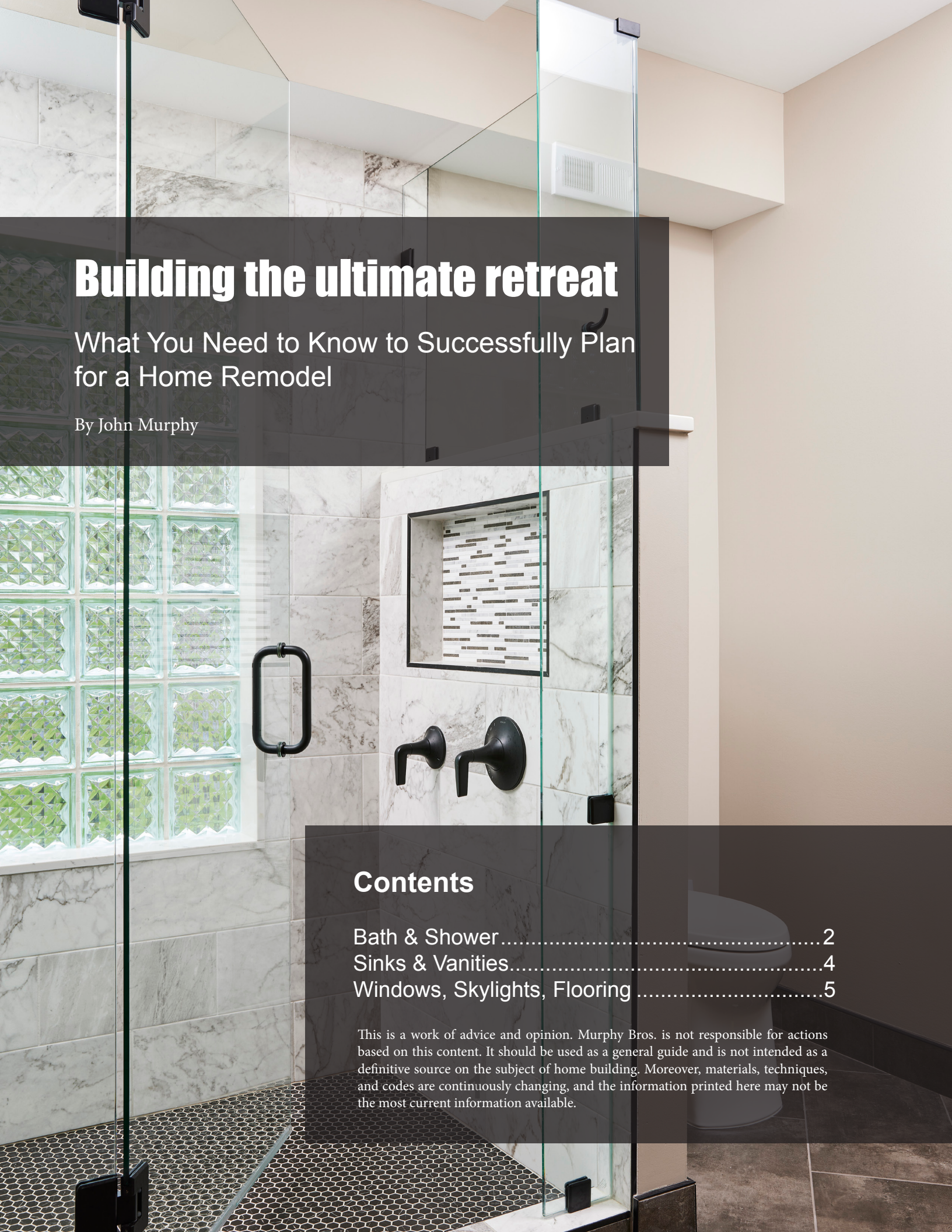


BEAUTIFUL BATHROOMS

—Remodeling Guide—



More of What You Need to Know to Successfully
Plan for a Home Remodel



Building the ultimate retreat

What You Need to Know to Successfully Plan for a Home Remodel

By John Murphy

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*Your
bathroom should
be a place of refuge,
not just another
washroom.*

Your bathroom should be a place of refuge; a sanctuary where you can escape, relax and unwind. It shouldn't have to play second fiddle to the other rooms in your home; instead the bathroom should be a star in its own right. This brief guide can help you transform your bathroom from an ordinary washroom into your own personal spa.

Bath & Shower

The shower or bathtub is one of the most important elements to consider when renovating your bathroom into your own private retreat, as it often commands the most space. One of the best ways to create a luxurious, spa-like atmosphere in your bathroom is to expand the shower. Making the shower larger, with glass walls and hinged glass doors instead of sliding doors will give it an open and airy feel. This works especially well with corner showers.

Another great way to update your shower is to bring the outdoors in, by using natural stone such as slate, marble or limestone. Natural stone lends a timeless beauty to your shower, and it is very durable and easy to care for. Consider the size of your shower when choosing the type of stone or tile you would like to use. If your shower is on the smaller size, a lighter colored stone will make it seem larger and brighter.





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Multiple shower heads will also add to the spa-like feel of your bathroom. With more than one shower head, you'll be able to customize your shower experience. Dual and triple shower heads wrap in water while their adjustable spray features give you a soothing hydro-massage. Whether you choose a ten-jet body spa or a dual shower head, you'll have a relaxing experience every time you shower.

Another excellent shower head option would be to install a rain or waterfall shower head. Rain shower heads are larger than traditional shower heads, and are mounted on the ceiling. They use gravity to make the water shower down gently through small holes, mimicking rainfall. Similarly, waterfall shower heads are large, but unlike rain shower heads they are mounted to the wall. They deliver water in a cascade, much like a waterfall, resulting in optimum pressure and temperature.

A long soak in a bathtub is one of the best ways to relax after a hectic day. The go-to style for a luxurious bathing experience is a jetted bathtub. Traditional jetted tubs offer a more physical experience, with





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water features like whirlpools and adjustable hydro- massage settings. A more recent trend in bathtubs is the soaking tub, which are deeper than traditional bathtubs and offer a truly relaxing, serene experience. The trend is influenced by the traditional Japanese soaking tub, which are more vertical and very deep. However, most soaking tubs in this country are larger and shallower than the traditional Japanese tubs. Some soaking tubs also offer jet features, as well as aromatherapy and chromo therapy, which uses color for relaxation. Studies have shown that color and smell have an effect on mood—for example, lavender tends to make people feel relaxed, as do cool colors like blue and green.

Steam rooms are also very trendy, and they're the ultimate indulgence when you want to transform your bathroom into your own private spa. They work especially well in larger bathrooms, as they may require some reconfiguration. Typically, steam rooms include tile or marble on all surfaces, a floor drain, a sloped ceiling to drain the condensation, a seat, and a door that won't allow the vapor to escape. Steam rooms can be stand alone or as an option.

Sinks and Vanities

Double sinks and vanities, often referred to as “his-and-hers,” are trending in bathroom renovations. They are perfect for couples or shared family bathrooms, offering individual sinks, mirrors, and storage. Vessel sinks, which sit atop the counter like bowls, add a stylish touch, especially when made from natural materials like stone, copper, or glass. Pairing a vessel sink with a wall-mounted faucet can create an elegant look.



To maximize privacy and aesthetics, consider giving the toilet its own separate room. This setup can also free up space to expand your shower or bathtub. For storage, vertical solutions such as a tower with drawers starting at countertop height are ideal for space-efficient bathrooms.

Windows and Skylights

Allowing more sunlight into your bathroom can enhance the experience and reduce energy costs. If privacy isn't an issue, consider adding more windows. For homes where adjacent properties are too close, skylights are an excellent alternative. Modern skylights often feature electric venting systems, allowing them to be opened for fresh air and abundant natural light.



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Flooring

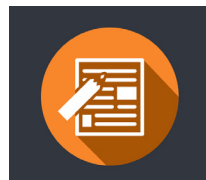
Flooring is a crucial element in bathroom renovations. Natural stone flooring is beautiful and durable but can be pricey. Ceramic and porcelain tiles are excellent alternatives, offering slip-resistant surfaces and a variety of colors, patterns, and shapes, including octagons and hexagons.

Engineered hardwood floors are an attractive choice for powder rooms, especially if you have similar flooring in other parts of your home. The rich color of wood adds warmth. Another alternative is LVP or luxury vinyl planks, which handles moisture well and is remarkably durable especially if you have pets.

For colder climates like Minnesota, you might consider adding radiant floor heating. There's nothing like a warm floor first thing in the morning when the temps are well below zero outside!

Final Touches

Creating a calming, spa-like vibe in your bathroom can be as simple or complex as you desire. Implementing a few of these changes can dramatically update your bathroom, enhancing its functionality and aesthetic appeal.



Questions? Call us at
763-780-3262 or use
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