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TIMELESS TOUCHES

A family bathroom distinguishes itself with a gender-neutral feel and a slice of retro

BY DVIRA OVADIA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANI BUCHMAN



A successful bathroom renovation happens when the design features address the problem areas and fulfill the homeowners' wish list. The end result is a bathroom with both style and substance, where the daily use of the space is more efficient and in tune with their esthetic.

MUST-HAVE FEATURES

For the design of this latest bathroom project, the homeowners wanted to go a different direction from the other classic-style bathrooms I designed in their home. A contemporary look was desired with more of a masculine feel for the one boy in the family. This family bathroom serves mainly the three children, two of which are girls, and house guests. Most importantly, this family bathroom had to have the capacity to adapt and accommodate the children as they grow into young adults. All finishes had to be durable and pleasing while also being cost-effective and classic in the overall design plan.

Instantly, I was drawn towards a walnut finish for the cabinetry as walnut is the quintessential definition of classic modern design. Its striking colour coupled with crisp-white, oversized, modern subway tiles and black hexagon floor mosaics, shifts the look from über-modern to eclectic, modern with a subtle nod to retro. When it comes to bathrooms, making a statement takes the average bathroom from boring to outstanding. Using a bold colour, or creating some drama with a unique material will give the space its own distinct style.

THE SPACE TO STORE

A well-executed bathroom design also requires proper space planning. Storage is key in most bathrooms, and while we lifted the vanity off the ground to show off the gorgeous mosaic floor, we also added a tall linen tower on the end to maximize the storage and check off another coveted item on the homeowners' wish list. The biggest luxury in a bathroom is being able to have space for everything you need. Offsetting the storage tower to the end as opposed to opting for the usual two



symmetrical towers on either end also helps define the contemporary look of this bathroom.

MODERN DESIGN TIPS

For a custom look, oversized subway tiles were used to not only line the bathtub surround, but also as a backsplash to the vanity. Stacking the tiles in a grid pattern as opposed to a staggered pattern is key to a modern look and adds a practical element to everyday use of water splashing.

Two under-mount rectangular basins are inset around a crisp-white Caesarstone countertop, with a very straight and thin profile edge. This durable surface will stand the test of time and works perfectly in a space that needs to be self-sufficient. Finding a balance between finishes that are beautiful and practical can sometimes be challenging, neverthe-



"THESE FIXTURES ADD A UTILITARIAN TOUCH TO THE MINIMALIST, CLEAN LINES THAT PREDOMINATE THE LOOK OF THIS FAMILY BATHROOM."



less, more and more clever products are popping up on the market to make these dilemmas less daunting and more inspiring to work with.

THE RETRO TOUCH

And finally, choosing the right lighting is critical to an overall bathroom design. We used overhead lighting with ample pot lights over the tub, toilet and core area. We also opted for a fun pair of nautical-inspired wall sconces in a distressed bronze finish. These fixtures add a utilitarian touch to the minimalist, and clean lines that predominate the look of this family bathroom. The mixing of metals is also a fun design element so don't be afraid to mix and match or go for all bronze finishes.

Designing a bathroom requires gathering of information, listening, thinking practical and outside of the box all at the same time. Creating the right balance of beauty and function is key to successful bathroom design. Black, white and a touch of walnut will stand the test of time and will feel gender-neutral and timeless, modern and dramatic in any setting. ♦

SOURCES PLUMBING FIXTURES: Toilet, tub, sinks & faucets, Canaroma LIGHTING: Nautical Sconces, Union Lighting FLOOR TILES: Black Hexagon Mosaic, CIOT WALL TILES: 4"x16" Matte White Tiles, Olympia Tile CUSTOM CABINETS: Walnut Vanity & Tower Fabrication by Dvira Interiors. CABINETS HARDWARE: Brushed Chrome Pulls, Berenson ACCESSORIES & DECOR: Gingers & Home Sense

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