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## Bath Blitz

Sheila Bridges puts together a stellar bathroom using goods from the Expo Design Center in New Rochelle, New York

**Sheila Bridges feels right** at home browsing through antiques shops in the Hudson Valley, but a superstore in a suburban mall? Expo Design Center, Home Depot's swank little sister, stocks everything from candles to countertops at 48 stores nationwide. *HB* put Bridges to the test: sift through the wares at Expo's 100,000-square-foot outpost in New Rochelle, New York, and dream up a positively chic bath. >

Sheila Bridges and *HB*'s Elizabeth Mayhew are primed to take on the superstore.

Photographer **Paul Whicheloe**

Writer **Julia Szabo**

Producer **Elizabeth Mayhew**



Bridges checks out floor tiles and looks over Expo's selection of mirrors.



“Bathrooms are used so often that you want to avoid bright, crazy, trendy colors”



The designer test-drives an ottoman and works on her color scheme with tiles and fittings.

The decisive decorator starts by selecting dark, handsome rubbed-bronze fittings by Newport Brass. “Maybe I should do all the accessories in that color,” Bridges says, admiring the faucet’s matte finish. “I’ve never done a bathroom with dark fixtures before. It’s

the next nickel!” She builds her plan on a palette of soothing earth tones: light olive-green tiles topped with smaller tiles in a darker shade, offset with a mosaic border incorporating both. For the floor, Bridges lightens things up: “I want to do a white floor because it’s neutral and doesn’t feel too heavy. Bathrooms are used so often that you want to avoid bright, crazy, trendy colors. Stick with muted hues such as green and white, which are fresh and clean, like the colors of a Zen retreat.” Next she chooses large squares of tumbled marble in onyx white.

More white accents come via a pedestal sink and matching toilet from Kohler; their square shape appeals to her taste for classic architectural motifs. “I like pieces that are timeless and don’t look dated,” she says, reaching for a stack of white towels while wincing at vanity mirrors with “Ping-Pong lights” nearby. Because a pedestal sink eliminates the possibility of storage space under the sink, a large cabinet is in order: Bridges opts for a painted, glass-fronted vitrine in a lovely shade of verdigris. “It’s always nice to bring an antique look into the mix, and this will hold everything from bath oils to toilet tissue.” A white-framed medicine chest provides even more storage space. “It’s plain and basic, and there’s a mirror on the inside of the door. If you feel like it, you can paint the frame to match the cabinet.”

For the shower, Bridges picks out clear glass doors, with handles and a showerhead to match the rest of the room’s rubbed-bronze fittings. In the lighting department she grabs an industrial-strength brushed-nickel ceiling lamp and gathers lemongrass-scented candles set in square glass jars. “No bathroom is complete with out candles,” she says. A Roman shade in Borneo oak will add privacy, while a fringed tuffet covered in leopard spots “is a good place to throw your clothes and towels.” A little more than an hour after arriving at the store, Bridges is ready to throw in the towel herself. “It’s great to find everything all in one place,” she concludes. One-stop shopping never looked better. >

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**1**  
Kohler  
pedestal  
sink, \$642.



**2**  
Leopard-  
spotted  
fringed  
ottoman,  
\$389.



**3**  
Lighting  
fixture with  
etched opal  
glass, \$36.



**4**  
Newport Brass fittings in  
rubbed bronze, \$340.



**5**  
Painted  
3-door  
vitrine,  
\$1,369.

Newport Brass 920 Series fittings in rubbed bronze	\$ 340
Kohler Memoirs pedestal sink and matching toilet	959
Olive Green tiles, 4" square (950)	1,311
Darker cap tile (40)	560
Nora mosaic border (71)	1,420
Tumbled marble onyx white floor tiles, 12" square (42)	420
Painted 3-door vitrine from Holland	1,369
Keystone KSD Industries shower door	499
Kohler medicine cabinet w/white frame	178
Lemongrass scented candles in glass jars (6)	48
Leopard-spotted fringed ottoman	389
Lighting fixture with etched opal glass (2)	72
Brushed Nickel Dome ceiling light fixture	105
Classic Roman shade in Borneo Oak	136
Newport Brass Brasstech shower set	394
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,220</b>

Products are subject to availability; prices may vary.

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