

Old-House Interiors

DESIGN CENTER

SOURCEBOOK

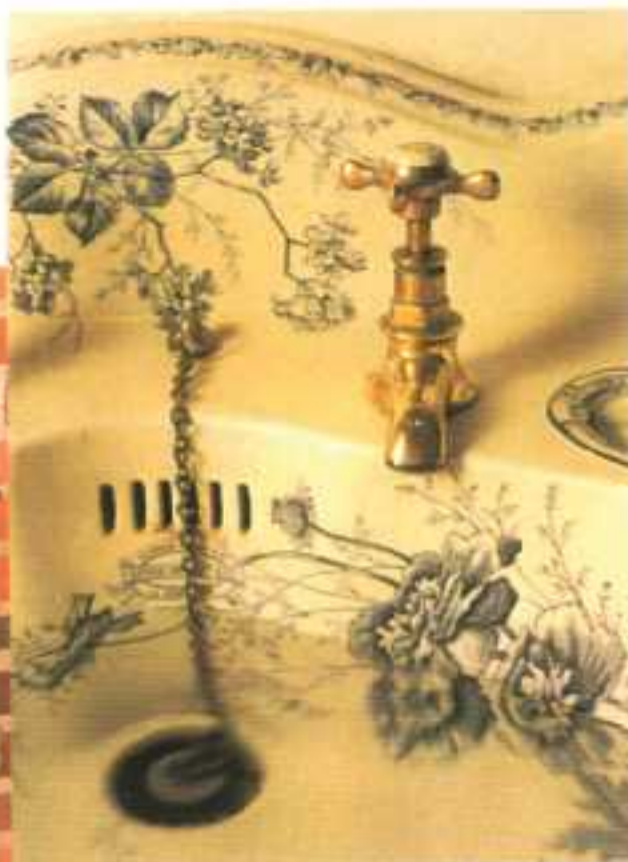
period-inspired home design

The companion volume to oldhouseinteriors.com



The phenomenon of the revival bathroom has spread to general taste—even new houses have old-fashioned baths! And there's growing interest in the colorful bathrooms of the mid-20th century.

For an alphabetical listing of all suppliers selected by our editors in "Revival Baths," go to "All Listings" beginning on p. 106. Some companies are only listed there, and not in the illustrated pages. Note: Bathroom tile is listed in the Wall & Floor Tiles under "Floor Tile" on p. 120.



far left: Vanity Flair's console has the look of fine period furniture.

left: Antique fittings like these English examples have inspired today's manufacturers.

wainscot of varnished wood or tile. Our recent revival of old-fashioned fixtures and fittings has only added to the timeless similarities. Although, by the 1980s, the colored bathrooms of the mid-20th century were considered outmoded, you could once again purchase little hexagonal floor tiles, wooden medicine cabinets, pedestal sinks, and even pull-chain toilets.

Bathrooms inspired by those of the early-20th century are a good choice for most old houses, lending a timelessness to even colonial-era houses. These common bathrooms are of course perfectly appropriate for bungalows, Arts and Crafts houses, and Tudor, Colonial, or Romantic Revivals. Owners of Victorian houses will find it easy to incorporate Victorian-period details: wainscot or tile, electrified gaslight-era fixtures, or freestanding furniture.

Please don't succumb to the urge to "early up" your bathrooms if your house dates to the 1930s, '40s, or '50s. Rose and teal toilets and sinks are hot items at salvage yards. Colored field tile for walls, and Deco-inspired mirrors, are readily available. You can have a lot of fun, and your bathroom can be done with good taste, despite what you might remember about the house you grew up in.

The most successful period-inspired baths (and kitchens) are not slavish. You can be interpretive, even whimsical, in creating rooms that are both functional and beautiful. Rooms that have a personal vision and good craftsmanship will age gracefully.