

TRENDS

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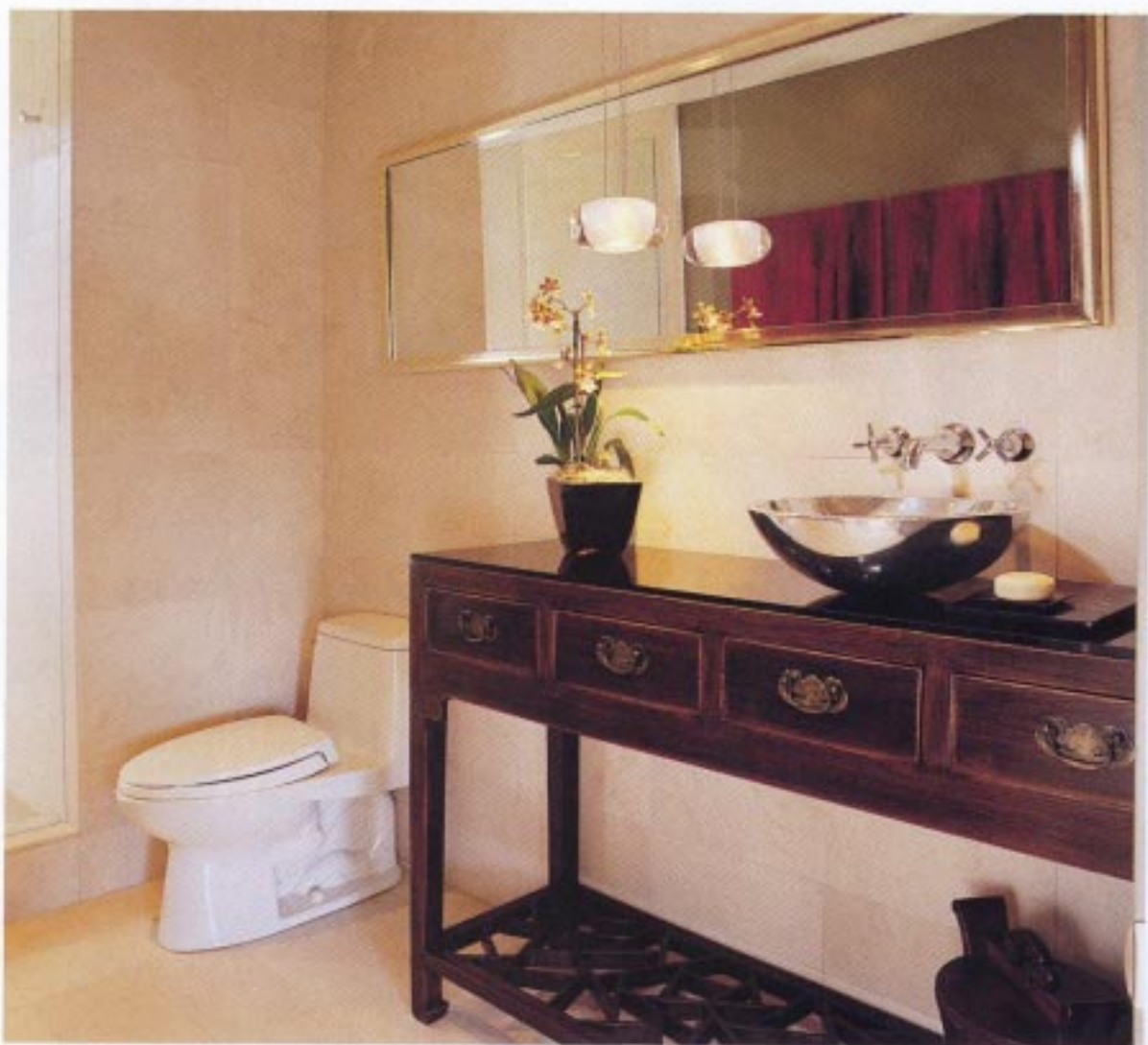
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Ideas and expertise

When you are thinking of remodeling your bathroom, or choosing fittings for a new home, it pays to talk to the experts. NKBA members have a wealth of knowledge on all aspects of bathroom and kitchen design

Above: This bathroom, designed by Vernon Applegate and Gioi Tran of Applegate Tran Interiors, San Francisco, won the Small Bathrooms category of the NKBA Design Competition. The judging panel says the designers transformed a narrow, dark and windowless bathroom into an alluring, comfortable and serene space. The console adds an elegant touch and increases counter space.

Keeping pace with changing trends is just one function of a good designer. Even more important is the ability to translate your ideas and provide innovative design solutions for difficult projects.

The National Kitchen & Bathroom Association (NKBA) offers a list of professional kitchen and bathroom designers and manufacturers who can help you achieve the look you want. The association was also formed to reduce the risk factor in choosing a professional, says director of marketing Bill Schankel.

"The NKBA promotes professionalism

among members, monitors standards and fosters excellence in design, manufacture and installation," he says. "NKBA members are fully up-to-date with the latest design trends and new products. They are also experienced in solving design problems for projects both large and small."

This expertise is recognized annually in the NKBA Design Competition. A panel of specialist judges select the best designs in each of 11 categories, based on visual appeal, creativity, elements and principles of design, presentation, basic safety and ergonomics. Several of the 2003 Design Competition winners in the bathroom