


NEW HOMES & CONDOS


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To Zen or not to Zen



PAUL SEMKULEY
**LIVING IN
STYLE**

I am sure you have dreamed about having the ultimate spa bathroom. Bathroom renovations are one of the first areas in a house that homeowners think of when they are buying a house.

Large or small bathroom renovations are a huge deal but they can impact on your

break the bank.

A recent client of our firm had purchased a house that had been renovated 10 years ago. The bones were great and the bathrooms needed some updating. There were some areas, like the shower stall and toilet area that could have been expanded to give a

shower space.

A rain head along with a handheld shower were included a thermostatic control valve, that is and should be standard in any shower.

For the shower floor, we chose a small marble mosaic tile to add some pattern and texture to the room. One of the perks to renovating a bathroom is that you can choose where you want to spend and where you don't. A heated floor is one of those options that we feel brings great value to you and the future home owners when you decide to sell.

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lifestyle in a positive way.

Unlike a condo where you have a limited footprint and plumbing of the building, a house can provide you with many opportunities to renovate your bathroom into your new oasis.

The walls and floor tiles, the multiple shower jets, the rain heads, the tub — the list can go on and on.

better floor plan.

But in reality, it would have cost thousands more to gain an extra narrow piece of 10 sq ft in the shower. Instead we opted to keep the foot print as it was and spend a bit more on the tiles for the shower and remove the four-seater jacuzzi tub and install a beautiful free-standing oval soaker. With marble tiles laid on the floor of the main room of the bathroom, we took these same tiles and used them on the wall and ceiling of the

Nuheat (www.nuheat.com) is our brand of choice as it is easy to install, energy efficient and can be controlled using a variety of thermostat options, including an app that you can use with your mobile device of choice. And to boot, it is not expensive.

The one other crucial piece to any bathroom is your vanity. With 72" of space, we were able to find a smaller vanity that would have a few inches on each side, giving the look of a piece of furniture in the room.



Marble tiles were laid on the floor of the bathroom with the same tiles used on the wall and ceiling of the shower space.

Here are a few tips when designing your new bathroom:

- Sconce height and width should be between 36" - 40" apart, when placed on either side of a mirror. This lighting positioning is also more flattering. Counter height is

better when it is a bit higher at 34" - 36."

- When laying your tiles on the floors and walls, take into consideration the pattern, scale and width of the room to determine the best direction in which to lay them down.

- Additional pot lighting on a dimmer switch provides great overall lighting.

— Paul Semkuley is principal of Re:Sources Lifestyle, a Toronto-based interior design firm. Visit him at www.resourcelifestyles.com.