

QUIZ: Do You Have Good Or Bad Feng Shui?

COUNTRY COLLECTIBLES PRESENTS #222

# Decorating SOLUTIONS

CREATE CUSTOM LOOKS ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET

forget white!  
see color expand a room

## 95 Problem Spaces MADE PERFECT

BEFORE & AFTER!

Chris Madden  
Re-Decorates  
Your Living Room

18 top designers  
offer their best advice  
*for free!*

Step-by-Step

SOFA COVER • ROLL-UP SHADE  
DUST RUFFLE • DUVET COVER



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## BALANCING FORM WITH FUNCTION

Your space and personal needs will determine your decision. For instance, a frequently used master bath needs multiple drawers and shelves with easy access for necessities like linens, toiletries, and appliances. Instead of a hand-painted or marble tiled façade, a clean, classic wood finish may be your best bet. Consider your storage requirements realistically to apportion space properly. If you want room to wash up and groom afterwards, you'll need a sitting area. Children's bathrooms will need special consideration too. Consult a professional for guidance. "A custom or pre-existing design can accommodate any necessary special elements," says award-winning bathroom designer Jeannie Fulton of Ulrich Inc., a kitchen and bathroom remodeling firm.

## LINES AND DESIGNS

**A well-dressed shape is a space-defining feature.** Conventional and boxy, curved and angled, semicircular and simple—select the most appealing silhouette and build on it. Flourishes like rosettes, fluted fillers and rounded feet as well as unusual wood grains, stained finishes, painted motifs and carved mouldings create visual interest and impart personal style. "Your vanity can be whatever you want it to be," says Fulton. Pairing multiple storage options with a desire for opulent elegance resulted in Fulton's award-winning design at the 2004 National Kitchen & Bath Association's annual competition. A mix of drawers, cabinets plus glass and gold-tone fixtures resulted in sumptuous, multi-functional style. (See photo on opposite page).

**Double up for more value.** A twin-sink vanity is often a



Hand-painted birds and a faux bamboo finish topped with laminated marble make Pulaski Furniture Corporation's Aviary an artistic centerpiece.



Lean and simple, the antique white finish of Vanity Flair's Cottage will complement any décor while its length adds visual height to smaller bathrooms.

necessity for two or more users. Another option is a dressing table with knee space for sitting, with a sink and more counter space further away for elbowroom. Sizes can be proportioned for users of varying heights and to maximize storage capacity.

**There's a new call for tall.** Vanities are growing—up, that is. According to Merillat Cabinetry, today's man measures in at about 5 feet, 9 inches and women aren't far behind. Standard vanity heights are 34½ inches, which becomes 36 inches with a 1½ inch countertop. To meet your needs, a customized unit can be made to fit on order.

**Do you want a traditional or contemporary look?** According to Ethan Allen's Kelly Maicon, bathrooms are a

**Bright, yet easy on the eye, this combination vanity and dressing area is perfect for a young child. An adaptable design like this one can be altered to suit changing tastes as your child matures.**



Home Depot's idea for a family bathroom is a double-sink setup for multiple users and an abundance of storage space to curb clutter.



PHOTO: REARRANGED FROM THE HOME DEPOT BATHROOM DESIGN AND PLANNING 1-23

"statement" room, which to their launch of a new line of vanities and coordinating accessories. Make the vanity or bathtub the focal point, urges designer Fulton, since they're the first things seen through an open door. For instance, Vanity Flair's simple Cottage in antique white is a contemporary classic, while Horchow's Hawthorne shows that tradition never looks dated. **Location is everything!** Master baths, powder rooms and

child's bathrooms all function differently. Powder rooms are where you can indulge your longing for an Italian marble countertop since they're often used just by guests. "A child or teen's bathroom, however, may need easy-reach lower storage units or a built-in stepladder for safe access," explains Jeannie Fulton. Observe your child's morning and evening bath routines to get the best sense of what will work best.



Ideal for a powder room, Horchow's elegant Evia pairs a faux stone vanity and sink with rust colored hand-painted details.



Texture makes a strong, subtle statement with Vanity Flair's Brava. Choosing an unusual material, like the zebra wood shown here, personalizes both the piece and the space it graces.



Picking up on the trend of furnishing the bath, Ethan Allen's Somerset vanity lends a touch of formality with cherry veneer wood accented with a marble countertop, an antique brass sink and vintage look fixtures. For practical purposes, cabinets are treated with a moisture proof, heat resistant finish.

## OLD WORLD OR CONTEMPORARY?

### How do I choose the right materials and look for my vanity?

Today's vanities know no bounds. While early models favored function over style, modern designs look as good as they work. Whether you want a refined classic or a showstopping beauty, there's a vanity to suit every taste, size and space. More and more homeowners are going the custom route and with good reason.

"Bathrooms don't look like bathrooms anymore," says designer Nancy Fulton. "Many now are as fully designed and furnished as any other room in the home." Therefore you can think "outside the box" when it comes to choosing a vanity.

Elements such as unusual wood grains and metal paired with an understated design can be a powerful combination. For instance, Vanity Flair's Brava is a modern classic with sleek lines that are the perfect frame for its dynamic zebra wood surface. And Pulaski Furniture's Aviary is a unique blend of textures and tones that add up to a real work of art.

At the other extreme, the painted cabinet panels and carved floral apron of Vanity Flair's Tuscan Farmhouse Cabinet is an elegant blend of old-world artistry and contemporary craftsmanship.

"Nothing is off limits today. Your vanity can be anything

you want it to be in any size, shape or material," says Vanity Flair's Hib Johnson.

Visit bathroom fixture showrooms or consult a professional. Find one through the National Kitchen and Bath Association's site, [www.nkba.org](http://www.nkba.org). Other websites like [www.vanityflair.com](http://www.vanityflair.com), [www.ethanallen.com](http://www.ethanallen.com) and [www.horchow.com](http://www.horchow.com) have helpful information as well as photos with ideas sure to bring out your vanity in the best possible sense.



Exquisitely detailed, Vanity Flair's Tuscan Farmhouse Cabinet may be square in shape, but not in appearance. A delicately carved floral apron, antique fixtures and painted cabinet doors soften sharp lines to create a modern classic.