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SPECIAL ISSUE

Kitchens & Baths 2024

Design Your Perfect Space

+ A Gorgeous
Vancouver Home
Inspired by
an **Aussie**
Beach House

PLUS
Recipes for Pretty
Plant-Based Cakes



From gorgeous and green spaces to showers designed to take in the view, these bathing beauties are thoughtfully designed to celebrate plenty of “me” time.

By Kerri Donaldson, Alyssa Hirose, Stacey McLachlan and Anicka Quin

Solid State
The home itself is what Velji calls “new traditional” — warm and inviting, but design-forward, too. And this floating-sink statement piece is a perfect example of that: it’s a custom design that Velji created with Edmonton’s Phoenix Concrete Works.



Kick off your inspiration with a gorgeous tile

This renovated bath in designer **Alykhan Velji**’s own Calgary bungalow serves as both a guest bathroom and a main-floor powder room — the latter making it, as Velji says, “a great place to have some fun with design.” And that’s just what he did — starting with that bold tile underfoot. “It’s a traditional paisley-like patterned tile that has beautiful tones of burnt orange and olive green,” he says. “It became the starting point for the palette for the bathroom.” That colour palette provides a perfect pairing to rectangular tiles on the tub surround and the walls, their irregular pattern appearing to be almost hand-mottled. Fixtures from Brizo in champagne bronze keep the space feeling warm with an element of tradition, too. “If you’re stuck in a renovation, start with a beautiful tile and pull colours from there to let it guide your space,” says Velji.

Joel Klassen





Hide your
unmentionables
in plain sight

There are a lot of surprises in this **Hazel and Brown**-designed Vancouver ensuite, to be sure. There's the giant, backlit pink quartzite panel that overlooks the white bathtub; the Arabesque Carrara marble floor tiles that nod to the homeowners' travels to Morocco; the playful wallpaper that lines the water closet. But designer **Melanie Finkleman**'s big reveal is those rectangular mirrors on the wall—they're actually the fronts of custom medicine cabinets. "They're recessed into the wall," she explains. "But the wood frames really make them look like mirrors."



Golden Glow

Mixed metals bring a comfortable warmth here. Accessories are brass, while faucets are oil-brushed bronze. The whole home has a farmhouse-modern vibe, and that's continued into the bathroom with shiplap on the walls and an industrial black grid frame on the shower door.

Ripple Effect

The fluted, white oak vanity brings the texture here. A cerused oak stain adds further depth. "It's my favourite part of the room," says Finkleman.

Jessica Davila

License to Chill

The homeowners chose to demo their original home and build new, but they preserved one key piece from the old house: the bathtub. McKay and her team at Pure Design had it refinished in a classic white—good as new.

Janis Nicolay

Bring the drama with floor-to-ceiling tile

“One side is the audience, the other side is the stage,” says **Ami McKay** with a laugh. The principal designer at **Pure Design** is referring to this stunning, green-tiled bathroom in Vancouver’s Douglas Park neighbourhood: the small step up to the bathtub, coupled with a gorgeous tile that extends past the vaulted ceiling, is inarguably eye-catching. “We tend to paint our ceilings white, but this creates intimacy,” says the designer. “It’s all about colour blocking with simple materials.” That said, the “audience” side of the bathroom works hard, too: a mirrored medicine cabinet provides generous storage, and white oak cabinetry brings an organic, natural element to the space.

Smoke Show

The large bathroom was almost too cavernous, so the team at Knight Varga bumped out a column to create some definition, and chose a dark smoked glass for the shower to anchor the eye.

Smart Seating

A bench runs through the shower and out to the tub, creating a perfect ledge for plants (or a bathtime glass of wine).



Smart Storage

The long Corian vanity is flanked by his-and-hers storage towers for optimal organization. While large slabs of Dekton line most of the room, a swath of Ann Sacks tiles brings in a hit of organic texture.



Get smart with your window choices

In a **Knight Varga** project, natural light is always welcome... even in a home's most intimate spaces. "This ensuite had ample light through large windows, which we loved; but we really had to think about privacy," explains co-principal **Trish Knight**. Blinds would be impractical; drapes too, of course. So the design team went high-tech with their solution for this glass-box West Vancouver bathroom, installing smart glass that frosts over at the touch of a button. Now the homeowners can enjoy their oversized, smoked-glass shower (kitted out with dual handheld sprayers and a rain showerhead) and their modesty all in one go.

Janis Nicolay





Pattern Play

The Mind the Gap wallpaper print is called "Out of This World" and features a delightfully chaotic pattern of vintage sci-fi graphics.

Dark Matters

The millwork here is so dark brown, it's almost black. On top, find a Caesarstone surface in Raven.



Make the mirror the star

The powder room is the place to freshen up: to fix your hair; to check the 'fit. So why shouldn't you go big with the mirror? (The fact that it can make a tiny room feel that much bigger is just a bonus.) **Shannon Bradner** of Vancouver's **HB Designs** brought in a custom, oversized rounded mirror to anchor this Vancouver project, popping a floating wood vanity with Caesarstone countertop just below centre and installing the Watermark Brooklyn tap to protrude right out of the glass. The whole figure is backlit to give the room an enticing glow—otherworldly, in fact, when experienced in tandem with the quirky Mind the Gap wallpaper.

Design Trick

There's a sliver of mirror beneath the floating cabinet, creating the illusion that the piece is one big circle.



Curves Ahead
The terracotta archway, painted in Benjamin Moore's Mexican Tile, serves a dual purpose as storage for linens and bathing essentials and as a charming display to showcase family heirlooms. "There's a real family heritage piece... that adds an eclectic feel," says Ewanchyna.



Green Scene
The emerald-green tiles in the steam shower (Oceani by Olympia Tile) envelop the space, offering an intimate enclave with a Moroccan touch. "It's meant to feel warm and cozy with that handmade Moroccan feel," says Ewanchyna. To enhance the spa-like ambiance, the shower is strategically positioned to capture expansive views through the bay windows. "The goal was to maximize their view from the windows—so we made it as large as we could and we angled the glass," the designer says.



Keep your loo out of view for a spa-like retreat

To help transition from Vancouver's hustle to the serene countryside of Nova Scotia, a family of four enlisted the help of **Andrea Ewanchyna** of Vancouver's **Andreajae Studio** to revamp their heritage home—including this primary ensuite, customized as an essential haven for parents of two young children.

Central to that retreat is the clawfoot tub, strategically placed to capture panoramic views of the sprawling acreage through three large bay windows. But the concealed toilet room became an unsung hero, maintaining the room's spa-like charm. "It's a very European concept, which the clients adored," says Ewanchyna. Hidden behind a pocket door opposite the vanity, the toilet stays out of sight, allowing the tub and breathtaking views outside to shine.

The room's colour scheme brought in natural deep, earthy hues like terracotta and emerald, alongside a bit of opulence in gold accents on the tub's lion feet and the perforated pendant light. "It radiates warmth and adds a unique texture," notes Ewanchyna.

The design triumphs in optimizing natural light through a well-planned layout. "Aligning the vanity with the windows not only maximizes lighting but also bridges the indoors with the outdoors," says the designer. The centrally placed bathtub and steam shower enhance natural light, melding the space with the scenic outdoors. "It's about balancing indoor comfort with the beauty of nature, making every moment feel like a retreat," she adds.

Don't be afraid to blend design eras

It's easy to think that the powder room in this Vancouver home could sit in one of the turn-of-the-century originals that pepper its Shaughnessy neighbourhood: that richly veined marble and walnut vanity, the Morris and Co. wallpaper, the gilded mirror. And that's exactly the feeling that the homeowner was looking for. He'd raised his kids in a '60s-era home on the same lot, but really wanted to build one of the Shaughnessy Tudors the neighbourhood is known for. New builds can feel like they're faking it if they're not designed with a deft hand – and that's where the team from **Kelly Deck Design** came in. "You're not trying to create a time capsule," says Deck. "You want the home to look as if it was collected over multiple decades." That mix of eras shown here – from the Arts and Crafts-inspired tile on the walls to the classic English washbasin sink to the art nouveau pendant lights – creates a space that feels like it's been offering the same sense of warmth and welcome for nearly a century. **WL**

Under Cover

The window coverings are actually two layers: there's a sheer closest to the window, and a silk covering in front with an embroidered ribbon lining its edges. "It speaks to the Arts and Crafts aesthetic of the room," says Deck.

Feeling Blue

The gorgeous rich-blue tile is from Ann Sacks; the flooring is smoked oak boards.

Tina Kulic

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