

Bathing BEAUTIES

HOW TO TACKLE A BATHROOM REMODEL

By Cindy Brzostowski

Bathroom, restroom, powder room, water closet... Whatever you call it, we all have at least one at home, and while it may not be the most glamorous of spaces, it's easily one of the most important rooms in the house.

If you're less than satisfied with how your bathroom looks or is working for you, you may be envisioning a remodel in the near future. But what do you need to know beforehand to make the project a success and, importantly, as stress-free as possible?

Sharing some of her bathroom remodeling expertise is Allison Jaffe, the owner of Allison Jaffe Interior Design.

REASONS TO REDO THE LOO

According to Zillow in December 2021, bathroom remodels were the most popular home improvement project being considered for 2022 across the U.S. As for why, we can make some good guesses.

First, from a financial standpoint, a bathroom remodel offers one of the best returns on investment compared to a remodel of other rooms, increasing your home's sale value.

Second, it's one of the most-used spaces in any home. "This is where people go to relax. This is where we shower, bathe and decompress," Jaffe says. "A bathroom is a space where you're going to wash away the day, so you really want it to be in alignment with who you are, and that's going to come through in the selections that you pick."



THE DOMINO EFFECT

Once you decide to remodel your bathroom, you might realize that tackling one project can easily lead to another. Countertops, for example. "It's not as easy as one, two, three to switch them out because you could potentially damage the adjacent tile," Jaffe explains. "If there is a four-inch countertop splash, you'll probably have a little paint and patch after the new counter install."

"When considering new plumbing fixtures for your shower and you would like to change brands," she continues, "keep in mind that you'll need to redo the tile as well. That's because the valves must stay consistent with the



manufacturer.” In other words, Jaffe says that those internal parts in the walls must match the external parts of the shower controls.

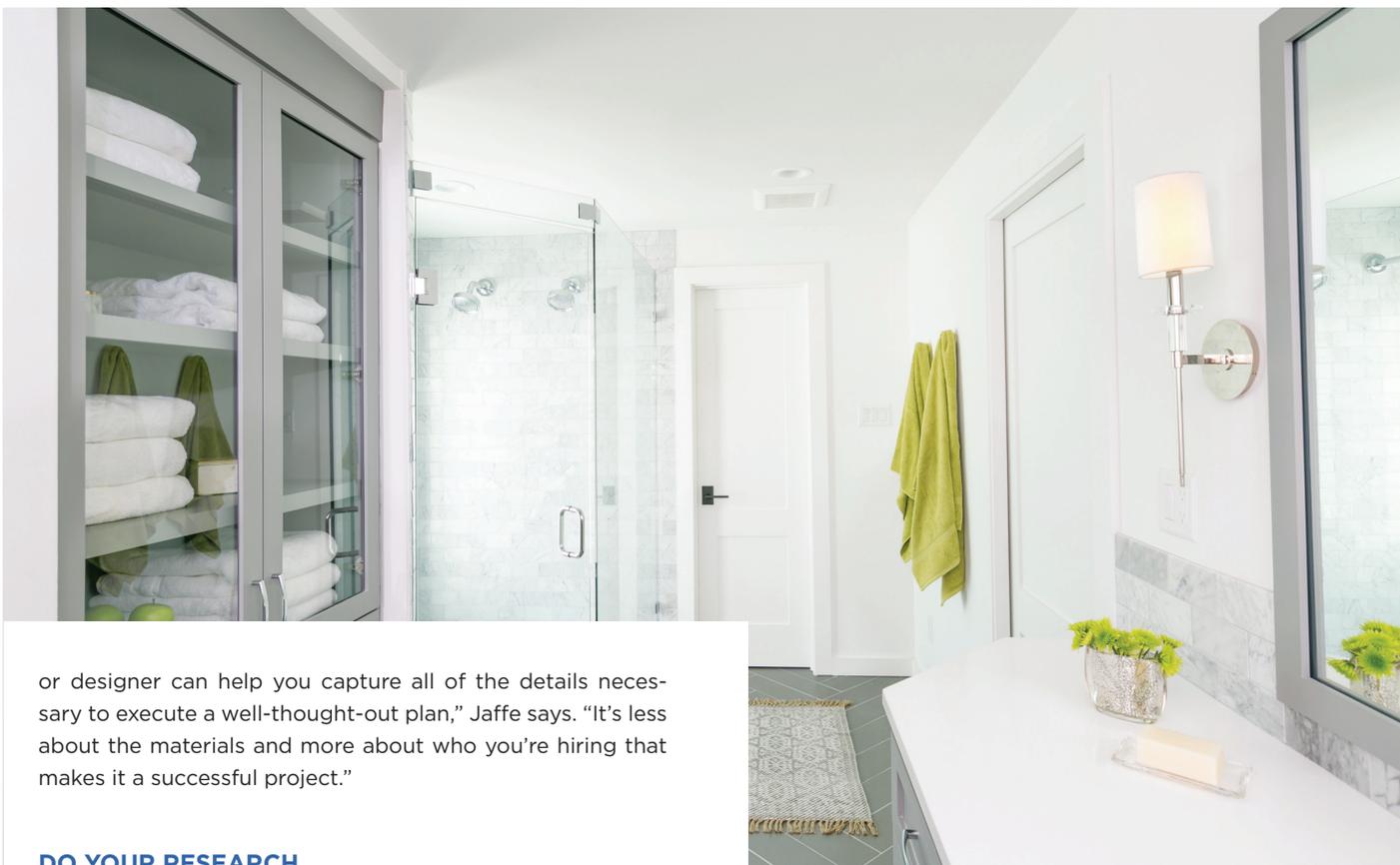
This domino effect can be a deterrent to those who aren’t dedicated DIYers and those who aren’t comfortable working with plumbing. This is one reason why Jaffe is a big proponent of working with professionals. “There’s a difference between a quick-fix Band-aid solution when remodeling your home and taking the time to invest in your home’s ROI and your peace of mind when the project is complete,” Jaffe notes. “That’s why I feel that hiring an expert professional to guide you through this process will always save you time and money in the end.”

AN EXPERT INVESTMENT

When choosing the professionals to work on your bathroom remodel, Jaffe urges people to invest in a qualified team and not to be tempted by cheap labor or cheap materials. “Saving money should never be an end goal,” she says. “Investing in value is paramount.”

Jaffe says you should be sure that whoever you hire to do tiling, for example, understands waterproofing, will take the time to ensure consistent grout lines and knows about edging (so you aren’t left with a raw edge).

“There are so many nuances to the construction portion of a project where hiring a skilled tradesperson, contractor >>



or designer can help you capture all of the details necessary to execute a well-thought-out plan,” Jaffe says. “It’s less about the materials and more about who you’re hiring that makes it a successful project.”

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Doing your research in advance almost always pays off. “I always err on the side of slowing down and really taking the time to research and gather your ideas before diving in,” Jaffe advises. “For example, when selecting plumbing, you can bring your ideas and example to a plumbing showroom to help you navigate the selection process, whether it [focuses on] style or price point.”

Jaffe recommends buying plumbing products and tile from reputable stores that specialize in just that so that you have a better idea of exactly what you’re getting. “You can find showrooms these days that are one-stop shops; some have cabinetry, tile and hardware all under one roof. It’s a great option for someone who is a little more price-conscious and [wishes to hire] a designer,” Jaffe says. “Additionally, these showrooms have subcontractors they can recommend and refer to you to assist with the construction portion of the project.”

TWO FINAL TIPS

As you move forward with your bathroom remodel, Jaffe has a couple more tips for you to keep in mind. The first one addresses how to maximize space. “I like to remove the walled-in linen cabinet and convert that space into usable cabinetry,” Jaffe says. “It’s amazing how much space you gain when you remove a typical four-inch wall. That’s around six to seven inches of gained usable space.”

Her second tip concerns how to lower your costs: “Marble bathrooms will never go out of style, but for someone more cost-conscious, marble-looking quartz countertops and porcelains are a beautiful option as well.”

If you are looking for more guidance for your next remodel or interior design project, you can check out Jaffe’s home design workbook at allisonjaffeworkbook.com, or visit allisonjaffe.com

Local Showrooms

Architerra | 1701 Evergreen Ave., Suite 2 | architerra.com

Expressions Home Gallery | 6225 Burnet Rd.
expressionshomegallery.com

Facets | 8740 Shoal Creek Blvd.
facetshome.com/facets_showrooms/austin-tx-719

JOSCO Supply & Showroom | 719 W. Powell Ln. (Austin) & 1706 Hur Industrial Blvd. (Cedar Park) | joscoshowroom.com

ProSource of Austin | 2315 Rutland Dr., Suite 104
prosourcewholesale.com/showrooms/tx-prosource-of-austin

The Frog Pad Kitchen and Bath Designer Showroom
1501 Ranch Rd., 620 N., Suite A | thefrogpadappliances.com

The Tile Shop | 5033 W. US Hwy. 290 Service Rd. & 9503 Research Blvd., #200 | tileshop.com