

The COUNTY TIMES

Priceless
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Photo by Frank Marquart

Multi-Generational Design the Hot Trend at Home

*Changing Family Dynamic
Highlights Need for Form and Function*

Multi-generational design is one of today's fastest growing trends in the housing industry. As more and more people understand the benefits that smart planning affords to those of all age groups and abilities, a demand is being generated for products that combine style, safety, beauty and comfort with practicality and versatility. In fact, it's what good, smart design should be.

Multi-generational design has applications throughout the house, but it is particularly important in the bathroom.

A well-thought-out bathroom can easily accommodate the needs of young children, older adults and those with disabilities. And while there are many practical considerations that play an important role in the design process, including safety, space, comfort and ease of use, being "sensible" doesn't mean the bathroom has to look utilitarian. Quite the opposite, in fact.

Smart design has always been a hallmark of MTI Whirlpools, whose designs are based on the premise that form must follow function. Toward that end, while style is of paramount importance for MTI, it must simultaneously be thoughtful, not allowing versatility and functionality to be sacrificed. From low-profile shower bases to easy-entrance tubs, MTI has a wide variety of products that allow homeowners to enjoy a bathroom environment that is as aesthetically pleasing as it is universally functional.

Accommodating Showers

As the profile of the American family evolves to embrace a wide spectrum of ages, and needs, the principles of multi-generational design become increasingly important, especially in the bathroom.

MTI offers an extensive assortment of shower bases and frameless shower enclosures with the multi-generational family in mind. Just one of 7 different seated shower bases, the Jeu d'Eau can even be equipped with whirlpool jets for bathing young children or for an adult foot bath.

MTI also currently offers over 50 shower bases in different sizes, shapes and materials. Some are constructed of Engineered Solid-Surface material, which is a mixture of ground minerals and high-performance resins that are liquefied, poured and then hardened. These "molded stone" bases feature a low-profile, multiple-threshold design for versatile installation, great looks and easy entrance. These bases are high in both design and function.

Sensible Tubs

A luxurious tub is the centerpiece of any well-appointed bathroom. Comfort and practicality need not be sacrificed when designing a bathroom for multi-generational use. MTI has an amazing collection of over 150 tub designs from which to choose in all sizes, shapes and styles. And if you require a tub that can provide easier entry and exit, 17 models are only 19" high or less.

Two particular models, the Metro 1 and Metro 2, boast a clean, contemporary design and feature a generous front deck that is 11" wide, which serves as



This Low-Profile Shower Base with Teak Shower Seat and Teutonic Enclosure from MTI Whirlpools is a popular choice among families looking for a multi-generational design to their bathroom that caters to the needs of everyone in the household.

a transfer surface, allowing the bather to sit down on the edge and then turn into the tub instead of climbing over the edge. A coordinating contemporary tub surround has been designed just for this model. This handcrafted piece of furniture complements the tub and provides additional storage and decorative display space recessed in front under the wide deck area. The use of a transitional design enclosure will enable the Metro to integrate with a more traditional setting.

Little Things That Make A Big Difference

Regardless of the size and style of tub selected, there are a number of modest enhancements that can be made to add significantly to the bath environment, making it more multi-generationally sensitive. For instance, safety and security can be increased for all members with the addition of grab bars inside and/or outside the tub.

Available in a variety of sizes, materials and finishes, these grab bars are designed to be both decorative and functional. While providing cosmetic accent, properly positioned grab bars are a low-cost, preventative addition that people of all ages will find helpful. Other popular additions for consideration include:

- Hand-held shower. This handy device can be used to rinse the body while bathing, and it also makes hair-washing easier.
- Neck Pillows. Soft, durable vinyl pillows are available in a variety of shapes to provide neck support, comfort and relaxation.
- Neck Jet Pillows. These pillows offer the additional benefit of an incomparable neck massage by using two high-quality micro-jets of a whirlpool system.
- Radiance(R). This patent-pending innovation from MTI applies radiant heat technology to acrylic bath tubs to warm the interior surface of the bath for neck, shoulders, back and bottom. It provides an even distribution of warmth to eliminate the shock of a cold tub and increases relaxation during the bath.
- Virtual Spout. This high-flow tub filler takes the place of a traditional spout. Not only does it contribute to a very clean appearance, but it also eliminates the usual filling spout as a possible source of injury.

For more information, visit www.mtiwhirlpools.com.

A House is a Home

Now You Can Walk On The Hottest Rock



By now most savvy homeowners are fully aware of what designers, builders and architects have known for the past few years -- quartz is king. Unique in combining depth and color consistency with low maintenance and unrivaled durability, it has emerged as the preferred countertop material in homes across the country.

Beyond its ultra-durability, Quartz has also become the focal point of kitchen and bathroom designs across North America because of its uniquely sophisticated and timeless look. Now these same distinct characteristics can also be found underfoot with the new elegant Accolade Quartz tile collection. This hot entry in the premium quartz surface category is poised to leave an imprint on this established decor trend.

"With a pallet characterized for combining the most sought-after tones with extraordinary depth and clarity, this collection is design-driven for fashionable concepts," explained Mark Hanna, President of Montreal-based Leeza Distribution Inc., one of North America's leading distributors of fine quartz surfaces, including the new Accolade Quartz Tile Collection. "Maintaining solid performance and durability, this quartz tile collection is suited for a wide range of design needs from contemporary accents to the latest trends."

The highlight of the collection is its unique color pallet. A carefully selected grouping of the top quartz color trends in the industry, an all-star quartz line-up if you will. "Superior hues and subtle color distinctions, creating character, are vital components of innovative design," Hanna added. "This rich and varied pallet assures distinctive visual creations."

Engineered for design challenges in high traffic areas, the tiles feature superior quartz combined with innovative technology which assures exceptional resistance to harsh elements, abrasion and shock. They're non-porous, require no sealing and are designed to be virtually maintenance free.

Ideal for residential projects where fine and subtle color distinctions are fundamental, or for extensive commercial flooring schemes requiring superior hues, Accolade Quartz tiles are carefully formulated to maintain their stunning look. More information on quartz tiles is available at leezadistribution.com.

