

It's a place where you start and end each day," says Rita Tersio Dobrauchi from Terranova Kitchen and Bath Design. "At times, you need it to help you wake up and get energized. Other times, it's the perfect place to escape and relax."

Sharing a bathroom with a number of people while trying to get ready and out the door can be a frustrating experience. For years, architects have been increasing the number of bathrooms per house. Many new homes even have a bath to go with each bedroom. "But size doesn't matter," says Dobrauchi. "It's what's inside that counts." Hmmmm ... that sounds familiar. "For instance, we're seeing a trend toward specialty showers with less interest on tubs. As a busy and hardworking society, we usually opt for a quick shower. But that's not to say we forgo pampering. We still want our shower ritual to be a unique and invigorating experience."



The idea behind hydrotherapy showers has been around for centuries. The combination of heat and jets of water provides a therapeutic massage by relaxing tired, achy muscles, improving circulation and stimulating cell activity.

Steamshowers come in all shapes and sizes, from a tiny corner unit to an impressive two-person shower with whirlpool combination. Oxygenics Spa Showerhead injects oxygen into the wa-

ter for a refreshing aerated mist. It also increases pressure while using only half the water of a standard showerhead. The Ondine ELS (Electronic Light Showerhead) provides a stunning rainbow of color. Add the 24-karat showerhead featuring Swarovski crystals and a \$20,000 price tag for a sparkling shower experience.

More and more luxurious baths are including European elements like bidets and saunas. When it's time for a little detox, try an infrared sauna made from spruce or Canadian cedar. Wasauna's saunas come with a radio, CD player and reading light, all controlled by a digital box accessed inside or outside the sauna.

Sinks are another surprise in the bathroom. Say

goodbye to that boring old, white porcelain bowl and spice things up with hand-blown glass, teak, stone, mosaic or hand-painted basins. Nontraditional sinks are popping up all over. Above-counter sinks give the impression of a basin sitting on a counter. For a modern twist, add an overflow dish or place the sink on an antique dresser for a cozy, cottage look. Think outside the counter by mounting a vessel to the wall for a clean, streamlined appearance.

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