Bathroom Facelifting

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Lafayette people today live in some of the most well-designed modern homes available. Our kitchens practically cook meals by themselves, our bedrooms do everything from automatically turning off our television sets to vibrating our beds, and even our storerooms are well-lighted, well-heated and cooled, and efficiently laid out. And our bathrooms? Well, that's an area that could use a little face-lifting!

Overall bathroom planning is hardly a major consideration in designing today's home, but it should be. Most bathrooms are altogether too small for the functions they serve: as reading room, phone booth, dispensary, beauty shop and hand laundry, as well as their obvious functions. With little to set anything down, not enough space for storage, towels, and medicines, and fixtures not only antiquated but inflexible as far as suitability to individual human measurements, the 1969 bathroom is ripe for some catching up!

Not for Comfort

Let's take a look around the typical American bathroom, starting with the bathtub. A warm bath is a perfect excuse for leaning back and relaxing but the Great American bathtub is not at all designed for such comfort. And its slippery surface is a real danger, particularly for the aged or invalids...there's just nothing to hold onto in getting in and out. With the combination tub and shower, the shower head is almost invariably fixed so that the water merely laps at the toes of a tall man and washes the hair, like it or not, of a small woman. And there are waterproof coverings on the market designed for floors and walls, but they do little good on poorly-designed fixtures that trap dirt and moisture.

bathroom available to the average homeowner? Plenty. Plumbing contractors usually stock only what they think they can sell (i.e., what they have always sold); the possibilities are simply not there to see, if the customer wants a choice. Bathroom equipment needs to be merchandised like kitchen equipment—attractively, competitively, and with the most modern and efficient choices available. And people must begin to demand conveniences in the bathroom as they demand conveniences anywhere else in the house.

Everyone concerned, the homeowner, the plumbing contractor, the home builder, the architect, the entire building industry, must change their ways before our bathrooms will match our other rooms. The bathroom is no longer the black sheep of the house, to be stuck into a corner and ignored as much as possible. A little face-lifting is all it needs to make it the proudest part of our houses!