

Get Ready To Live

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This is the ultimate bathroom furniture, allowing separation between users by the tall linen storage unit. The under cabinet lighting below the vanity base provides a nightlight, and a sensual feel to this space.

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*Corsi Cabinetry; ROHL faucets;
Green onyx countertop.*

*Photography: Jason Jung,
Estetico, LLC.*





There is a Chinese Proverb that reads, “ People in the West are always getting ready to live.” That about sums up what happens in the Master Bathroom. Male and females are getting ready to live when they use the master bathroom. They are also there to recover, re-adjust, re-align and restore themselves. It is a room that is private and an extremely territorial space. It is where both genders can pluck, prune, pamper, ponder, polish, prepare and groom the image of what they anticipate themselves to look like. It is where sexuality is adorned and recreated visually.

*The Lakeshore Collection
from Wood-Mode Cabinetry.*



(Above) Brookhaven's contemporary Malibu master bath features the Sausalito door style. Separate lavatory areas are divided by back-to-back storage cabinets. Glass-fronted doors allow a peek at what's inside while also providing added space for decorative storage elements.



At the end of the day, it is where all the façade is erased, and scrubbed off, stripped down, exposed and returned to authenticity. All of this relates to the way the bathroom is designed, especially in the grooming areas. Cabinetry layouts are designed to accommodate the activities of “getting ready to live.”

And guess what? The gender issue, male-female, is a big deal. I remember a client saying to me, “I don't want to look at all her (stuff): makeup, creams, hair products, body lotions, etc. etc. etc.”

She said, “He splashes the mirror with water and gets the shaving cream all over the place. It just drives me nuts!”

(Left) An exquisite, much needed extra bathroom was designed with Quality Custom Cabinetry. Design by Jimmy Lagarde, Lagarde's Kitchen Design and Interiors. Interior Designer: Bobby Dubret. Photography: Jackson Hill.

Cabinetry layout trends for male and female are now not only separated by some special division if they are in the same room, but also are planned as separate his and her master bathrooms. Separate sinks for each user is a basic suggestion. Grooming is a solitary chore and each individual will have his or her own habits and rituals that should be isolated and respected. Being separated is not such a bad idea. She cannot interrupt his thoughts and he cannot interrupt hers.

Not all couples require the separation. Some couples “get ready for their life” at the same time. It is during this time that they can review, plan and communicate the schedules of the day for themselves as well as their family. Joint grooming areas in this situation are very important.



Dura Supreme offers a free-standing vanity table with optional drawer configurations and decorative turned posts. Available in two heights, with all wood species, finish, and door styles options available.



White and black finishes emphasize the chic and cool atmosphere of the minimalistic Galleria Collection from Lacava.

Miele Coffee Systems are completely self-contained. Have one in the master suite for that first morning cup.



If two professionals are in the same household and have a routine of racing out the door after they have completed the morning grooming ritual, the chit-chat at the sink when brushing their teeth in unison might be the only opportunity to amend the plans of the day. These folks might select the master bath location to brew the coffee and watch the news together. The television source, coffee machine and small refrigerator might be included in the cabinet layout design to accommodate these activities.

However, in spite of the separation requirements in the cabinetry layouts, there are distinctions in the planning of grooming areas for women and men. All of the equipment for both genders must be realized prior to the design and planning of the master bath cabinet layouts.

Plain & Fancy's Déjà New trend celebrates a bit of Old World Paris glamour mixed with modern amenities. Cabinetry is loaded with surprises including built-ins, pull out drawers, adjustable hanging spaces and generous proportion.





Robern's Uplift Cabinet for the vanity and makeup area features a mirror that rises up to reveal storage.

Should separate grooming areas be a significant requirement, or even if the partners share the same space, women require a lot more storage and a variety of storage solutions because of their specific grooming needs.

Pour Les Femmes

So what does she really need? She needs to see the back of her head to perfect the hairdo parts and proportion and that means lots of clever mirror placements. Mirrors can hinge from the wall creating angles which provide this solution, and/or the mirror can be placed on the side walls of the vanity area so at least when she turns her head from side to side, she can see some of the back of her head.

Diamond's Logix™ Vanity Cosmetic Cabinet features an attached hair appliance cooling rack and a built-in, two-tier segmented drawer that keeps make-up and other small bathroom items organized and easily accessible.





The location of the ‘body-to-the-mirror’ when applying make up is important and can dictate the cabinet layout distances from the mirror. Some women sit down to “make up” and others stand. If she is standing and or sitting, the distance from her body to the mirror should be no further than twelve to fifteen inches. One client “sat in her sink” because she could never see her face. If a make-up magnified mirror is specified in her grooming area, that mirror should be an inch from her face.

“Oh for light!” The correct placement of lighting is very important. Light on her face should be planned to be located on either side of her face and not more than 24- to 30-inches from each side of her face. The worst lighting is light that shines above the head. This casts cruel shadows that misdirect and misguide makeup application.

Avoid incandescent make-up lights that follow the perimeter of the mirror . These “Hollywood glamour” lights produce so much heat that when the lady is 12-inches away from the mirror (which is the correct distance), her face melts, she perspires, and the makeup just runs down her face.

Drawers on either side of her make up area are imperative. Several tall bottle drawers are also very useful, as many of the oversized shampoos and creams do not fit in the standard 5 1/2-inch high drawer. Decorative cabinetry pilasters that pull out can store the larger bottles and may also embellish the cabinetry design.

Warm your towels, shave, and watch the news with TV/ mirrored Myson Towel Warmer. The glass is one-way so the screen shows only when the TV is on.



Shower For Two-Blue Bathworks creates contemporary, beautifully proportioned bathware, all designed by award-winning international architect, Michael Gottschalk, in homes worldwide.

Electrical outlets concealed behind cabinetry drawers allow easy storage for hair styling appliances and prevent electrical cords from knocking over anything sitting on the countertop. Cabinetry for her should include many smaller compartments for the storage of makeup, as well as display area for photos, mementos, and beautiful perfume bottles. Close attention is important in the planning and designing of her space. Apart from all the technical requirements, 'the Goddess' needs the cabinetry to be beautiful. It needs to resemble some part of history that she can relate to. Painted finishes are usually easier to clean and imbue the feminine. She loves pretty and practical. The female needs it all.

For Her--Toto's new Waza Boracco undercounter basins please the eye with their simple, understated elegance.



Pour Les Hommes

Men require and prefer a different style. They typically require functional, clean, organized, and simple areas for storage and cabinetry styling. The gender just doesn't have all that 'stuff.' However, the accoutrements need to be just plain handsome. Men usually prefer darker cabinetry that resembles a haberdashery.

Men's habits and needs that direct the design are very different from women's. Men use some hair product on their hair, and some use hairdryers. Men like to watch the news while shaving. Clever storage of televisions through the grooming mirror makes it easy to see and watch. Men need extra outlets to charge their toothbrush, electric razors, and phone. They sometimes require a built-in coffee machine. Some men shave in the shower, some men shave over the sink, some men just trim the beard. A quick-mini vacuum is useful around the men's grooming area.

(Right) Wood-Mode's Urban Matrix Collection.



Heated floors in the grooming area, in and around the cabinetry layouts, are a plus for him. After the shower, it is usually a towel around the waist, and a steam free mirror to shave by. A magnifying mirror for him is equally as important as well as correct lighting.

Designing For Well-Being

Tile patterns on the floor and walls can either be a blend of color and/or shapes and will affect the tranquility of the mind. The elements of design such as color, shape, line, texture, and form have an affect on the psyche. Bright and or contrasting colors and or patterns can rustle up the mind and increases blood pressure. Warm colors speed up the heart; cool colors slow down the heart.

Master bathrooms that have a lot of texture stimulate the senses. Irregular or angled shapes, and alternative

This "American Classic" master bathroom brings together the easy access storage and efficient use of space. Quality Custom Cabinetry. Designer: Michael E. White, CKD, Aspen White Star, LLC. Photography: Bob Brazell.



positions of objects can stimulate or calm the senses. Angled shapes can separate the users and need to be used at a minimum as they can disturb the balance. Line has power. The circle calms, and the square and rectangle creates expectation. The triangle if equal sided, creates a sense of well-being. Linear line creates a direction. Tile layouts that are horizontal make the room wider, whereas tile layouts that are vertical make the room taller. There are many tricks to fool the proportions of a room. Symmetrical and or A-symmetrical design is very powerful and needs to be executed correctly of it will have an affect on the user. Lighting, storage, placement, color, territory, habits, history, and the human psyche all influence the cabinetry layout and choices of products for this special room environment. The master bathroom has power over our lives. It is indeed a place where we “ get ready to live” to create the landscape of our day.

Lacava's Spring vanity line is an environment friendly design with renewable bamboo and recyclable solid surface material.



Bev Adams, CMKBD, President and Founder of Interior Intuitions, started her design career renovating historical cottages in the 'hills' bordering Perth Western Australia. She has served as President of the NKBA Rocky Mountain Chapter, and judged local design contests as well as National NKBA design competitions. www.interiorintuitions.com

