

Not moving? improving

Many homeowners have taken the opportunity in recent years to carry out major and minor improvements to their properties, preferring to increase the value of their existing homes rather than entering into the volatile property market. In 2011 it looks like the trend will continue.

Home refurbishment is also an opportunity to upgrade appliances, materials and fittings to the latest environmentally friendly and cost effective innovations and models. Each month, long-established St Helier company, Romerils, will be offering advice and ideas on how best to improve a home and increase the value of properties.

Splash out on your bathroom

Homeowners love to renovate their bathrooms – they are even more popular projects than kitchens. One of the reasons for this is that in general, the space involved is smaller and

complement the whole interior scheme of your home. Essentially, there are two themes to follow: traditional or contemporary. With traditional you will have more of a period-type look with a lot of detail in the bath, toilet, basin, shower and other brassware. Conversely, and very popular now, is a more contemporary minimalist and modern style combining less fussy sanitaryware and fittings.

2. Sit in a bathtub before buying it
Bigger isn't always better. A 60-inch tub is fine for most people, offering

therefore you are likely to spend less on renovating a bathroom than on a kitchen.

So, if you are thinking about splashing out on your bathroom, here are some of our renovation tips to bear in mind:

1. Decide your style and budget

From the outset, it's good to decide on both the style you want, and the budget you want to spend for the project not forgetting installation costs. When it comes to style, you may want to choose something that will

enough room to stretch out while providing a secure foothold, so you do not float into oblivion when the tub is full. Assess the angled back and lip for comfort and neck support, and remember a bath for two people slants at either end and has taps in the middle.

3. Select durable flooring

Ceramic, marble and stone tiles are all excellent as durable and water-resistant choices for a bathroom. Subfloor heat mats will make these

hard surfaces warm. Alternatively, well-sealed hardwood floors offer natural warmth and act as a foil for the other hard, cold surfaces in a bathroom. Remember though, that unless properly treated, wooden floors are not ideal for the bathroom.

4. Design lighting that works

Good lighting is imperative. It's ironic that in a room where people need to visually inspect their hair and faces, lighting is usually inadequate and only in one spot, namely, from a ceiling fixture. At the very least, think about adding lighting around the bathroom mirror. Consider using a lighting dimmer to create mood – perfect for late night relaxing baths.

5. Use found space

Take advantage of space between wall studs by recessing a tall storage cabinet into the wall to maximize vertical storage while saving floor space. The cabinet should have an interior depth of at least three inches and a door flush with the wall.

6. Hang a stylish mirror

While most people have mirrors in bathrooms for the sole purpose of checking makeup or primping hair, it's also important to think of mirrors in bathrooms as design elements that can expand the room visually and add light. By selecting a stylish cabinet, you can also introduce extra lighting while adding the practical aspect of storage.

7. Build a shower area

Consider building a walk-in shower that does not need a curtain or door and is less confining than a standard shower unit.

8. Sizing with Colour

To make a small bathroom look bigger, make sure that your colour palette stays in the white-to-cream spectrum.

9. Shop around & execute your project with a professional

Ultimately, choosing good quality and branded products will not necessarily guarantee the quality look and finish you desire. Ensure when you are shopping around for quotations that you select a supplier of materials and labour with a good reputation.



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