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# picture-perfect POWDER ROOMS

The smallest room in the house is a playground for daring design choices

BY DVIRA OVADIA

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANI BUCHMAN



Don't let a petite powder room discourage you from being creative; even small spaces deserve a stylish look. The powder room consists of five main essentials: vanity, mirror, lights, toilet and envelope (aka floors and walls).

Sometimes, these essentials are simple at best, mainly white and borderline-boring. However, that doesn't have to be the case. I have decorated many small-scale bathrooms and created a wow-factor by emphasizing luxury with bold colours and eye-catching fixtures.



## CHOOSING YOUR VANITY AND FAUCET

The vanity is the first thing you notice when entering the powder room and acts as an anchor. Invest in a nice piece that draws the eye. I often use freestanding vanities to make powder rooms feel more like decorated rooms.

A contemporary, open vanity with a marble base provides lightness. On the other hand, don't be afraid to integrate a repainted, antique vanity into your powder room. Complementary-painted or patterned wallpaper allows even heavier pieces to blend seamlessly into small spaces.

Stand-alone pedestal sinks come in classic or modern designs and are usually less expensive than traditional vanities. However, some pedestal sinks offer very little counter space, making it necessary to include an additional stand-alone table for toiletries.

Consider the faucets: they should be beautiful and striking. Today, faucets are available in many fabulous shapes and finishes. Opt for black, bronze or brass and avoid the everyday standard chrome faucets. Sleek and less elaborate faucets allow an ornate vanity to shine; however, the faucet can also be the crown jewel.

Prior to choosing a faucet, consider whether you're fitting a new faucet on an existing sink or buying a new vanity and sink assembly. Make sure the faucet you choose matches the hole-openings in your sink.



## — TIPS —

A closed cabinet will house your toiletries and hand towels. Use baskets, bins and shelves to store guest amenities in an open cabinet.

Create an element of surprise and wow your guests with a wall-mounted faucet, a trough sink or a fabulous piece of artwork.

Little things like sumptuous hand towels, fresh-cut flowers, and beautiful accessories not only pack a punch but also welcome your guests.



For the average person, hang the mirror 62 to 66 inches from the floor measured from the centre line.





A chandelier or a pair of sconces on either side of the mirror is like jewelry on a dress.

## THE RIGHT MIRROR

When decorating your powder room, the mirror should not be an afterthought. It should stand out and act as a design element in the room. Frameless, bevelled or etched mirrors can be stunning in a small space but they are trickier to install.

Framed mirrors are less expensive and easier to hang. Large mirrors or even a wall of mirrors behind the vanity, gives the illusion of more space; whereas, a tiny mirror can make the room appear even smaller. Just make sure when hanging your mirror that it's hung to accommodate all heights.

## THE ENVELOPE

A small powder room is the perfect place for adding wallpaper that creates a visual impact, as it adds drama to a small space. Don't be afraid to use dark, bright, or even busy wallpaper; it will create a mood and set the tone. Just remember to choose paper that complements and enhances the style of your vanity and fixtures.

The powder room is usually the smallest room in the house but it will often experience the most traffic. Granite, marble, ceramic and slate are popular choices that offer an upscale look. You might also choose to run the same hardwood from the hall into the powder room for a more unified flow.

## LIGHTING YOUR SPACE

Powder rooms are generally tucked into hallways without natural light. Consider a ceiling fixture and sconces. The appropriate lighting adds sparkle and shine.

A chandelier or a pair of sconces on either side of the mirror is like jewelry on a dress. Go ahead and choose lighting that's a little more flamboyant or prettier than what you might choose for the main bathroom. Keep in mind, the lighting should match the style of the room.

The scale of your powder room might be smaller but that doesn't mean you can't make a bold statement. Unleash your imagination. The powder room is the perfect place to be daring with design. ♦

### SOURCES

**ALL BATHROOMS** Mirrors: [renwil.com](http://renwil.com) Cabinetry: [somesetkitchens.com](http://somesetkitchens.com)  
Accessories, Towels, Decor: [homesense.ca](http://homesense.ca), [gingers.com](http://gingers.com) Lighting/  
Chandeliers: [royallighting.com](http://royallighting.com) Faucets, Sinks: [gingers.com](http://gingers.com)

Toronto-based celebrity and award-winning designer Dvira Ovadia, Principal of Dvira Interiors, is known for her appearances and design work on various HGTV shows like *Income Property*. Dvira and her team use their profound understanding of design to create stylishly smart spaces. Servicing clientele throughout Ontario and the GTA. [dvira.com](http://dvira.com) @DVIRAdesigner



# TORONTO FALL HOME SHOW

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## RENO & DECOR Magazine Presents “DESIGN INTERVENTION”

From October 1-4 at the Better Living Centre, visit *RENO & DECOR* at Booth 1266 to have all of your Design, Decor and Renovation concerns put to rest. On hand will be a host of design and decor experts along with your favourite R&D contributors offering free 15-minute consultations. Be sure to bring along your photos, samples and floor plans to ensure you get the most out of your appointment.



◀ For the *RENO & DECOR* booth, designer Dvira Ovadia will showcase diversity while keeping a classic undertone throughout the space. “My design direction was to create a display that is not only contemporary in nature but with a selection of furniture with underlying elements of classic styling,” says Ovadia.

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## RENO & DECOR MAGAZINE PRESENTS **Design Intervention**

CANADA'S HOME IDEA BOOK  
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Do you find design projects daunting? Have you opened Pandora's box and find yourself in a reno disaster? Whatever the situation, get back on track or start fresh with some professional design advice from our experts at RENO & DECOR's "Design Intervention" booth.

From October 1-4 at the Better Living Centre, visit **DESIGN INTERVENTION at booth 1266** to have all of your Design, Decor and Renovation concerns put to rest. On hand will be a host of design and decor experts along with your favorite RENO & DECOR contributors offering free 15-minute consultations. Be sure to bring along your photos, samples and floor plans to ensure you get the most out of your appointment.

Also be sure to enter to win great prizes including - \$500 from UpCountry, \$300 from Royal Lighting, free 40 min design consultations from Dvira and Melissa Davis (value \$300 ea) and power tools from Stanley, Black & Decker and Bostitch.

This year's booth is being designed by award winning Toronto designer Dvira Ovadia, Principal of Dvira Interiors. You may recognize her from popular HGTV shows like Income Property and The Unsellables. Dvira began her career with a degree in Architecture from the University of Toronto and a Masters in Interior Design from the renowned Pratt Institute in New York. From there, she worked at prestigious design firms before making her mark on Debbie Travis' From the Ground Up.

Be sure to catch Dvira on stage on  
**Friday Oct 2nd, 6pm - 7pm**  
as she presents

### "Splish Splash - Make the most of your Bath!"



Dvira will discuss how to create the most functional and stylish bathroom spaces in your home. Dvira will take you through the latest must have items, and discuss how to select the right flooring, colours, finishes and latest in smart bathroom gadgets. Dvira will advise on where to spend and where to save but more important share her top 5 things you need to know before you begin any bathroom reno.

### Appearing at the **Reno & Decor Booth: 1266**



Glen & Jamie



Kris Brigden



Jim Caruk



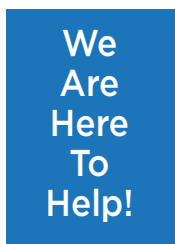
Kate Davidson



Melissa Davis



Barbara Nyke



Steven Southgate



Evelyn Eshun



Erica Gelman



Catherine Lucie  
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Tracy O'Brien

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