



WHEN DESIGNER KAREN SEALY

decided to tackle the dark and dingy bathroom in the basement of her Toronto home, she drew inspiration from her happy memories sailing as a teenager.

“On a sailboat, the entire bathroom becomes your shower,” says Sealy, who translated this nautical notion into a striking Scandinavian-style wet room decked out in warm wood tones. Here’s how the “CityLine” decor expert turned sweet nostalgia into a spa-like retreat.



CHIC *in Teak*

A vision of warm, seaworthy wood put the wind in the sails of Karen Sealy’s bathroom makeover.

BY HEATHER CAMLOT

get the look

Fashion your very own Scandinavian-style wet room with these fab finds.



OUR EXPERT

Karen Sealy, designer and owner of Sealy Design Inc. in Toronto, sealydesigninc.com; decor expert on CityTV's "CityLine"

1 | WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

What do you do with a window that's smack-dab in the middle of your new vanity wall? If you're designer Karen Sealy, you simply wrap it! A seamless sheet of custom-cut mirrored glass frames the frosted transom window and maximizes natural light – an important asset in this basement bathroom.

PAINT IN BALLET WHITE OC-9 (CEILING AND WALLS), BENJAMINMOORE.CA.

2 | LIGHTS FANTASTIC

"Layered lighting is the key to creating ambience," says Sealy, who balanced the single wall sconce to the right of the vanity with three pot lights in the ceiling opposite. Fitted with dimmers, these overhead fixtures can be turned down low for a long, relaxing soak in the tub.

SINE COLLECTION WALL SCONCE, MOTIV.US.

3 | SEAWORTHY WOOD

An abundance of wood in the bathroom might seem like an open invitation for mould and warping, but this isn't any old lumber. Sealy had everything from the wall and ceiling veneers to the plank flooring, cabinetry and baseboards crafted from marine-grade teak, a super durable tropical hardwood that has been used on boats for centuries.

CUSTOM TEAK INSTALLATIONS, SEALYDESIGNINC.COM.

4 | METAL WORKS

Are two showerheads better than one? If budget allows, yes! While the Brizo hand-held shower with an adjustable slide bar is certainly the functional option (think of how handy it would be for cleaning the tub, washing the dog and bathing the kids), the overhead Brizo fixture is all about the experience, which Sealy likens to showering in the rain.

5 | HAUTE TUB

A traditional gift it is not, but Sealy happily accepted this sculptural Philippe Starck bathtub from friends who had abandoned their own renovation plans.

"This gorgeous tub was just sitting in a big crate in their garage," she says. Now, the two-person tub is the room's star attraction, with a teak-veneer backsplash providing the perfect backdrop.

PHILIPPE STARCK EDITION 2 OVAL BATHTUB, HOESCH.DE. TOILET, KOHLER.CA.

6 | A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

Even at a mere 16 inches deep, the vanity's open shelves can stash all the practical bathroom necessities, from towels to extra toothbrushes. "There's nothing more precious than storage, no matter what size your house," says Sealy.

LOKI COLLECTION SINK FAUCET, BRIZO.COM. CUSTOM CABINETRY, SEALYDESIGNINC.COM. CABINETRY PULLS, RICHELIEU.COM. TOWELS, CANISTERS AND VASE, HOMESENSE.CA.

7 | WALK THE PLANKS

To avoid losing space to bulkheads, Sealy ran the ductwork through the attic. What's more, she actually added a few inches to the room's height by digging down to create the gently sloping floor necessary for the wet room's drainage. The teak planks are placed with space between to allow water to run through, and can be lifted out should the drain need cleaning or repair. ■

POLLENEX 21- BY 14-INCH SOLID TEAK SHOWER MAT, \$50, BEDBATHANDBEYOND.CA.



EURO SLIDE BAR WITH THREE-FUNCTION HANDSHOWER IN CHROME, \$412; EURO TOUCH-CLEAN RAINCAN SHOWERHEAD IN CHROME, \$83; BRIZO.COM.

FRESCA VISTA TEAK MODERN BATHROOM VANITY (INCLUDES MEDICINE CABINET), \$899, HOMEDEPOT.CA.



RONA COLLECTION FREESTANDING FIBREGLASS-REINFORCED ACRYLIC OVAL BATHTUB, \$1,199, RONA.CA.

