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SENSORIAL BATHROOMS

Bathrooms today are increasingly being designed as spaces that promote wellness.

Today, the bathroom is no longer viewed as a purely functional room but as a personal wellness sanctuary within the home.

By Bindu Gopal Rao



PHOTO COURTESY: DURAVIT

Modern homeowners are investing in premium bathroom solutions that create calming, spa-like environments.

Consumers increasingly seek spaces that help them disconnect, recharge, and restore balance in their daily lives, and bathrooms fit this bill perfectly.

NEW AGE SPACES

Bathrooms today are being designed as spaces that promote wellness, relaxation, and personal comfort rather than being viewed purely as functional areas. Modern homeowners are investing in premium bathroom solutions that create calming, spa-like environments through thoughtful layouts, refined aesthetics, better lighting, and enhanced user experiences. “Features such as smart shower toilets, ergonomic fittings, minimalist sanitaryware, and wellness-focused designs are transforming bathrooms into spaces that support self-care and elevate everyday living,” says Sahyog



Sahyog Bharti Pandita, Managing Director, Duravit India & SAARC.



Abdulkader Bengali, MD, Hansgrohe India.

Bharti Pandita, Managing Director, Duravit India & SAARC. Collections such as Duravit Zencha, White Tulip, and Balcoon reflect the growing demand for wellness-led and design-focused bathroom spaces. Inspired by relaxation, minimalism, and refined living, these collections combine elegant aesthetics with thoughtful functionality to create calming, spa-like environments. Soft forms, premium finishes, ergonomic designs, and seamless integration of comfort-driven features help transform bathrooms into spaces that support self-care and everyday well-being. Products such as 'Duravit SensoWash Starck f' further enhance the experience through advanced hygiene and smart technology features.

PRODUCTS TO MATCH

Shower cubicles have evolved from purely functional partitions into design statements that define the modern bathroom. Beyond separating wet and dry zones to improve hygiene and safety, contemporary cubicles contribute materially to a bathroom's look through choices in glass, hardware finish, and door type. "Options now range from framed to minimalist frameless glass, sliding systems for tight plan layouts, and swing doors for a more classic, expansive feel, plus decorative glass treatments that add texture or privacy. Dormakaba AIDO answers these trends with a versatile range: sleek frameless swing doors for an open, minimalist

aesthetic and space-saving sliding systems tailored for compact bathrooms. What sets AIDO apart is its use of brass-based, corrosion-resistant fittings that retain their sheen and mechanical performance over years of wet-room exposure and quality-graded shower seals, an important specification for architects and clients who need durability without compromising on style," says an AIDO spokesperson.

Likewise, Hansgrohe India's products are designed around the idea of combining comfort, design, and intuitive functionality to enhance everyday experiences. Today's consumers are looking for bathrooms that feel calming and restorative, and our solutions are developed keeping that shift in mind. "For instance, shower ranges like Rainfinity and Pulsify are designed to create softer, more immersive water experiences that help users unwind and relax. Similarly, thermostatic mixers ensure consistent water temperature and precision, making the experience more seamless and comfortable. We are also seeing growing demand for minimalist aesthetics, which is reflected in preferences for concealed installations and cleaner faucet designs that create visually calming spaces. Features like Select technology make interactions simpler and more intuitive by allowing users to switch between spray modes effortlessly. At the same time, technologies such as EcoSmart help reduce water consumption without compromising comfort, a priority for modern homeowners," says Abdulkader Bengali, MD, Hansgrohe India.



PHOTO COURTESY: AIDO

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NEW TRENDS

In 2026, bathroom design is increasingly focused on creating calming, immersive, and highly architectural spaces. Natural materials, tactile textures, warm metallic finishes, and matte surfaces continue to dominate, while lighting has evolved into an experiential element through integrated systems and chromotherapy that help shape different moods throughout the day. “At the same time, customisation and modularity are becoming essential, allowing bathrooms to adapt to individual lifestyles and wellness routines. This vision is reflected in Pantheon, the new collection unveiled by GRAFF at Salone del Mobile.Milano 2026. Inspired by classical Roman architecture, Pantheon combines sculptural forms, refined detailing, and modular flexibility to create sophisticated bathroom environments where water, material, and light exist in seamless harmony,” says Ziggy Kulig, CEO and President, GRAFF. At GRAFF, they see hydrotherapy evolving beyond the traditional concept of water for therapeutic purposes into a complete multisensory experience. Water interacts with light, sound, and architectural space to create wellbeing on multiple levels. “This vision is reflected in our Wellness Sanctuary® concept, where the shower becomes a daily ritual rather than a routine task. The bathroom transforms into an intimate retreat designed to engage both body and mind, bringing the spa experience into the home in a contemporary and highly personalised way,” adds Ziggy.

LIFESTYLE CUES

The biggest shift in bathroom design for 2026 is that bathrooms are becoming more residential, tactile, and emotionally layered. For years, bathroom design leaned heavily toward polished perfection: glossy surfaces, cold marbles, sharp lines, and highly sterile aesthetics. Today, there is a visible return toward warmth, texture, and imperfection. Materiality has evolved tremendously, and that evolution is allowing designers to create bathrooms with far more personality. “We are now working with PVC-based materials, louvres, textured glass, nanotechnology coatings, fluted surfaces, lime plasters, stone veneers, and specialised wallpapers that were rarely associated with bathrooms earlier. These materials allow the space to feel softer, quieter, and more connected to the rest of the home. I think what is truly changing is that bathrooms are no longer designed as ‘wet spaces’. They are becoming emotional spaces. Open bathroom concepts, skylit courtyards, indoor greens, diffused lighting, and fluid transitions are helping bathrooms feel expansive, immersive, and deeply atmospheric,” explains Swathy Sivaraman, CEO & Principal Architect, Storeyboard Design.

TECHNOLOGY RULES

Technology in bathrooms today is becoming quieter, calmer, and almost invisible as the role has changed dramatically. Earlier, smart bathroom systems were often showcased as luxury statements. Today, the most sophisticated spaces are the ones where technology



Ziggy Kulig, CEO and President, GRAFF



Asummi Rawat, Founder, Asummi R Design



PHOTO COURTESY, GRAFF

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Swathy Sivaraman, CEO & Principal Architect, Storeyboard Design.

disappears into the experience itself. Sahyog explains, “Technology is playing an increasingly important role in shaping modern bathroom experiences by improving hygiene, convenience, sustainability, and user comfort. Consumers today are seeking intelligent solutions such as smart shower toilets, advanced flushing systems, antibacterial surface technologies, and touchless functionalities that simplify everyday usage while enhancing efficiency. Innovations such as Duravit DuraFlush and Duravit DuraShield help optimise hygiene and water efficiency, while products like Duravit SensoWash Starck f redefine comfort through integrated wellness-focused features.”

SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

Sustainability and water conservation are becoming key considerations in bathroom design as consumers and design professionals increasingly seek products that combine performance with responsible resource usage. Water-efficient flushing systems, dual flush technology, Rimless® solutions, and innovations such as MinusFlow technology are gaining strong relevance in contemporary residential projects. MinusFlow helps reduce water flow while maintaining user comfort, supporting everyday water conservation without compromising performance. There is also a growing emphasis on durable, long-lasting products that reduce maintenance needs and environmental impact over time. Overall, the focus is shifting towards solutions that balance hygiene, comfort, and



PHOTO COURTESY: ASUMMI R DESIGN

Bathroom aesthetics today are defined by warm, luminous, low-saturation tones that create a softer and more emotional sense of luxury.

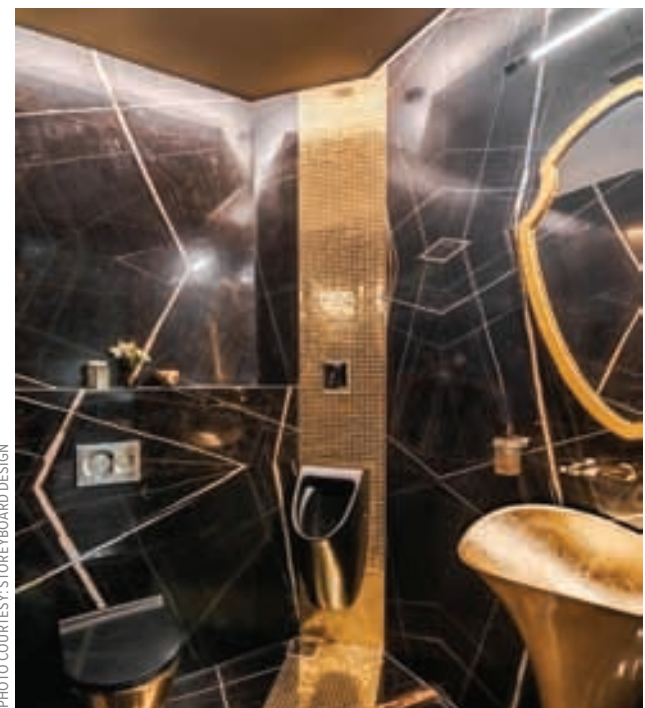


PHOTO COURTESY: STOREYBOARD DESIGN

There is also a growing preference for natural textures.



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sustainability while aligning with evolving design sensibilities in modern homes. Asummi Rawat, Founder, Asummi R Design, says, "Sustainability is becoming a conscious priority, not just a trend. We see clients increasingly open to installing water-efficient fixtures and aerators, dual-flush systems, durable, long-lasting materials over fast finishes, and locally sourced stones and materials. Designing responsibly today means creating spaces that are both beautiful and mindful of resources."

LOOKING AHEAD

Bathroom aesthetics today are defined by warm, luminous, low-saturation tones that create a softer and more emotional sense of luxury. At the same time, accessibility is becoming an increasingly important aspect of modern bathroom design. "Features such as anti-slip surfaces, ergonomic fittings, barrier-free shower areas, easy-to-use controls, and stable temperature regulation help make bathrooms safer and more comfortable for children and elderly users. Solutions such as the LavaPura Element S wall-hung shower toilet are designed with this approach in mind, combining intuitive controls, ergonomic functionality, and ease of operation to make the bathroom experience more comfortable and accessible across age groups, including children, women, and senior citizens," says Abdulkader. There is a strong preference for tactile textures and brushed or matte finishes, which bring warmth, depth, and authenticity into the space. "Reflecting this direction, at the recent Salone del Mobile.Milano 2026, we introduced our new champagne finish, available in both polished and brushed versions. It perfectly captures the evolution of contemporary bathroom design, where warm metallic tones are increasingly replacing colder, highly reflective surfaces. There is also a growing preference for natural textures inspired by stone, wood, and organic materials that add warmth and depth to modern spaces," he adds.

Overall, it is clear that consumers are moving towards timeless, understated aesthetics that balance elegance, comfort, and contemporary minimalism. **AM**