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HOME

ANNUAL DESIGN GUIDE ON BATHROOMS

Private
Spaces

Presented by :

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Hindware
Italian Collection



SOAK PIT

IT IS THE TUB THAT OFTEN SETS THE TONE FOR THE BATHROOM. SO SPEND TIME AND ENERGY ON GETTING ONE THAT FITS YOUR DÉCOR AND BUDGET.

Back when people in the West were dragging wooden tubs into the kitchen, filling them with hot water heated on the stove and then quickly diving in for a scrub, the Japanese were viewing their bathing routine as an unhurried, almost-sacred ritual. A bath was a work of beauty, a time of restoration. And the bathtubs, created out of wood, were built to match the mood. Now, the entire world seems to have gone Japanese. Bathrooms everywhere are being designed to be havens of peace. Most urban homes have at least one bathtub, some have more than one; and often times, it's the tub that sets the tone of the bathroom. Not surprising then that there's a surfeit of bathtub styles (with varying sizes, shapes and material) available in the market, making choices difficult.

Comfort should be your foremost consideration when choosing a bathtub. While a particular shape and size might take your fancy, your bathroom might not be equipped for that particular tub. A whirlpool tub, for instance, sounds exciting but unless you intend to use the jets often, you will only end up wasting money. So first decide what you want your tub to do for you. Next, visit a store and check out the models; see which one feels most comfortable (by sitting or even lying down in it).

Size comes second, after comfort. A tub should not be so small that people can't fit into it nor so big that it takes up unnecessary space and is high on water consumption. You also need to decide whether you want a one-person tub or two. If all the poten-

tial users are tall, get a deep tub so that they can immerse themselves fully without having to contort their bodies.

The next thing to consider is the style of the tub. Choose from a basic 5-ft built-in tub, freestanding claw-foot or pedestal tubs, soaking tubs and specialty pieces like a whirlpool tub. As the name suggests, freestanding tubs are not built into the floor or enclosed on three sides; the faucets are typically mounted on the side of the tub but can also be floor or wall mounted. Soaking tubs are deeper than standard ones as they are meant for, well, soaking, and generally have no shower attachments or jet combinations. While the regular models are all rectangular, one can also opt for a corner bathtub (which is usually oval or square), a round tub or an exotic shape like a heart, leaf or, even, a shoe.

As far as colour goes, white and cream (or beige) still reign though manufacturers also offer tubs in colours like pink, red, black, green and blue, as well as ones with interesting patterns. Black tubs are difficult to maintain but look smashing.

Coming to the material, you can choose between acrylic, porcelain, cast iron, fibreglass, marble and, more rarely, wood. While a fibreglass tub is cost effective, it's not as durable as porcelain or acrylic. Similarly, marble and wooden tubs look really good but are very high maintenance. So, take your time before picking a tub that fits into your budget, is easy to maintain, durable and good looking.

Enamel-coated cast iron tub covered with glass mosaics from Sicis' 'Sultan' collection



1. Solid aluminium Excelsior tub with primed plinth that can be painted to suit your colour scheme, available with ball or claw feet. From Nagina Waters. Price on request.
2. Agape UFO steel bathtub with backrest, available at FCML. Price: Rs 33.52 lakh.
3. Neo baroque compolite crystal plant tub with micronise leather covering, from Nagina Waters. Price on request.



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4. Blue Moon bathtub with wooden or acrylic panels, available as a corner, wall and freestanding model. Also boasts underwater lighting.

From Duravit.

Price: Rs 5 lakh-plus.

5. Decorated with real platinum chips, the bathtub from Sisis is clad on the outside with glass chips and is moulded internally in acrylic.

Price: Rs 14 lakh.

6. Freestanding 'Wave Diamond' bathtub made of glass and fine mahogany, from Bagno Sasso.

Price: Rs 10 lakh.

7. 'Air water spa' bathtub made of acrylic with a slip resistant base, underwater light and telescopic legs and six jets and two air controls, from FCML. Price on request.