

INDOOR *escape*

STORY **YANIC SIMARD**
PHOTOGRAPHY
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With winter arriving, you may find yourself wanting to spend a lot more time indoors – why not spend this time unwinding in an elegant, spa-like bathroom? Borrow some of my favourite design tips from a recent renovation and create your own retreat.



DESIGN TIP: Tucking functional details like the electrical outlet or toilet roll holder between the toilet and vanity puts them effectively out of sight from most viewing angles, for an austere look.



PHOTO: BRANDON BARRE

Mirror Magic

As you enter this room, you pass a custom mirrored sliding door (located next to the tub/shower), hiding a stacked washer and dryer combo. This puts the laundry centre in a functional spot, but without taking away from the aesthetic elegance of the bathroom – in fact, large mirrors can help a space feel more expansive.

Open Eyelines

Other features help give the room a larger feel: glass doors are used for the shower and on the tall custom storage compartment to keep sight lines open. The airy material and colour palette emphasize pale tones and subtle textures, adding interest while maintaining a breezy feel. Using the same inviting wood to create the floating vanity shelves and the sliding door frame adds consistency and a touch of visual warmth.

Bringing the Heat

Two hidden features keep this room feeling cosy all year. A heated floor system (a perfect complement to cool, crisp tile) radiates warmth – a smart way to make a relatively compact space feel ultra-luxe. To top it off, the stylish wall-mounted towel bar is also heated, for that fresh-out-of-the-dryer feeling any time.

Niche Appeal

Often, one or more of the walls inside a shower will have a large open cavity, free of pipes – space that can be “borrowed” to add a little extra room to the shower via a wall niche. Placing a niche at elbow height will give you a handy place to store essential products and open up the feel of the space just that little bit more, making it a worthwhile upgrade during renovation.

Featured Selections

Although most of the tile in this bathroom is a classic white 12-by-24-inch porcelain plank (which creates a large, almost seamless look), an accent tile was used to make a statement in the shower. This tile was then repeated as the sink backsplash (run wall-to-wall for a sharp look), for a feeling of continuity. Repeating materials at least once is a good way to make any room appear more harmonious.

DESIGN TIP: Bordering an accent tile with an outline of plank tiles (as done in this shower) frames it like artwork and visually connects the materials, rather than taking the accent wall-to-wall. It's a contemporary twist that makes a sophisticated statement.



Bright Answers

Keeping the lighting scheme richly layered is important in any space, even a smaller one like a bathroom. Here, pot lights are used in the shower area (an often overlooked spot for lighting), but the long vanity wall is actually lit with a subtle LED strip tucked into the ceiling. This gives efficient, even lighting in a soft ethereal glow, for a real sense of brightness despite the lack of a window. Thin accent lights flank the medicine cabinet, adding a little task lighting.

Highs & Lows

Not everything has to be a budget buster. Here, a simple and sleek big-box-store vanity serves perfectly, acting as the quiet anchor in a moody grey. Adding an interesting faucet gives it a unique twist, and picks up on the other glass accents in the room. Remember: saving on some pieces and splurging on others always creates more drama than spending moderately across the board.

DESIGN TIP: One of the easiest ways to style your bathroom is to remove clutter, and then store essentials in minimalist containers like glass jars or white boxes. Just be sure to add at least one purely decorative accent like a fresh blossom!



Create your own escape at home with these picks.



1. **WARMLYOURS:** Infinity Towel Warmer, Hardwired with Programmable Timer 2. **NOVATTO:** Waterfall Lav Faucet with Clear Glass 3. **LUNADA BAY TILE:** Tommy Bahama 1 x 1 Offset Mosaic in Kangaroo Island 4. **CUTLER KITCHEN & BATH:** 36-inch, Four-Drawer Boardwalk Vanity