

# COTTAGE COUNTRY

*Lifestyle*





BEYOND  
THE BASICS:

## DESIGNING A BATHROOM THAT FEELS LIKE A RETREAT

Today's bathroom is so much more than a quick stop in your day—it's become a place to pause, breathe, and take care of yourself. It's where we wake up slowly, unwind at the end of a long day. When designed with intention, a bathroom isn't just beautiful; it's a space that reflects how we live and how we want to feel.

Bathrooms are often overlooked, yet they hold incredible potential to transform the way we experience our homes. They're where routines begin and end, where we recharge, and where thoughtful design meets everyday life in a meaningful way. Renovating a bathroom isn't just about picking pretty tiles or upgrading fixtures—it's an opportunity to create a space that makes you feel cared for every single day.

When I tackle a bathroom renovation, I look past the tiles and fixtures and focus on mood, movement, and the everyday moments that happen in the space. A successful design is one that not only looks beautiful but also enhances daily life. Natural textures can create a sense of serenity, while layered lighting can energize a morning routine. Every design choice is driven by one goal: crafting a space that feels effortless, functional, and personal.

I always begin by asking clients how they want the room to feel. That answer guides everything. For some, the bathroom is a sanctuary—think of a sculptural deep-soak tub bathed in soft light. For others, it's about function and flow: a generously sized shower with a built-in bench, steam

feature, and clutter-free storage.

The materials and finishes should harmonize with the home's overall style. I favour timeless choices such as warm woods, muted metals, and natural stones that age gracefully. Cabinetry plays a huge





role in both function and aesthetics for bathrooms. Look for solid maple or birch, providing durability in humid spaces while adding natural beauty. High-quality materials not only elevate the look but also ensure long-lasting performance.

Function is as important as form. Ensure proper ventilation which preserves finishes and prevents moisture damage. Layout should feel intuitive, whether it's a compact powder room or a spacious ensuite. Flooring deserves special attention—textured porcelain or patterned ceramic balances safety with style. Trending large wall tiles visually will expand a space, while smaller tiles can add texture and interest underfoot.

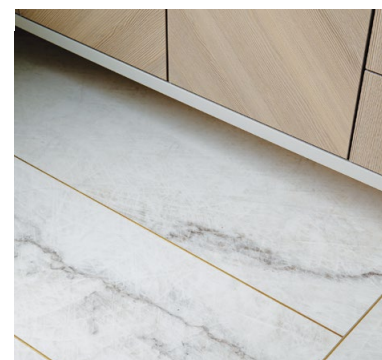
One feature I rarely skip in bathrooms is radiant in-floor heating. It's a quite affordable luxury that transforms everyday routines, offering warmth and comfort year-round. Once experienced, it certainly becomes indispensable.

**Pro Tip:** Start with the desired feeling, not the materials. Identify whether you want the space to feel calming, energizing, or indulgent, and let that guide every decision.

**Pro Tip:** Invest in a standout feature, a sculptural tub, artisanal tile, or custom vanity that anchors the room and elevates the overall design.

**Pro Tip – Faucet Trends:** In 2026, look for faucets that combine form and function—think matte black or bronze or brushed gold finishes, minimalistic shapes, and touchless or motion-sensor technology for a modern, convenient experience.

Fixtures are more than functional; they define style and



Vogt, [www.vogtindustries.com](http://www.vogtindustries.com)

#### BATHROOM SPACE -

In this modern principal bathroom, I designed for relaxation, a palette of classic warm neutrals Soft wood tones, creamy marble stone surfaces, and subtle metallic accents to create both warmth and cohesion. The freestanding tub anchors the space, while the fixtures provide contemporary soft contrast creating a serene, modern sanctuary where comfort and style coexist effortlessly.



character. Carefully chosen faucets, showerheads, and hardware introduce texture, contrast, and a sense of luxury. Small details—like the finish on a tap or the shape of a handle can elevate a room from ordinary to curated. I often specify Canadian VOGT fixtures, particularly their wide range of timeless designs, engineering, and customizable finishes.

Lighting is another key layer. I combine ambient lighting for overall glow, task lighting around mirrors, and accent lighting to highlight key elements.

Technology can enhance comfort when used thoughtfully. In 2026, expect more defogging mirrors, programmable showers, and motion-sensor faucets and toilets to make everyday routines easier.

Proportion is crucial. Oversized vanities or tubs can overwhelm smaller rooms, while floating cabinetry or glass showers create openness. Once the structure is right, finishing touches like textures, soft textiles, and curated accessories will bring warmth and cohesion to the design.

Ultimately, a well-designed bathroom blends function, comfort, and style. With planning, attention to detail, and a clear vision, even a modest bathroom can become the most personal retreat in the home.

Photo Credit: Mike Chajeki

Jessica Cinnamon is the award winning Principal Designer and founder of Toronto based Jessica Cinnamon Design Inc. The firm is a multi-disciplinary design company that has become known for creating stylish and well curated interiors. They provide complete bespoke residential design services throughout Toronto Ontario, the GTA, Cottage Country, Chicago, and Los Angeles. [jessica\\_cinnamon\\_design](http://jessica_cinnamon_design) [jessicacinnamondesign.com](http://jessicacinnamondesign.com)

