

The leading business, design and product resource for the kitchen & bath trade

# kitchen & bath DESIGN NEWS

3/13

CYGNUS  
MEDIA

**+** FULL-OUT  
SECTION

GUIDE TO  
**KBIS 2013**



Spring Bath  
Remodeling Report

**35** DESIGNER  
BATHS  
SPOTLIGHT  
BEAUTY,  
SIMPLICITY

Cover Story

**24** MASTER BATH  
GETS URBAN  
CHIC MAKEOVER

**32** Dealer Survey

'TRAFFIC REPORT' SHOWS  
BETTER TIMES AHEAD

## Spring Bath Remodeling Report

By Kim Benoit

### DARREN HENAULT

Darren Henault Interiors  
New York, NY

**Fully Tiled, Fully Stoned Spaces** – During the recession, many of Henault's clients embellished their master baths with tile or stone inside the 'wet' area only, or maybe half-way or three-quarters of the way up a wall.

"Now we're back to fully tiled, fully stoned master bathrooms," he says, noting that trend includes ceilings as well as floors and all four walls of the typically transitional and traditional homes he designs.

Tile and stone are also back to being accented with detail pieces, such as moldings, baseboards and door casings. "People quit using these details to save money," he says. "But now they are back to using them. They're interested in fully designed, fully articulated walls. They want their bathrooms to feel like finished rooms."

That goes a long way toward improving resale value, he notes. "They're cost conscious," he says. "They want to know that money is coming back to them someday when they sell the house. People will spend money as long as they're getting value for that money."

**Price-Conscious Luxury** – "Even though the economy is getting better, people are still being conscious about price," he says, "even when they're asking for super lux."

That means he no longer

shows his clients \$300-per-square-foot tile, unless they request it. "I need to stay in the \$100-per-square-foot tile range, but there are some amazing products out there [in that price range]," he says. "We're going back to lush, but instead of lush at \$300, it's lush at \$100."

**Neutral Luxury** – "I don't see bold, bright bathrooms," he says. "As much as people want to put their own mark on a space, in New York, in the city, people are very aware they won't live there forever, especially if they're in an apartment."

That means Henault's clients are trending toward neutral colors. "They're doing beautiful, rich things," he says. "If they're doing mosaics, I'm not seeing big, bold Italian mosaic. Instead, I'm seeing subtle, neutral tones...rich patterns, but quiet. People are looking for more muted luxury. They want something that is universally acceptable, but with their own twist."

Henault believes that trend is being driven by the universalization or mass

marketization of design through companies such as Pottery Barn and Restoration Hardware. "Everybody wants a certain kind of neutral, beautiful look," he says, "but I have to make it unique."

**Combination of Color and Texture** – Henault's specialty is designing with texture. As such, he sees a lot of clients combine tile and honed marble. "I don't see all-marble bathrooms anymore," he says. "I see a combination of tile and honed marble, combining elements to make a space super rich in terms of texture, but not visually jarring."

**Trending Products** – High-end lighting.

# Simply BEAUTIFUL BATHS

Simplicity and comfort-based amenities are driving master bath design.



It's all about the end result in the master bath. Henault's clients are looking for a neutral, beautiful look, but he has to make it unique. He combines elements to make a space super rich in terms of texture, but not visually jarring.