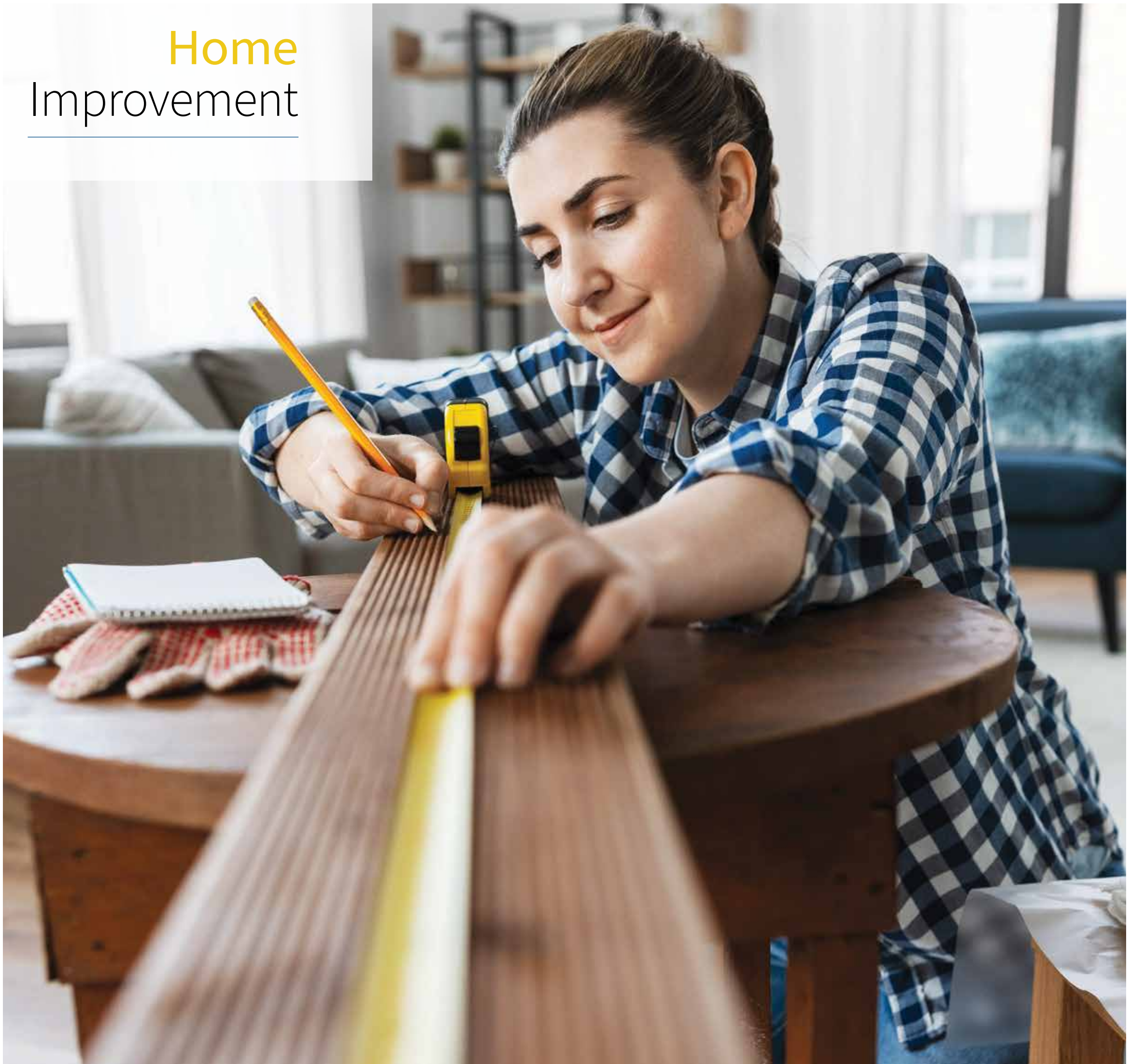


Home Improvement



Revamp Your Bedroom

Your bedroom should be your sanctuary — a place of comfort, relaxation and personal expression.

Whether you're starting from scratch or giving your existing bedroom a makeover, creating a cozy retreat is key. Explore design options to revamp your bedroom, transforming it into a haven where you can unwind and recharge.

COLORS

Choose a calming color palette that promotes relaxation. Soft, neutral tones like warm grays, muted blues or earthy beiges create a serene atmosphere. Consider incorporating warm accent colors through textiles or accessories. Play with different textures and materials to add depth and warmth to the space.

BEDDING AND TEXTILES

Invest in high-quality bedding to enhance comfort and coziness. Layer your bed with plush pillows, soft throws and a luxurious duvet or comforter. Experiment with different fabrics like faux fur, knitted blankets or velvet for added texture and warmth. Don't forget blackout curtains or blinds to ensure restful sleep by blocking out unwanted light.

SEATING AREA

If space allows, dedicate a corner or nook for a seating area. Add a comfortable armchair, chaise lounge or even a window seat with plush cushions and blankets. This area can serve as a reading spot or a quiet retreat to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, further enhancing the coziness of your bedroom.

LIGHTING

Lighting plays a crucial role in creat-



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ing a cozy atmosphere. Opt for soft, warm lighting options such as dimmable bedside lamps, string lights or scones with warm-toned bulbs. Consider installing a statement chandelier or pendant light for an elegant touch. Use lighting to create layers of ambiance, with task lighting for reading and accent lighting to highlight artwork or focal points in the room.

Express your personal style by choosing whimsical lamp shades.

NATURAL ELEMENTS

Bring nature indoors by incorporating natural elements into your bedroom. Add potted plants or fresh flowers to infuse the space with life and freshness. Consider using organic materials like wooden furniture, rattan

accents or woven baskets for storage. These natural textures and elements can create a sense of calm and connection to the outdoors.

STORAGE

A clutter-free space promotes relaxation and tranquility. Declutter your bedroom by organizing belongings and finding functional storage solutions. Invest in dressers, nightstands or under-bed storage options to keep items neatly tucked away. Use baskets or decorative boxes to corral smaller items and maintain a tidy environment.

DECOR

Add a personal touch to your bedroom with meaningful decor items. Display cherished photographs, art-

work or mementos that evoke positive emotions. Incorporate items that reflect your interests such as books, musical instruments or travel souvenirs.

FLOORING

Unless you are in an area with high humidity, look for soft floors such as carpeting or rugs.

The Spruce recommends exploring some new options such as engineered wood flooring or vinyl plank.

Engineered wood flooring is a hybrid of plywood with a hardwood veneer. Part of its appeal is that you can get it with radiant heat coils underneath so that your floor is heated.

Thicker vinyl plank flooring is friendly to bare feet and has the look and feel of real wood.

Unlock Your Home's Potential

In an era of rising housing costs and changing living arrangements, adding an accessory apartment to your home offers a unique solution.

Whether you're looking to generate rental income, provide housing for a family member or accommodate a home-based business, this versatile addition can unlock the full potential of your property.

An accessory apartment, also known as an in-law suite, granny flat or secondary dwelling unit is a self-contained living space within an existing single-family home. It typically includes a separate entrance, bedrooms, bathroom, kitchenette and living area.

This additional unit allows for independent living while sharing the same property as the main house. It can serve various purposes, such as rental income, multigenerational living or providing space for a home office or studio.

Accessory apartments are often built over the garage, in a backyard as a tiny house on a foundation or in the basement.

RENTAL INCOME

Adding an accessory apartment can be a smart financial move. By renting out the secondary unit, homeowners can generate additional income to help with mortgage payments,



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property taxes or maintenance costs. In some cases, the rental income may even cover a significant portion of the property expenses. This financial advantage makes accessory apartments an attractive option for homeowners looking to offset housing costs or increase their investment returns.

With platforms such as Airbnb, VRBO, Guesty and Flipkey, more people are renting out portions of their home for limited times and accessory apartments offer the perfect space to rent.

MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING

An accessory apartment provides an opportunity for multigenerational living, allowing extended family members to have their own independent living space while staying connected to the main household. It offers flexibility and privacy while still enabling close proximity for support and care. This arrangement is particularly beneficial for aging parents, adult children or relatives who prefer to maintain their autonomy while sharing a

property and reducing overall living expenses.

HOME OFFICE OR STUDIO SPACE

In today's work landscape, the demand for flexible and remote work options has increased. Adding an accessory apartment can provide a dedicated space for a home office or studio. Whether you're an entrepreneur, freelancer or artist, having a separate area for work allows for better work-life balance and improved productivity. This arrangement also offers the

advantage of separating personal and professional spaces within your home. You may be able to write off the apartment as a work expense.

CONSIDERATIONS

Before adding an accessory apartment, consult your local zoning regulations and building codes. Research the legal requirements, permits and any specific guidelines related to creating an accessory dwelling unit in your area.

Ensure compliance with safety standards, fire codes and parking requirements. Consulting with professionals such as architects, contractors or local planning departments can help navigate the process and ensure all necessary approvals are obtained.

The design and layout of the accessory apartment should align with your specific needs and those of potential occupants. Consider the size, number of bedrooms and layout configuration to maximize space use and functionality. Incorporate features like a separate entrance, soundproofing measures and adequate storage.

AccessoryDwellings.org provides guidance on how to plan and design an accessory apartment. They also offer advice on financing and how to calculate a dwelling's return on investment.

Create a comfortable and inviting living environment that suits the desired purpose, whether it's for renting, multigenerational living or a home office.

Functional, Stylish Storage

In the realm of home design, the butler's pantry is making a triumphant comeback.

Once considered a relic of the past, this elegant and practical space is now in high demand and considered one of the hot 2023 home improvement trends. A butler's pantry is a transitional space between the kitchen and dining area, traditionally used by butlers or household staff to stage meals, store silverware and prepare beverages.

Today, the butler's pantry has evolved into a multifunctional area that combines storage, preparation and serving capabilities. This separate space offers a concealed area for food preparation, storage and displaying or organizing fine dinnerware, glassware and serving pieces.

PRACTICALITY

Butler's pantries have become increasingly popular due to their inherent practicality. They provide a functional buffer zone between the kitchen and dining area, allowing for seamless entertaining. With ample storage space, including built-in cabinetry and shelves, they can house non-perishable food items, cookbooks and serving pieces, keeping the main kitchen clutter-free.

Moreover, they offer a designated area for countertop



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appliances, making it easier to prepare meals and cocktails while leaving the primary cooking area undisturbed.

For some people, they may not often use their dinnerware, but the butler's pantry gives them an opportunity to display them in cabinets with glass doors.

STYLE

Beyond their practicality, butler's pantries have become a stylish design feature in modern homes. They exude elegance and sophistication,

allowing homeowners to showcase their taste and entertain guests with flair.

The use of high-end materials like marble countertops, decorative backsplashes and glass-front cabinetry adds a touch of luxury. As open-concept floor plans continue to dominate contemporary design, butler's pantries offer a discreet and organized space that keeps the kitchen looking sleek and uncluttered.

Popular entrances include arches or pocket doors.

DESIGN OPTIONS

There are various design options to consider for a butler's pantry.

If space permits, a separate room adjacent to the kitchen or dining area can be designated as the butler's pantry. Alternatively, a smaller nook or alcove can be transformed into a compact pantry.

Customization options are endless, from choosing cabinetry finishes and hardware to selecting countertop materials and lighting fixtures that complement your overall interior

design aesthetic. Consider incorporating features such as wine refrigerators, built-in coffee stations or even a second sink added for convenience and versatility.

Some people use their butler's pantries as wet or dry bars while others convert them into spaces for their pets, storing toys, food and medications. Still others make it a kitchen for their kids with low drawers and mini-refrigerators providing snacks and drinks to cut down on the traffic in the main kitchen, according to Realtor.com.

Enhance Your Culinary Space

Renovating your kitchen on a budget? With strategic planning and a focus on economic upgrades, you can breathe new life into your culinary space.

There are several cost-effective kitchen upgrades that can transform your kitchen into a stylish and functional haven.

CABINETS

Give your kitchen a fresh look by updating the cabinets. Instead of replacing them entirely, repaint or refinish them for a cost-effective transformation. Choose a new color or finish that complements your kitchen's style and ambiance.

Another inexpensive upgrade involves replacing the cabinet hardware with modern or stylish knobs or handles. It can make a significant difference in the look of your kitchen.

BACKSPLASH

Revitalize your kitchen's aesthetic by upgrading the backsplash. Choose affordable yet visually appealing materials like subway tiles, peel-and-stick backsplash options or vinyl wallpaper.

These options offer a range of colors and patterns to suit your taste and style. The backsplash serves as a focal point in the kitchen and can instantly



elevate the overall look and feel of the space.

FAUCETS

Replace your old faucet with a new one to bring a touch of modernity and functionality to your kitchen. Opt for a budget-friendly yet stylish option that complements your sink and overall design. Look for faucets with features like pull-out sprayers or touchless operation, which offer convenience and ease of use. A new faucet can make a noticeable difference in both the appearance and functionality of your kitchen.

LIGHTING

Transform the ambiance of your kitchen by upgrading the lighting fixtures. Replace outdated or inefficient fixtures with energy-efficient LED lights, pendant lights or track lighting. Enhance task lighting above work areas and add ambient lighting for a warm and inviting atmosphere. Lighting upgrades can have a significant effect on the overall feel and functionality of your kitchen.

PAINT

One of the most affordable ways to give your kitchen a

facelift is with a fresh coat of paint. Choose a color that complements your kitchen's style and creates the desired atmosphere. Consider painting the walls, ceiling and even the cabinets for a cohesive and transformative effect. A well-chosen paint color can breathe new life into your kitchen, making it feel brighter, larger and more inviting. On-trend colors for 2023 include blues and greens that evoke the feel of water and the beach.

ACCENTS

Enhance the visual appeal of your kitchen by incorporating

stylish accents. Swap out old or worn-out curtains or blinds with new ones that add a pop of color or texture. Invest in affordable yet eye-catching kitchen accessories like colorful dishware, decorative jars or a statement rug. These small changes can infuse your kitchen with personality and style.

Instead of installing an expensive island in your kitchen, invest in a counter-height table. Install open shelving above the sink and curate a few pieces of pottery or attractive pieces such as cookie jars. Build a breakfast bar and add stools.

Trendy Outdoor Living Spaces

Creating outdoor living spaces has become a popular trend among homeowners seeking to extend their living areas beyond the confines of their homes.

By designing functional and inviting outdoor spaces, you can enhance your quality of life, embrace nature and create memorable moments with family and friends.

EXPANDING YOUR LIVING AREA

Outdoor living spaces offer an opportunity to expand your usable living area. Whether you have a spacious backyard, a cozy patio or even a small balcony, transforming it into an outdoor oasis allows you to enjoy nature's beauty while maximizing your home's potential. These spaces serve as an extension of your indoor living areas, providing additional room for relaxation, dining, entertaining and recreation.

When creating outdoor living spaces, consider designing functional zones that cater to different activities and moods. Define areas for lounging with comfortable seating and plush cushions, dining with a table and chairs, cooking with a grill or outdoor kitchen and recreation with games or a fire pit. By delineating these zones, you can optimize the



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flow of your outdoor space and ensure each area serves its purpose effectively.

EMBRACING NATURE

One of the key benefits of outdoor living spaces is the opportunity to immerse yourself in nature. Incorporate natural elements like plants, flowers and trees to create a serene and calming environment. Use landscaping to provide privacy and create a sense of enclosure. Add water features such as fountains or ponds to introduce soothing sounds and a tranquil ambi-

ance. By embracing nature you can establish a connection between your indoor and outdoor spaces.

COMFORT AND COZINESS

To make your outdoor living spaces inviting, come up with ways to create comfort and coziness. Invest in quality outdoor furniture that is both durable and comfortable. Add cushions, throw pillows and blankets to create a warm and inviting atmosphere. Consider installing shade structures like pergolas, umbrellas or retractable awnings to provide relief

from the sun's rays.

Outdoor rugs and lighting can further enhance the comfort and ambiance of the space, creating a welcoming and cozy environment.

Renovate your space to provide a hub for recreation and entertainment. Install an outdoor kitchen or grill area for al fresco dining. Incorporate a built-in bar or beverage station for refreshing drinks. Add a fire pit or outdoor fireplace to create a gathering spot for cozy evenings.

Consider including audio systems or outdoor speakers

to enjoy music or create a theater-like experience.

For the more adventurous, add features like a hot tub, swimming pool or outdoor sports court. These amenities can elevate your outdoor space and provide endless opportunities for leisure and enjoyment.

Embrace outdoor living spaces to create an environment that seamlessly blends indoor comforts with the beauty of nature. Transform your home into a haven for relaxation, entertainment and connection with the outdoors.

A Bathroom Oasis

Imagine stepping into your bathroom and instantly feeling a wave of tranquility wash over you.

With a few thoughtful upgrades and design choices, you can transform your ordinary bathroom into a spa-inspired retreat. Those who watch the trends — from Spruce to Rocket Mortgage to Forbes — all say that spa-inspired bathroom renovations will be popular in 2023, making it a good time to get deals and great accessories and materials.

Whether you do a total remodel of your bathroom or just renovate with a few touches, you can tap into this trend and bring the serenity and relaxation of a spa into your home.

LIGHTING

Creating a calming ambiance starts with lighting. Opt for soft, warm lighting that mimics the gentle glow of candlelight. Install dimmer switches to adjust the brightness and create a soothing atmosphere. Consider adding recessed lighting around the perimeter of the ceiling to create an ethereal glow.

Accentuate key areas, such as the vanity or bathtub, with subtle lighting fixtures to enhance the spa-like experience. Scented candles can provide both soft lighting and aromatherapy.

COLOR PALETTE

Choose a soothing color palette that promotes relaxation and serenity. Choose soft, muted tones such as shades of blue, green or neutral earthy colors. These hues evoke a sense of calm and tranquility.

Incorporate these colors into your walls, tiles and accessories to create a cohesive spa-like environment. Adding natural elements like wooden accents or bamboo accessories can further



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enhance the soothing ambiance.

BATHTUBS

Upgrade your ordinary bathtub to a spacious, freestanding tub that invites you to unwind. Install a deep, soaking tub that allows for complete immersion and relaxation. Consider options with built-in jets or air systems for a therapeutic massage-like experience.

Adorn the surrounding area with scented candles, bath salts and plush towels to enhance the spa-like atmosphere.

SHOWERS

Replace your standard showerhead with a rain shower head to create a luxurious shower experience. The gentle

cascade of water mimics the sensation of standing in a warm summer rain.

Opt for a walk-in shower design with glass doors to create an open and spacious feel. Add natural stone or mosaic tiles for a touch of elegance and install a built-in bench or seating area for moments of relaxation.

Install a steam shower. Consider installing a bench so you can sit and enjoy the steam therapy.

FINISHING TOUCHES

To elevate the spa experience, consider incorporating additional amenities. Install heated flooring to keep your feet warm on chilly mornings. Include a towel warmer to wrap yourself in a cozy embrace after a bath or shower.

Introduce soothing aromatherapy with essential oil diffusers or scented candles. Enhance the sensory experience with soft, plush towels and bathrobes. Add natural elements such as plants or small water features to infuse your spa bathroom with a touch of serenity.

COUNTERS AND STORAGE

Damaris U. Avila told Martha Stewart Magazine that installing cabinets with electrical outlets inside them lets you get charging items off the counter and out-of-sight. This creates a less cluttered and more serene environment. Drawers can also have outlets so that such things as hair dryers can be plugged in while put away.

Small Space Storage

Living in a small space doesn't mean sacrificing storage or style.

With a bit of creativity and smart planning, you can maximize storage in even the tiniest of spaces. Seek out ingenious storage solutions that will help you make the most of your small living areas, keeping them organized, clutter-free and visually appealing.

Small spaces require innovative storage solutions to produce the greatest amount of functionality and to maintain a clutter-free environment.

VERTICAL SPACE

When floor space is limited, think vertically. Install floating shelves or wall-mounted cabinets to take advantage of unused wall space. Use hooks or pegboards on walls or the back of doors to hang items like coats, bags or kitchen utensils.

Consider using tall bookcases or floor-to-ceiling shelving units to store books, decor or clothing.

By going vertical, you can free up valuable floor space while adding ample storage opportunities.

UNDERUSED AREAS

Identify underused areas in your small space and transform them into valuable storage zones. Use the space under the bed by installing storage containers or investing in bed frames with built-in drawers.



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Install floating shelves or cabinets above doors to store items like books, folded clothes or decorative items. Make use of the space above kitchen cabinets by adding decorative baskets or bins to store rarely used items.

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL FURNITURE

Invest in multi-functional furniture pieces that serve dual purposes. Look for storage ottomans or coffee tables with hidden compartments to store blankets, pillows or other items. Choose beds with built-in drawers or lift-up storage for clothing or bedding. Consider a

dining table with built-in shelving or extendable leaves for accommodating guests. By combining functionality with style, you can optimize your small space while reducing clutter.

CLOSET SPACE

Maximize closet space by using organizational tools such as hanging organizers, stackable bins or shoe racks. Add additional shelves or hanging rods to increase storage capacity. Use the back of closet doors for hanging jewelry organizers or shoe holders.

Consider using a vertical space by installing a closet

organization system with adjustable shelves, drawers and accessories that can be customized to meet your needs.

MODULAR AND PORTABLE

Modular storage units or cube organizers can be rearranged to fit various spaces and needs. These versatile pieces can be customized with bins, baskets or fabric drawers to store different items. Additionally, opt for portable storage solutions like rolling carts or trolleys with multiple shelves, drawers or baskets. These can be easily moved around and provide additional

storage as needed.

DISPLAY AND HIDDEN STORAGE

Incorporate clever storage solutions that double as decorative elements. Use decorative baskets or bins to store items while adding visual interest to shelves or open spaces. Lidded ottomans or trunks can double as stylish coffee tables or seating options with hidden storage. Hang floating shelves with hooks or pegs to display and store items simultaneously.

With these creative options, you can combine storage and aesthetics to create a visually appealing and organized space.