

BRINGINGBEAUTY HOM in the details RBANE RENEWA The Big Apple inspires a special guide for all the little things—from fittings to tile to the latest spa-like trends—to build a sophisticated bathroom retreat.



BROOKLYN

A back-to-basics aesthetic embraces strong silhouettes and the artfully hand-hewn. **1.** Severn freestanding shower, \$29,410; drummonds-uk.com. **2.** Vintage shower gel, \$33; moltonbrown.com. **3.** Dean faucet set, \$1,464; thg-paris.com. **4.** Glazed Thin Brick tiles, \$18 per square foot; fireclaytile.com. **5.** Ceric bathtub, \$4,499; kohler.com.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

New York is a cluster of small towns, each with its own distinct personality—a rich trove to mine for inspiration, from the tony Upper East Side to industrial-chic Brooklyn.





WALL STREET

Contemporary luxury with a bold architectural edge. **1.** Newton mosaic tiles, price upon request; mosaiquesurface.com. **2.** Dash thermostatic valve handles, \$2,089; waterworks.com. **3.** Quest vanity, \$5,995; renaissancetileandbath.com. **4.** Toothbrush, \$50; buly 1803.com. **5.** Gridscape door, from \$85 per square foot; coastalshowerdoors.com.

JEWEL BOXES

Wallcoverings turn pocket-size powder rooms into stunning showcases for pattern.

Take a cue from these New York City spaces: The teeny-tiny footprint of a typical powder room can actually be a boon, design-wise, because the tight environs can superbly handle the kind of color and pattern that might make your head spin in larger doses elsewhere. Choose a gutsy, evocative motif and a memorable color scheme, and layer in one-of-akind details to make the bathroom really shine.



VINTAGE APPEAL

In an Upper East Side residence, Katie Ridder establishes a romantic sense of nostalgia with an antique floral wallpaper from Second Hand Rose. Playful sconces and a custom suspended marble sink with a sharp profile prevent an overly sweet effect.

A SOFT TOUCH

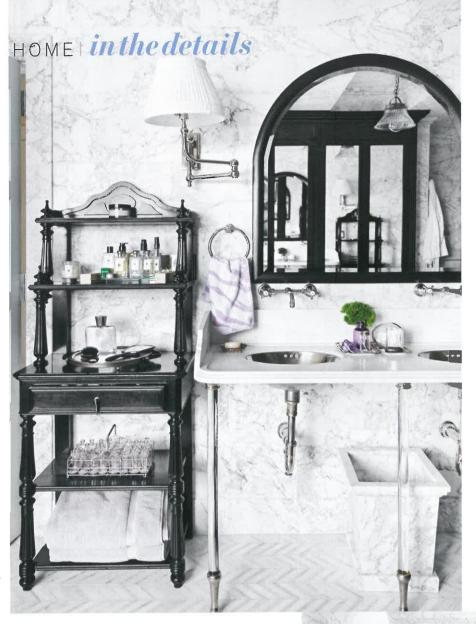
An atmospheric palette along with a quiet botanical pattern set the scene in a storied Park Avenue apartment by Ashley Whittaker; pleated plum sconce shades pick up the tone of the Carolina Irving wall fabric. A wood-framed mirror with highly figured graining adds a grace note, while slick black lacquer grounds it all.





BOLD GEOMETRY

A whimsical Cole & Son wallpaper with a maze-like parterre design energizes a powder room by Nick Olsen with dashing color and movement. The painted ceiling and vanity echo the dominant hue and magnify its impact. On the other hand, a George II-style, shell-crowned mirror in a chalky white finish and a creamy white marble countertop and wainscoting keep things classic without ruining the fun. A potted miniature topiary sink-side is pitch-perfect accessorizing at its finest.



CENTER STAGE

For Celerie Kemble and her family, the master bathroom is really the heart of the house.

It's carved out of a former bedroom and *two* bathrooms—a master space that's also a dressing room, a sitting room, and a meeting venue. "When you're a working mother with young children, the 45 minutes before school and evening baths are all you get," says designer Celerie Kemble. Her solution is a hub that bends to many tasks: two sinks so kids can brush their teeth while Mom does her hair; a perch by the tub for story time while a little one soaks or for a tête-à-tête as Kemble readies for a night out. It's all sheathed in an envelope of white marble, with black millwork and accessories for pop. "This room is the center of our lives," she says.





ABOVE: Matte and shiny herringbone tiles create floors that glitter; separate marble slabs continue even onto the ceiling "for a hammam effect" and were cleverly installed so the veining matches. LEFT: Napoleon III chair; fittings, Lefroy Brooks. TOP: Fittings, Waterworks.



THE WATER CURE

A ritual soak is the latest way for urbanites to unwind. Aire Ancient Baths has an array of plunge pools, limits guests by appointment, and is a hushed, Zen oasis. The master bathroom in the Greenwich Hotel's Tribeca Penthouse is perhaps the city's most sybaritic escape, with an elemental 17th-century watering trough for a tub.

IMMERSION THERAPY

Veranda editor in chief Clinton Smith and market editor Carisha Swanson enrolled in a class on essential oils at the New York Institute of Aromatherapy (nyioa.com). Before they wafted away, they shared their impressions:

The tepidarium, one of six

pools at Aire Ancient Baths,

temperature-controlled

is a soothing 97 degrees.

aireancientbathsny.com.

Smith: I was expecting something a bit New Age, but it was the real deal. It was nice to find a professional place to explore this field with the guidance of a trained practitioner.

Swanson: Yes, and I liked how the small class size made it feel very communal. **Smith:** Did you notice how the mood changed based on what we were smelling? Hemlock seemed to make everyone invigorated and chatty.

Swanson: Very chatty! I was sure that, of the five scents we had to choose from for our own blend, I'd only like lavender, since I already use it to help me sleep. But red mandarin's citrus and floral notes were the crowd favorite.

Smith: Agreed. My concoction included marjoram, hemlock, and red mandarin. It was crisp; I was happy. But you used ginger instead of marjoram, and...

Swanson: You wanted to steal mine! Hemlock, with its woodsy scent, really got me, too, so I added equal parts ginger and a few drops of red mandarin—very earthy.

Smith: Now we know that there's no such thing as a one-size-fits-all essential oil. **Swanson:** Right. And it isn't perfume, either, so don't expect the scent to stay with you all day. They're therapeutic, and I like to think of them as mood elevators—in both directions, up and down.

Smith: I walked out thinking that I need to take more time to stop and smell the roses. In the meantime, a little dash of rose oil will do just fine, don't you think?

Swanson: Well, now that class is over, I think it's time for a nap. Lavender, please!

TAKE THE PLUNGE

From apothecaries to bath houses, New York's spa culture heralds what's next



Naturopathica in Chelsea.



BEAUTY BY THE BLOCK

Between old-school pharmacies and New Age organic outposts, it's easy to put your best face forward.

C.O. BIGELOW APOTHECARIES

Dating from 1838, this pharmacy bills itself as America's oldest and retains all the expected charm—as well as a top-drawer selection of beauty products. bigelowchemists.com.

ENFLEURAGE This sliver of a shop specializes in essential oils that it sources directly from farms and distillers, as well as house-made fragrances like Vetiver and Rum. *enfleurage.com*.

NATUROPATHICA "Clean" cosmetics are the drawfor this day spa featuring organic ingredients and a vitality bar with a full menu of restorative tonics and elixirs. *naturopathica.com.*

SANTA MARIA NOVELLA A Manhattan branch of the Florentine brand boasts historic formulas developed by monks in the 13th century. buy.smnovella.com.