



Topex Design's Fiaba vanity series features glass finish cabinets with matching solid glass countertops. The vanities are made of solid aluminum, are completely waterproof and come in four sizes. Colors include black, burgundy, delmar silver and white.



The Ametis Collection from Graff includes the Ametis ring and lavatory faucet. The Ametis ring features a dual-function showerhead with rain and waterfall settings. It integrates a six-color spectrum with RGB LED, allowing the user to select different moods. Made with stainless steel, it comes in chrome, architectural black and architectural white finishes.



The Raffia series from Nemo Tile features a fabric effect on a rectified porcelain surface with three-dimensional texture, achieved through digital printing and layering of different patterns and lines, paying homage to pixel art from the 1980s. The tiles can be used indoors or outdoors and for wall applications.

Barn doors give the bath entryway a different look.

Enhance the shower experience with bench seats and multiple heads.

## Tips & Trends

Lighter colors are easier to clean.

## New looks for bath entryway, shower

Is there any part of the guestroom more essential than the bathroom? Since it's so integral to the guest experience, the hospitality industry needs to pay special attention to the latest trends in bath design.

One of these trends begins with the very first step guests take into the bathroom. "It's the smallest room in the entire hotel, but it's the most relied on," said Stacy Elliston, principal of Studio 11 Design. "We're looking more now to create a barn-door experience so there's no door swinging into the bathroom itself.

"Several years ago, when we were suggesting the barn doors, it wasn't something the brands had caught onto quite yet, so it was a little bit of a sell to them to allow us to do that," she said. "Now, there's more receptiveness because it does make sense, space-wise. It's also not as cost prohibitive anymore. I think, moving forward, it's going to be more of the norm than the exception."

Beyond the entryway, showers are constantly evolving. "We're seeing that brands are starting to accept a higher percentage of rooms with showers, especially in queen rooms, in lieu of tubs," said Hiten Patel, VP of development and construction, Vision Hospitality.

"Some brands and owners are looking to do a door-less shower," said Elliston. "Obviously that requires a little bit more depth and layout of the shower itself, but some really like it."

Deidre Schwartz, director of design & sustainability, American Hotel Register, advised focusing on the guest. "The shower experience is second only to the sleeping experience to people," she noted. "Make them larger, provide a bench seat, and consider a hand-shower and multiple heads; that's memorable.

"For resorts with amazing views, consider an

open bathing space with views out to nature," Schwartz continued. "Nothing can set the tone of the day better than to cleanse with a view and perhaps feeling the breeze cascade in."

Lighter colors are making their way into the design aesthetic. "We are starting to see white vanity tops—white quartz, for example—as well as a lot of cast marble tub and shower surrounds in lieu of hard tile," said Patel. "This helps to minimize installation errors and also is a lot easier to clean."

Though a white scheme is a new trend, it is also key to making bath design last. "Most of the finishes in a bath remain in place for quite some time, so I would recommend going neutral for the most part," Schwartz said.

Brighter bathrooms also mean better lighting. "One of the number one complaints we get from ownership and properties are complaints about lighting in bathrooms systematically," said Elliston. "We're getting more feedback and requests for a lit mirror—it has a huge presence. I want to create a nice light output. We are now getting some leeway to add more decorative sconces in addition to that lighting."

When it comes to renovation, one has to be particularly strategic to incorporate these trends successfully. "In instances where a request for a lit mirror is made, we have to make sure the existing mirror's big enough to cover the locations, if we don't have the opportunity to add additional sconces," said Elliston.

In lieu of decorative elements such as sconces, Elliston leaves it up to the wallcoverings to create an inviting aesthetic. Schwartz suggests using the wall treatment, whether paint or vinyl, to accent the color scheme with a punch of color.

"When I first started, wallcoverings were so decorative, and they had huge patterns to them," Elliston recalled. "I think the trend has gone to a cleaner aesthetic—it isn't so fussy now. We've been able to make a big splash with less 'decoration' to them."

—Danielle Smith