



KATY HOMES

*Katy's Beautiful...*

# DREAM BATHROOMS

From Cozy Powder Rooms to  
Glorious Master Baths

*by Kara Wetmore French & Carlee Besier*



Some Katy homeowners prefer a modern, sophisticated bathroom design



The old world look of this bathroom is achieved through rugged iron accents and textured tile

determining how much to spend on such a project. “The remodeling should be proportional to the home’s value,” she says. Bautista also recommends you do your homework. “Always get references for whoever you use for remodeling. Be sure you speak with someone; don’t just look at a website. Make a phone call. And always get two bids,” she advises.

### Plan and Execute

Bautista’s plan for decorating and remodeling a bathroom, and for all other remodeling projects, is to plan ahead. “Make a list of things you would like to have. Stores will have sales and clearances, and even though you may not be ready to tackle the job right away, you can buy it at a lower price and set aside for future use.” Take advantage of websites and use the internet for planning and researching. You can check prices online and find great deals on flooring, counter tops, and more.

Veronica Solomon, design consultant at Designs of the Interior, recommends using an interior decorator. “People tend to think that hiring a decorator is an expensive undertaking. But people will spend that money anyway and maybe make mistakes along the way. When you have a professional on your side, you have someone who has the same end result in mind and will see the project through,” says Solomon.

### Find Your Katy Style

Once you have the budget in mind, the sky’s the limit. Do you want a relaxed bathroom with a comfortable ambiance, or do you want something that’s really snazzy? It’s important to look at the small things. Replacing knobs, towel racks, faucet fixtures and even adding a new coat of paint are low cost ways to revamp the room. “Painting is always an inexpensive way to get a new look. You put some paint on the wall and get a whole new room. It will make an immediate impact,” says Solomon.

If you’re looking for a big-budget overhaul of the bathroom, Bautista recommends updating the counter tops with granite, getting rid of builder-grade light fixtures, and replacing faucets. “Making these updates would totally change the look of the bathroom without ripping anything else out,” says Bautista. Solomon suggests the addition of travertine tiles to add a touch of elegance to the floors and updating the cabinetry, either by replacing or using the faux paint technique to make the cabinets look like real wood.

Feeling a bit adventurous lately? Looking for a home decoration project but don’t know where to get started? Grab your hammer, nails, and paint and let’s head into the bathroom. With glamorous light fixtures and classy granite counters, you can create a space that will be sure to make your neighbors green with envy.

### Set Your Budget

A bathroom or powder room can offer a great starting point for anyone who’s thinking about doing some redecorating in their home. The project can be made more manageable by looking at your budget and how you want to spend it. Do you really need that granite countertop, or could you be happy with a stylish laminate? Deborah Bautista, interior designer and owner of Tista’s Home Furnishings, says to consider the value of your home when

These bathroom windows offer a relaxing view while bringing the outdoors into the home.



## Be Color Conscious

Painting and textures are very hot this year for a modern look. There are many different styles to choose from, from the simple traditional painting, to something much more complex, like faux painting or stenciling. Opting for neutral colors will give you the opportunity to change the color of accent pieces, giving you the freedom to also redecorate more often.

In a small powder room, Solomon and Bautista both suggest to lean toward the darker colors. "I really like the red, more on the spicy side, like burnt sienna or cayenne, or even chocolate," says Solomon. "I also like Robin's egg blue, which isn't dark, but is a trend right now." She also says that the powder room is one place you can do the unexpected, such as a not-so-typical wallpaper or a fun paint job.

If you're looking to jazz up your master bathroom, Solomon says to be aware of the colors in your master bedroom. "Your master bedroom and bathroom should be treated as a suite, so always make sure the colors flow, not necessarily the same fabrics, but same colors."

## Finishing Touches

Every bathroom needs accessories, and there are some great ones to add some snazz to your sink. Look for wrought iron faucets and other stylish accessories to add major finishing touches. Bautista suggests the addition of art, floral arrangements, rugs, and decorator towels. In the powder room, an ornate mirror will often be the focal piece that can tie everything together.

## Water-Friendly Fixtures

Here's one more thing to keep in mind. The toilets of today offer you many ways to be earth friendly and use less water. You never knew that redoing your powder room could benefit the environment, did you? Look for sleek modern styles that offer water savings and quiet flushing abilities. Everybody likes a quiet potty!

## The 'Bottom' Line

Whether you elect to decorate your bathroom yourself, or let the decorating professionals handle the job, a revamped bathroom or powder room is a project that can be done within any budget and is sure to add value and happiness to your home.

**KM**

*KARA WETMORE FRENCH is in the process of redecorating her powder room and expects to be done around 2011.*

*CARLEE BESIER is a new homeowner and can't wait to finish decorating her house.*

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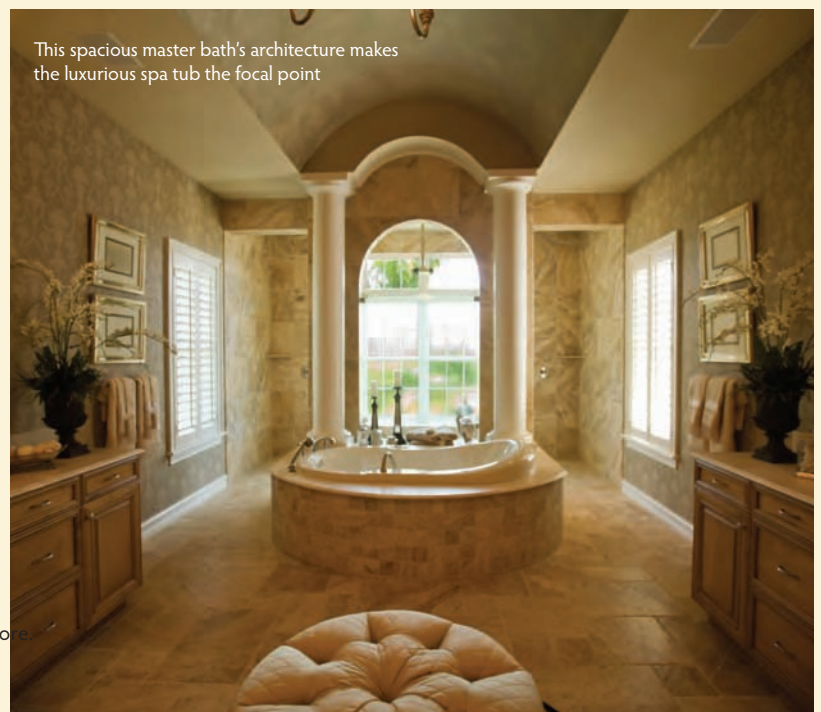
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A monochromatic white color scheme is preferred by some Katy homeowners



Some homeowners prefer the simple, clean feel of a spa-like bathroom



This spacious master bath's architecture makes the luxurious spa tub the focal point

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