regional awards, including best Universal



Design and Bathroom over \$30,000. **Small Carpenters at Large** also received an honorable mention for their project in the Bathroom under \$30,000 category.

Cabinetry, countertops and vanities

Atlanta Kitchen

246 Rio Circle
Decatur
(404) 378-3220
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 42

Atlanta Stone Works

2033 Baker Ct.
Kennesaw
(770) 975-0075
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 21

Bailey Design Group Inc.

Quality Custom Cabinetry
(770) 432-3006
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 62

CabinetCraft

2933 Pleasant Hill Road, (770) 864-7250
2355 Log Cabin Drive, (770) 703-3139
Metro Atlanta
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Coastal Stone

Douglas
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Southern and coastal Georgia
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Custom Wood Cabinets

(770) 481-0574
Metro Atlanta
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Dream Kitchens of Georgia

476 South Atlanta Street
Roswell
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Metro Atlanta
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Dura Stone

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Tucker
(770) 414-5644
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 52

G&L Marble

129 Armour Dr.
Atlanta
(404) 261-7444
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 15

Golden Eagle Inc.

627 Red Oak Road
Stockbridge, (770) 506-7192
105 Enterprise Dr., Ste. C
Cumming, (678) 455-2277
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 26

High Country Cabinets

2416 Westport Circle
Marietta
(770) 428-3796
Metro Atlanta
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MASTER BATHS SPECIAL SECTION

and president of The Building Firm in Atlanta agrees. "The biggest trend I've seen over the last five years is toward spaces that are much more in scale to the home, and much more usable," he says. "Clients are not asking for huge spaces; they want attractive, usable spaces, and they don't mind a bit if they are smaller and more intimate."

Regardless of the bathroom's size, many of the same creature comforts, including jetted shower systems; deep whirlpool, soaker tubs; fabulous fixtures and handcrafted sinks; natural stone flooring and countertops; and even heated floors and towel warmers, are topping homeowners' wish lists.

Bathing beauties

One common element in a luxurious bath is the tub. They now come in all shapes and styles imaginable, and many are designed to fit at least two adults.

MTI Whirlpools in Sugar Hill builds all of their whirlpools to order, giving homeowners choices in design, jets, color and style. "Many homeowners want baths that combine the standard whirlpool jets with an air bath system," says Russell Adams, vice president of business development for MTI Whirlpools. "Our System Aira II injects heated air through a series of small holes located on the bottom of the bath, which creates an effect similar to a light massage."



Photo courtesy of Pam Sanchez.

Photo courtesy of MTI Whirlpools.



MTI also has a patented cleaning system that conserves water when it's time to clean the jet's plumbing. "With ordinary whirlpool tubs, you have to fill the tub with enough water to cover the jets, add a cleaning solution, turn them on, drain the tub and

then fill it again with fresh water to rinse them," Adams says. "Our fill-flush system sends fresh tap water into plumbing lines before it even goes into the tub. To clean the plumbing, you just close off the jets, add detergent and then rinse, which uses only

Kitchen Creations

7050 Jimmy Carter Blvd. #120
Norcross
(770) 449-6600
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 114

Meyer Decorative Surfaces

(800) 776-3900
330 Patton Drive
Atlanta 30336
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 105

Mr. Marble

(770) 560-6102
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 116

Northstone

Clarksville
(706) 754-9361
(800) 258-6046
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 48

Perfect Living

1170 Haynes Bridge Road
Alpharetta, (678) 297-7519
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 20

Southern Stoneworks

(404) 255-3112
Metro Atlanta and the Florida Panhandle
See ad on page 60

Fixtures/plumbing

Captain Repair

(770) 569-9698
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 8

Mr. Plumber

(770) 777-1111
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 125

Purple Sage

1386 Chattahoochee Ave., Suite C
Atlanta
(404) 351-4445
Metro Atlanta
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Photo courtesy of Kohler.

about 5 gallons of water."

And you don't have to have a whirlpool to have a truly relaxing tub. Deep soakers are also popular. "Deep garden tubs are popular," says Amanda Johnson, a designer with Small Carpenters at Large

in Atlanta. "The larger sizes and decorative appearances seem to be our clients' priorities with tubs." Kohler, MTI Whirlpools and Jacuzzi all make deep soaker tubs. (Just be sure you have a water heater that is large enough to fill a deep tub.)

Photo courtesy of Harbour Towne Construction.



McConaughey says many of his clients are also requesting claw-foot tubs. "We still do a lot of claw-foot tubs, especially in older houses," he says. "In those cases, we really try to integrate the new with the old."

Showering experience

The demand for elaborate tubs doesn't at all mean homeowners need to skimp on their showers. On the contrary, Johnson says. "Our clients like open, bright showers with nice tile and

Roswell Woodstock Plumbing

10787 Highway 92
Woodstock
(770) 663-0600
Buckhead and North Atlanta
See ad on page 127

Glass/mirrors

Artistic Glass Doors of Atlanta

Buckhead, (404) 869-3141
Roswell, (770) 992-2900
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 2

Atlanta Custom Bath & Glass

(770) 662-8485
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 64

Buckhead Glass

4310 Roswell Rd
Atlanta
(404) 847-9041
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 65

Lighting

Highlighters

690 Miami Circle, Suite 900
Atlanta
(404) 264-1599
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 17

Paint/wallpaper

Benjamin Moore Paints

(800) 6-PAINT-6
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 11

Spectrum Paints

7 Atlanta locations
(770) 981-3349
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 60

Stancil Pro Coat

Atlanta
(678) 457-6900
Metro Atlanta
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Photo courtesy of HammerSmith.

frameless glass shower doors. Double showerheads are also a common request. And a bench seat in the shower is a nice addition when the space allows for one."

Intricate spray systems, steam units and multiple body jets

have helped make showers so elaborate, in fact, that many homeowners are giving up the tub entirely and opting for just a shower. "There are a lot of folks in this rush-rush lifestyle who have completely forgone having a soaking tub or

Photo by Jan Stittsburg, bath design by SawHorse.



whirlpool, and are happy with a nice, big attractive shower," Fadul says. "And the frameless glass surrounds help make the room feel larger."

And when it comes to the tile—both in the shower and on

the floor—the natural stone look, such as slate, travertine, granite and tumbled marble, is still hot—and expensive. If you really like the look of the natural stone, but can't work it into your budget, Fadul suggests going with a ceramic tile designed

Working with Walls

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Metro Atlanta
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Remodelers

Academy Construction

173 West Wieuca Rd. Ste. 201
Atlanta, Brookhaven, Buckhead,
Midtown, Vinings
(404) 233-0951
See ad on page 111

Affordable Handyman

165 West Wieuca Road, Ste. 201
Atlanta
(404) 531-9292
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 129

Atlanta Re-Bath

1050 E. Piedmont Drive
Marietta
(800) BATHTUB
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 53

Bourget Innovations

6140-B Northbelt
Norcross
(770) 263-9977
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 55

Case Handyman Services

3666 North Peachtree Rd.
Atlanta
(404) 261-0979
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 61

Castle Renovations

(770) 564-9500
North East Atlanta
See ad on page 113

Classic WoodWorks

2840 Holcomb Bridge Road
Suite G-1,
Alpharetta
(770) 998-7118
North Atlanta
See ad on page 61



Photo courtesy of Grohe.

to mimic the stone look. "There are wonderful tiles available that are much more affordable, and easier to install and maintain than natural stone," he says.

As far as color goes, subtlety is key. "Neutral colors are also

popular, because they allow flexibility in selecting colors for paint, fixtures and linens," Johnson says. But the classic black and white porcelain tiles are also ideal for achieving a period, classic, simple look.

Photo courtesy of Pam Sanchez.



Artistic sinks and faucets

In some cases, the more decorative the sink, the better, but functionality still reigns supreme in the master bath. "I think everybody is looking for what the next generation of sinks is going

to be," McConaughy says. "The under-mount sink is here to stay because it's the most functional and easiest to clean. Top mounts are more difficult to clean and I think more decorative ones are suitable for powder rooms."

Consider It Done

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Metro Atlanta and Decatur
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Decks and More

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Smyrna
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Metro Atlanta
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Distinctive Remodeling Solutions

8046 Roswell Road, Suite 201
Atlanta
(770) 668-9393
Metro Atlanta
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Finishing Touches Interiors

(770) 928-6518
Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 65

Foundation Thru Finish

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Metro Atlanta
See ad on page 114