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# VADE MECUM

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DESIGN ● RENOVATIONS ● LIFESTYLE

**BRIGHT AIRY  
FARMHOUSE KITCHEN**

**LUXURY ECLECTIC  
BATHROOM**

**BARRIER FREE  
SHOWER  
BENEFITS**

**VENDOR  
SPOTLIGHT**



**KING OF RENOVATIONS**

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# BRIGHT AIRY FARMHOUSE KITCHEN

**F**armhouse-style kitchens tend to focus on natural materials, unpretentious design, and cooking spaces that can accommodate large meals. Guests should always feel welcome and comfortable in these spaces, even if their boots are still dirty. Cabinets, chairs and tables are often

constructed from quality hardwood, with cherry, maple, oak and pine particularly common choices. Pine is an especially popular choice for farmhouse-style kitchens—its knotty, natural appearance can make it a perfect fit for the down-home appeal of a farmhouse kitchen.

Cooking implements, appliances and storage are also important facets of farmhouse kitchen design. Sinks have a special place in farmhouse kitchen design. The classic farmhouse sink features a deep, wide basin often made of porcelain or stainless steel; it's capable of catering to the cooking and cleaning needs of a large, farm-to-table style meal. Even

if they don't feature a 'farm-sink' in this style, many farmhouse kitchens still incorporate old-fashioned porcelain sinks. These classic sink types offer a great combination of style and function, making them a popular choice among homeowners looking to create a striking focal point for their farmhouse kitchen design.







For seating and dining options in farmhouse kitchens, high-quality woods are often the first choice. Tables are often classic “farm tables”—long planks of oak or other high-quality woods fitted closed and sturdily together. Table and chair legs and back supports may feature rich detailing, and chair backs may even incorporate carvings featuring pastoral or farmhouse scenes.

The use of certain fabrics and patterns for curtains, tablecloths and placemats in farmhouse kitchens is quite common. Plaid, gingham and toile are quite common choices, with the latter often featuring pastoral or historical scenes from farming eras gone by.

Accessories like cookware, containers and other storage options similarly tend to reflect a countrified, down-home theme. Straightforward flatware designs may feature rustic

wooden handles. Mason and other traditional canning jars may be used for storage, reflecting the historical traditions from which farmhouse kitchen design grew.

Finally, ancillary design touches like artwork or antique farm equipment may be used to add visual interest to a farmhouse kitchen design, artfully hung from walls or integrated into the design next to more contemporary cooking implements.





# LUXURY ECLECTIC **BATHROOM**



Bathrooms are often an opportunity to let your wildest design dreams come true. If you're considering installing a new bathroom or updating an existing one, you'll want to peruse these ideas for eclectic bathrooms.

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Eclectic style is defined by drawing inspiration from a range of sources—and an eclectic design approach will often mix and match elements from several contrasting or complementary styles. This design style can be particularly effective in bathrooms, especially guest, half or three-quarter baths that stand alone, somewhat disconnected from the overall design aesthetic of the rest of the home. These types of bathrooms are often located in hallways or adjacent to guest rooms, which, incidentally, are also good places to experiment with eclectic design.



One of the best ways to achieve an eclectic style is the match the old and the new. If your prevailing bathroom design is modern or contemporary—featuring clean lines, smooth tile and updated fixtures—consider adding a bit of contrast with a classic, claw-footed tub, complete with traditional hardware, or even an archaic tub-filler mechanism. Similarly, placing a classic tub design on a modern stand, or enclosing a pedestal sink basin in a modern cabinet scheme, can have the same contrasting but complementary effect.

Another simple touch that can create an eclectic feel is to add rustic or natural elements to your bathroom design. Driftwood or unfinished natural wood for mirror frames, benches or storage cabinets can create an eclectic contrast with bright, light tile or countertops.







# VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



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# BARRIER FREE SHOWER BENEFITS



## The Many Benefits of a Barrier-Free Shower

**T**he barrier-free shower has grown in popularity and is being used more and more in bathroom renovations.

The key lies in the drainage system. A linear shower drain offers benefits like easy cleaning, use of large format floor tiles and a “one-way” sloping drain.

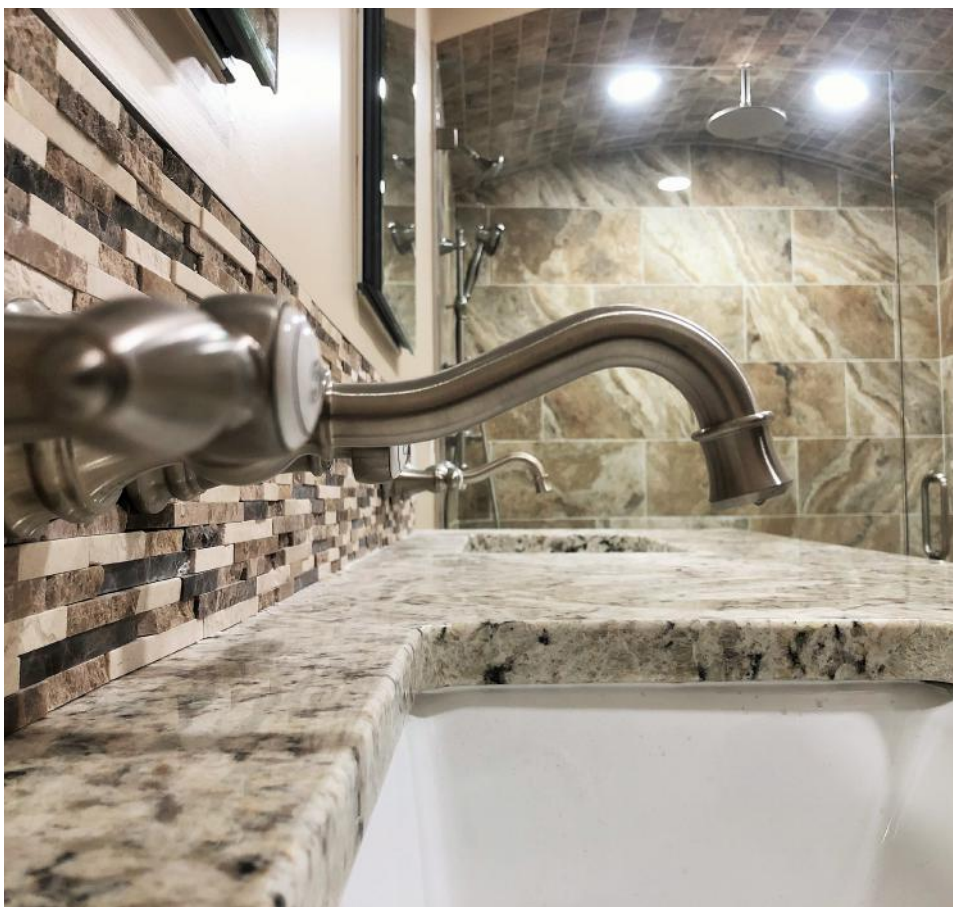
A curbless shower with hinged glass door. it has a unique footrest niche.

A CURBLESS SHOWER WITH HINGED GLASS DOOR. IT HAS A UNIQUE FOOTREST NICHE. Degnan-Heiderscheit-Full-Size-(1-of-1)-14.jpg

A linear drain and fully-waterproofed bathroom floor allow this former bathtub to become a barrier-free shower.

A traditional shower has the drain in the center and sloped in four directions toward the drain. This type of installation is more expensive, more time consuming and can only be done with small floor tiles, limiting your design choices. A linear shower drain requires a single slope to work correctly, is easier to construct and takes much less effort to keep clean.





The drainage system and design flexibility are just two of the benefits of a barrier-free shower. It also offers other benefits, like:

### **It makes your bathroom look and feel bigger**

When the floor flows seamlessly throughout the room, your bathroom will appear larger. This is a great solution for small spaces. The Americans with Disabilities Act minimum guidelines for a barrier-free shower space is 36-inches by 36-inches.

### **It is easier to clean and hygienic**

Because a barrier-free shower has fewer surfaces, joints, and seams there are fewer places where mold, mildew, and grime can take hold. Even if you install a glass partition, cleaning is a much faster and easier process. Moreover, less time spent cleaning means more time to spend enjoying your indulgent bathroom rituals like that oatmeal avocado facial!

It is flexible, meeting the needs of every family member, young or old







The barrier-free shower is a classic example of Universal Design. The concept behind Universal Design is the creation of products that are usable and accessible to as many people as possible, regardless of age, size, or physical ability. With no threshold to climb over, a barrier-free shower is perfect for kids, and older people including those with mobility issues or use a wheelchair. If you're planning on aging in place, a barrier-free shower can keep you safer and in your home as you age.

### **It fits into any design style**

While it seems like a barrier-free shower will only work in a modern or contemporary design style, the fact is this type of shower works with any design. There are shapes, sizes and colors in the barrier-free category that can blend into any style from traditional to contemporary, and anything in between.

**by Abe Degnan**





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