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WOMAN

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN

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Taking
THE
PLUNGE

featuring KIM McBEE OF ON POINT CAROLINAS REALTY



WHEN IS THE LAST TIME YOU TOOK THE PLUNGE?

BY: STARR MILLER

OVER AND OVER, I hear clients say they want to get rid of their behemoth garden Jacuzzi tubs and replace them with a larger, more exotic shower. I spent this past weekend attending continuing-education seminars and one was the 'History of Bathing.' No surprise this subject was very much a part of our discussion. Most designers in the room said they are having the same discussions with their clients. However, the tub suppliers were working hard to remind us of the joys of bathing.

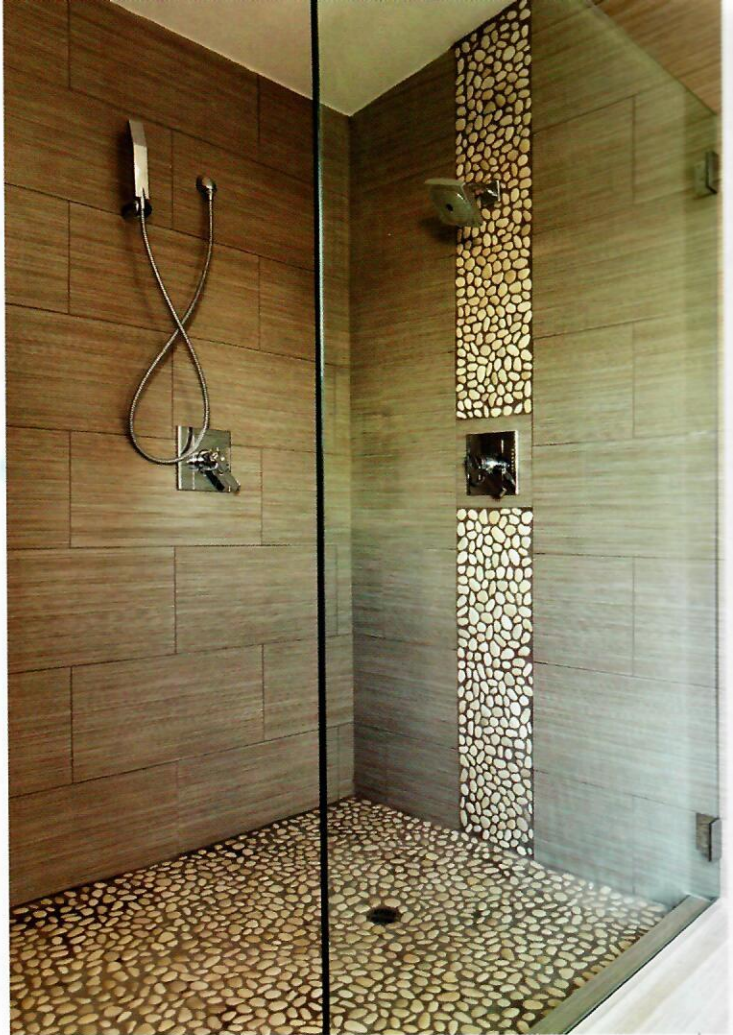
Today many clients are asking for showers with rain shower faucets, jets, seats, nooks, and full-enclosure glass doors with steam. As baby boomers renovate and plan for a future that does not include a nursing home, they are looking to build beautiful, luxurious, accessible, door-less, curb-less showers.

If you are a mom who finds that a soaking bath with a book and a glass of wine is your only peaceful moment, keep your tub or upgrade to

a swanky, sexy freestanding tub! If you or your partner needs a soothing soak to work out your aching kinks, by all means, keep the tub or consider a jetted model, if you do not have one.

If you have a home that will most likely sell to buyers with children, then you will want to have a bathtub conveniently located. Make sure prospective buyers are not turned away because parents need a tub to clean play-weary kids and children need a place to splash. However, it could be time to ask yourself if that bathtub is necessary in the master bathroom?

Five years ago, a real estate professional told me that eliminating a bathtub would absolutely take away from the value of the home. Recently, I spoke with two who said that they personally never used their bathtubs and that clients were only concerned that there be one available in the home. "Buyers seem to be less interested in bathtubs these days," Jennifer W.



OPTIONS FOR THE BATHTUB SPACE:

- Super shower
- Separate your vanity space from your partner's vanity
- Add more counter space
- Add a built-in hamper and storage
- Enlarge your closet
- Enclose your water closet

Arens, realtor with Southern Homes of the Carolinas says, "and much more interested in large luxurious showers."

Simple rules: If you plan to stay in your home more than 10 years, plan renovations around your needs, not the next owners. If you plan to stay five to seven years, consider what you want as well as what will lead to good resale value. If you are itching to sell within one to three years, concentrate on resale. Whatever you chose, ask your favorite real estate agent what is appropriate for your home's resale value.



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