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01

Transform your Bathroom into a Refuge for Well-being.

Architect **Flavio Lombardo MRIA** gives practical advice on how to transform your bathroom into zone for relaxing and well-being.

Flavio Lombardo is a registered architect and principal of Flavio Lombardo Architects. The bathrooms featured were designed by Flavio Lombardo Architects. flaviolombardo.com

Irish bathrooms have undergone a major design evolution from a purely practical place to a space devoted to relaxation and well-being. This change in function has been accompanied by new innovative materials, technologies and avant-garde forms in bathroom design. There are a multitude of choices and material evocations to suit specific moods.

However, to achieve a bathroom that matches your style and meet your needs, a series of basic design considerations should be considered – including the layout and ergonomics of sanitary wares and fittings, floors and walls, bathroom lighting, ventilation and drainage, to name a few important elements.

How do you want to use your bathroom?

The first thing you should consider is what you actually want in your bathroom and how you intend to use the space. You need to consider the needs of everyone who would use it. The needs of someone living alone, or a couple, are completely different from the needs of a family bathroom! The age and mobility of the users will also affect your choices and requirements. For example, if you have small children, a bathtub may be desirable, however if you have teenage children a shower may be more important.

How much space do you need?

You always have more options in a generous space, however, small bathrooms can be made to work if properly planned. You just need to know how to make the most of the space. Remember, the standard bathtub is 1700mm in length and 800mm in width and you should leave an activity space

of approximately 1100x700 mm alongside it. A standard pedestal or washbasin is 600mm deep and 700mm wide and an activity area of approximately 1000x700mm in front is required. For a toilet a space of 1200x800mm is required with at least 600x800mm in front of it (the same applies for a bidet if required). A comfortable shower is 900x900 mm, however, a variety of sizes and shapes can be found on the market for any of the above sanitary wares. To achieve the most from your bathroom, consult a registered architect.

Choose quality materials

Natural stones, ceramic or porcelain tiles, wood and glass are generally used for walls and floor finishes. A good slip resistant finish must be provided for the floor and also a tiling setting out should be thought and designed for all walls and floors so that everything can be aesthetically lined up. Brassware fittings are generally in polished chrome or stain steel, however, other materials and finishes can also be considered.

Lighting and Ventilation

Bathroom lighting is strictly regulated according to a controlled lighting zone and you should always have the lighting installed by a qualified electrician. Good ventilation is vital in a bathroom and should always be carefully designed by your architect and electrician. Poor ventilation causes moisture, condensation and finally mould to walls and floors. Waste and water pipes may be difficult to move in an existing situation, however, your architect can advise you how they can be worked around.



01. Think about the needs of your house. If you have small children a bathtub may be desirable. However if you have teenage children a shower may be more important.
02. Choose quality materials such as natural stone tiles and wood for flooring.
03. Good ventilation is vital in a bathroom.
04. Your architect can offer clever space-saving tricks like hanging heaters on walls to leave more floor.