

# HUB OF THE Home

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The Morceau collection of faucets is well suited for this bathroom, with its simple lines and progressive style.

## A MODERN OASIS

Whether your preference is for a sleek minimalist design, or a traditional Old World look, today's bathrooms are all about luxury and elegance. Bathrooms are ever increasing in size and amenities, offering a spa-like atmosphere for relaxation and rejuvenation.

Photo: Courtesy of Bach Faucets - www.bachfaucet.com

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## More Than One Way to Expand a Kitchen

Family gatherings these days quite often take place in the kitchen. When your kitchen just does not have the space to accommodate everyone, it can be frustrating. As the parents of three teens, the owners of this Berwyn home wanted to update their kitchen as well as increase its size. An addition to the rear of the house was not a viable option. The homeowners turned to the design team at **HUB Design/Build** for a creative solution to their problem.

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Large showers with clear, frameless glass enclosures take center stage. Design trends also include flush thresholds and walk-in entrances without moveable doors. Shower interiors are covered in tile, stone or solid surface. Tiny glass mosaic tiles give a contemporary look. Built-in benches, as well as niches for toiletries, come in handy. Multiple body sprays, hand-held showerheads, and rain showerheads relax the body, with steam showers providing an additional way to ease tension.

The hottest item in bathtubs these days is a therapeutic air massage tub that allows for the use of essential oils, sea salts and mud. Units are available with chromotherapy options.

Following the trend in kitchens, bathroom cabinetry has the furniture look. Designers are adding a sink to an elegant piece of traditional furniture to create the vanity. The exposed legs and decorative hardware add charm to the surroundings. A contemporary vanity with pure, clean lines may also be free-standing, or may be supported on the wall 9"-12" above the floor. Vanity tops and countertops are usually solid surface, stone or tile, with



The Allemande collection of faucets is at home in this elegant bathroom.

glass, concrete and laminate as unique options. His-and-hers vanities have become important. Kitchen warming drawers installed in bathroom cabinets provide warm and cozy bath towels.

Pedestal, undermount, and vessel lavatories have all gained ground over the traditional drop-in lavatory. They are available in an abundant and colorful variety, from glass to ceramic, to stone or metal.

Antique nickel and oil-rubbed bronze finishes are in high style for lavatory faucets and

other bath accessories, but chrome and brushed chrome are still popular as well.

Floors are usually tile or stone; however, plastic laminate, wood, and even concrete are emerging as new trends. Radiant heat is placed under a bathroom floor to provide a warm and inviting feeling as you step out of the shower.

To complete the sense of luxury, audio/video systems are installed in today's bathrooms. Nothing can create a serene environment like soft, gentle music caressing the bather. □

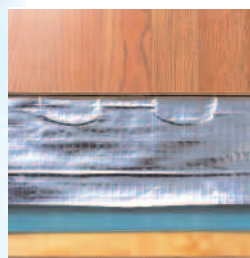
## Take The Chill Off

Your luxury bathroom may envelope you in all the sumptuous comforts of a high-class spa—until you step out of the shower onto the stone or tile floor. Suddenly the aromatic candles and ambient music are offset by the uncomfortable jolt of cold feet. Adding radiant floor heating to the bathroom and other rooms of your house is a wonderful solution to chilly floors.

Basically, two types of radiant floor heating systems are used. A hydronic system involves running hot water through plastic tubing installed under the floor. Hydronic systems require equipment such as pumps, radiators and boilers powered by gas, oil, electricity or solar energy. Hot water radiant is considered a good choice for heating spaces of 500 square feet or more.

An electric system uses a network of cables installed in the mortar just below the tile or stone. These cables operate on ordinary house current. For installation purposes, several manufacturers sew the cable to a mesh backing that is sold in a roll. Or they embed the cables in durable material to form electric mats. Some are specially designed for use under floating wood floors and carpeting. Electric systems are great for heating small rooms like kitchens, bathrooms and four-season sunrooms.

Either type of floor heating system can be controlled by programmable thermostats with setback features to ensure that the floor is being heated only when the room is being used. Radiant heating systems may result in lower heating bills when compared to forced air systems. They allow for more even heat distribution and do not transport dust throughout your home. In addition, they are quiet in operation and aesthetically pleasing. □



The Enviro II heating system's ultra slim design allows it to be installed between a floating wood floor and the subfloor.

# Cast In A New Light

According to the National Association of Home Builders' "Housing Facts, Figures and Trends 2004," stainless steel is the material of choice for 57 percent of the kitchen sinks installed in single-family homes. However, that fashionable stainless steel look is rather cool and reserved. For people who want a different feeling—something more expressive and emotional—beautiful, shiny enamel-coated cast iron is once again in vogue.

The cast iron colors are richer, warmer and more evocative than stainless steel. The neutral shades, in particular, blend harmoniously with the natural materials of most countertops being installed today, such as natural stone, quartz surfacing, butcher block and concrete. These elegant countertop materials are shown to their best advantage by the use of an undermount sink. This type of sink produces a cross-section view of the countertop material, emphasizing its depth and refinement. Because the cast iron sinks are heavier than stainless steel, an undermount style may require extra support. Other cast iron sinks are available in self-rimming as well as tile-in styles.



Photos: Courtesy of Kohler Co. - www.KOHLER.com

In terms of design, cast iron sinks come in every flavor—from a contemporary offset double-basin sink to an apron fronted sink reminiscent of the rustic farm house sinks from the 19th century. A small undermount sink can be used separately as an individual bar sink, or can be arranged with others in a multiple sink configuration, taking the place of a triple-basin sink.

*Clarity cast iron under-counter kitchen sink in Thunder Grey—a new color introduced by Kohler in 2004.*

An enamel-coated cast iron sink is very durable and, when properly maintained, should last a lifetime. Staining materials should not be left in contact with the enamel surface for long periods. Rinse

thoroughly after each use and wipe with a soft cloth. Cast iron will not scratch and chip easily, but it can happen. Use a scrub-free cleanser or a mild detergent. Do not use steel wool, wire brushes or abrasive pads and cleaners. □



Photos: Courtesy of NUHEAT - www.nuheat.com

*The tile installer bonds a NUHEAT heating mat to the subfloor with thinset before laying the tile.*



*A graceful interlacing pattern, reminiscent of 17th century French lace from the renowned city of Alencon, is etched into the apron front of the Dickinson single-basin cast iron kitchen sink by Kohler.*

HUB's talented team took up the challenge, planning a project that created a beautiful, new, larger kitchen without going beyond the home's footprint. Moving the laundry area upstairs, building a new mudroom in the garage and relocating the powder room door added 8 feet to the length of the kitchen. This addition allowed for the installation of an island that seats seven, a 5-foot desk, as well as improved storage. The original kitchen is pictured in the accompanying Before shot. Since the sink location has not altered from the old to the new, it is possible to gain a sense of the increased room size.

*Beaded board paneling adds charm to this powder room.*



The custom Shaker-style cherry cabinets and matching knobs set the tone for the kitchen and reflect the feel of the adjoining family room, thus unifying the areas. To break up the expanse of doors encircling the room, glass doors were added to the



cabinet above the desk and that above the dishwasher. Beaded board accents at the desk and on the island echo the beaded board paneling applied to the powder room walls. Black appliances by GE, Amana, Bosch and Broan complement the cabinets and Juparana Gold granite countertops. The backsplash is Jerusalem Gold tumbled marble with a unique stone listello. Golden earth tones in the porcelain tile bring warmth and harmony to the room.

At **HUB Design/Build** we work closely with our clients to create their own perfect solution. We encourage you to visit our website, [www.HUBdesignbuild.com](http://www.HUBdesignbuild.com), to see additional examples of completed projects and learn more about the Design/Build process. □

