

SIMONE FELDMAN DESIGNS

The Ultimate Bathroom Remodeling Guide

A MASTERCLASS IN WET-AREA ARCHITECTURE, LUXURY AMENITIES, AND STRUCTURAL WELLNESS

A Note from Simone Feldman, CKBD, CAPS:

Transforming a residential bathroom into an elegant, high-functioning private sanctuary demands far more than basic fixture updates. True luxury lies at the intersection of rigorous moisture-mitigation engineering and fluid space planning. For over 40 years across North Atlanta, I have designed serene, structurally uncompromising bathing spaces engineered to endure.

1. THE ARCHITECTURE OF WELLNESS DESIGN

A master bathroom or guest suite must be evaluated as an isolated micro-environment within your home. High ambient humidity, precise technical water drainage parameters, and complex electrical safety constraints require intentional, foundational space-planning principles long before any individual tile selections are initiated.

Water-Zone Separation

We carefully segregate your spatial footprint into distinct primary zones: dedicated vanity grooming centers, isolated water closets, and advanced high-performance wet rooms featuring integrated zero-threshold walk-in showers and freestanding soaking tubs.

Invisible Engineering Longevity

True luxury relies implicitly on structural soundness. Our firm designs around complete liquid-membrane waterproofing barriers, state-of-the-art anti-scald mixing valves, and specialized linear floor drains that manage volumetric water exit paths safely.

Our firm integrates strict layout and clearance principles from the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) alongside Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS) structural foundations, balancing sleek aesthetic profiles with elite physical accessibility features.

2. OUR PROVEN 5-STEP REMODELING PROCESS

A rigorous, systematic methodology protects your private residence from the typical pitfalls of moisture-exposed construction, facilitating a highly ordered, stress-free architectural installation.

Step 01 / Spatial Mapping & Discovery

In-Home Plumbing & Structural Diagnostics

We perform precise laser layouts of existing water, waste, and vent stacks. We map current traffic patterns and cross-reference load configurations to accurately ascertain the spatial parameters, limitations, and expansion possibilities of your room's blueprint footprint.

Step 02 / Concept Space Planning

3D Visual Renderings & Elevation Details

We design custom layout variations, maximizing active clearance rings around vanities and mapping low-impact layouts. You receive detailed elevation drawings indicating the precise structural placement and integration requirements for all plumbing fixtures.

Step 03 / Premium Material Specification

Curated Selection & Slip-Resistance Assessment

We guide you personal-consultant style through elite natural stones, high-fired porcelain alternatives, custom cabinetry wood species, and luxury fixtures. Every selection undergoes vetting for strict water absorption rates and Dynamic Coefficient of Friction (DCOF) safety metrics.

Step 04 / Multi-Trade Engineering Supervision

On-Site Framing, Electrical, & Water-Barrier Testing

We step in directly on-site alongside pre-vetted North Atlanta master tradesmen. We inspect structural floor deflection boundaries for heavy stone loads, oversee advanced waterproofing systems, and verify precise mechanical rough-ins for structural consistency.

Step 05 / Commissioning & Handover

Performance Testing & Visual Completion

A comprehensive functional and aesthetic verification. We perform volumetric slope validation across all tiled shower floors, calibrate mechanical radiant-floor heating loops, and meticulously evaluate target illumination values across your vanity mirrors.

3. THE CUSTOM WET ROOM: DESIGN BOUNDARIES

The modern luxury master bathroom trends strongly away from cumbersome drop-in whirlpool tubs toward integrated open-concept wet rooms. This advanced configuration consolidates the custom shower space and soaking tub into one continuous, high-performance waterproof footprint.

The Zero-Threshold Walk-In Shower

Removing the physical curb at a shower entryway requires lowering the subfloor framing or raising the surrounding bathroom floor structure. This creates a visually continuous, barrier-free plane that visually expands your bathroom while seamlessly satisfying long-term universal accessibility requirements.

Technical Requirements for Luxury Showers

When engineering high-volume, multi-head custom showers, three invisible technical criteria govern spatial comfort and durability:

- **Plumbing Supply Sizing:** Upgrading standard half-inch supply lines to full three-quarter-inch lines ensures optimal volumetric flow for multi-jet shower configurations.
- **Advanced Vapor Mitigation:** Utilizing premium topical sheet membranes prevents dangerous interstitial moisture accumulation behind tiled walls.
- **Slope Dynamics:** Maintaining a minimum of one-quarter inch per foot slope toward your linear drain assembly prevents micro-pooling and grout deterioration.

Design Pro Tip: Heated Tile Bench Infrastructure

When designing built-in shower seating benches, extend your custom electric radiant heating mat networks directly into the horizontal seat structure. This provides an incredibly comfortable, therapeutic layer to your daily routine.

4. MATERIAL PERFORMANCE DYNAMICS IN WET CLIMATES

Finishes inside a master bath must withstand extreme thermal fluctuations and constant chemical exposure while preserving their deep surface luster. Below is an overview of commonly specified stone profiles:

SURFACE TYPE	POROSITY & ABSORPTION	SLIP RESISTANCE (DCOF)	OPTIMAL WET-AREA APPLICATION
High-Fired Porcelain Tile	Impermeable (<0.5% rate)	Excellent (When textured or matte)	Shower floor fields, walls, and steam enclosures.
Honed Marble	High porosity; requires sealing.	Moderate; requires small formats.	Vanity accents, decorative wainscoting, wall caps.
Premium Quartz Slab	Completely non-porous.	Low when wet (Slick).	Vanity countertops, seamless shower threshold tops.
Natural Slate	Low to moderate.	Outstanding natural grip.	Main floor footprints, rustic feature accent backdrops.

The Science of Illumination Layers

Flattering, non-shadowed lighting is critical for daily grooming routines. We design your bathroom lighting layout into three interconnected, specialized systems:

- **Grooming Illumination:** Fixtures mounted at eye-level on either side of vanity mirrors to project light across the face, washing away harsh shadows caused by overhead lights.
- **Ambient Mood Lighting:** Concealed dimmable cove illumination and under-vanity nightlights that activate to provide safe, low-lux navigation at night.
- **Shower Safelight Layers:** Sealed, vapor-proof recessed LED fixtures rated specifically for wet structural zones.

5. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CHECKLISTS BEFORE REMODELING

To avoid costly mid-construction alterations, ensure your design consultant has addressed these technical infrastructure items prior to pulling permits:

The Mechanical, Electrical, & Plumbing Verification

- **Mechanical CFM Ventilation Exhaust:** Ensure your exhaust fans are calculated to exchange the room's total air volume at least eight times per hour, directly venting out to your home's exterior envelope rather than the attic cavity.
- **Structural Joist Deflection:** Verify whether subfloor framing requires sistered reinforcements to safely carry the concentrated dead weight of a heavy iron or stone soaking tub.

- **Dedicated GFCIs & Wiring:** Isolate dedicated Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter electrical lines for high-amperage components such as multi-point luxury bidets, towel warmers, and steam generators.
- **Storage Ergonomics:** Integrate specialized electrical outlets inside tower cabinets to keep hair dryers and toothbrushes charged completely out of sight.

Investing in a custom bathroom remodel reimagines your daily rituals while strengthening the equity of your home asset. Working alongside a highly specialized, technical designer ensures your luxury finishes are anchored to flawless infrastructure.

READY TO CREATE YOUR PRIVATE OASIS?

Proudly serving Roswell, Alpharetta, Milton, Johns Creek, Sandy Springs, and North Atlanta communities since 1984.

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CERTIFIED KITCHEN & BATH DESIGNER (CKBD) • CERTIFIED AGING-IN-PLACE SPECIALIST (CAPS)