

INTRODUCTION

There is little question that the Bathroom is an important room in anyone's home. It is one of the top two considerations for home renovations, to update and add value to your home. Playing such a key role in everyday living, the Bathroom should be designed with care and precision.

Knowing where to start, however, can be a daunting task. *Creating the Ideal Bathroom* is a complicated concept. Ideal for whom? That's where the whole Bathroom design process should start? Your Bathroom should reflect your families' needs and lifestyle. Below are two important areas of designing a new bathroom to be considered: style and functionality, and planning and scheduling.

BATHROOM - Style and Functionality

Leaf through any custom home magazine and you'll find a wide variety of styles: Art Deco, Asian, Classical, contemporary, Country, French Colonial, Lodge, Mission, Modern, Rustic, Shaker, Traditional, Transitional, Tudor, Tuscan, and Victorian—just to name a few. Some will grab your eye; others will do nothing for you it's a very individualized thing. Because there are so many different styles, it's important to narrow your choices so that you can choose a design that fits your preferences and lifestyle. So how do you know that style is right for you? The "Bathroom Style Considerations" on this page can help get you moving in the right direction and help you to identify what style of Bathroom you and your family really want and will help you consider your desired Bathroom's functionality and usability.

Bathroom Style Questions

- What is my general sense of style?
Do I gravitate toward things that are contemporary? Or do I prefer things that are traditional, country or rustic?
- What's the style in the rest of my home? If the rest of the house is traditional, do I want to carry that style over into the BATHROOM?
- Is there an overall theme in the house that I want to bring into the BATHROOM?
- Are there particular colors or color combinations I like?
- How much natural versus artificial lighting do I want? What kind of fixtures do I prefer?

Bathroom Functionality Questions

- What are the one or two things about my current BATHROOM that drive me crazy?
(Focus on organization, lighting, usability.)
- How many family members use this BATHROOM space? Is a master bath? A guest powder room?
- How much storage space will we really need? What about an in-bathroom linen closet?
- What items will need to be accommodated? Walk-in shower, soaker tub, an attached closet? washer/dryer?
- What kind of flooring do we want? What kind of traffic do we have in the BATHROOM?
- Do I need multiple sinks?
- Is the current footprint large enough for our desired needs or do we need to expand it?

*How many people will use the BATHROOM?
Is it a Master Bath with attached closets or a guest Powder room?*

PLANNING and SCHEDULING

Unbelievably, the actual plan—creating the blueprint—is the easy part, once you know what you want. Figuring out the exact dimensions and how everything fits together really cannot happen until you've defined the overall vision of what you want to see in your new Bathroom.

Once you have the general concept in place, you should sit down with your designer and begin talking about plans. Make sure they understand exactly what you want. They will be able to advise you and assist you in keeping within your budget.

You can sketch out on paper how you want things to look and their relative placement. The professionals can then take your ideas and turn them into accurate drawings. Once you have seen a draft of your blue print, you will likely ask what every homeowner wants to know (after "How much is this going to cost?"): "How long will this take?"

The answer? "It all depends." No two projects are the same, and there can be many different variables. Your home remodeling contractor will be able to provide you with an outline and specific expectations so that you'll have an accurate idea of how long your project will take. With the professionals at Midwest Stone Source and Design Studio, creating the Bathroom of your dreams can an exciting adventure!

*How much is this going to cost?
How long will my project take?*