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# House & Garden

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*"A bathroom drenched in color is energizing,  
a nice complement to the morning double espresso"*

*ALEXANDER GORLIN, ARCHITECT, NYC*

Architect Alexander Gorlin likes the feel of an acrylic tub, like this one from Kohler. The tiles are cobalt-blue Italian glass. The Venetian glass vase on the side of the tub is from Troy. The red towel, striped bath mat, and white ceramic soap dish are from Ad Hoc.



**H**E IS A TELEVISION EXECUTIVE; she is a venture capitalist. When New York architect Alexander Gorlin was hired to renovate their Tribeca loft, he noticed that the space designated for the bathroom had no windows at all—just one small skylight. To make up for the lack of light, Gorlin decided to bathe the room in saturated blue—a power color, as he puts it, for a power couple.

“I chose blue because I love blue,” Gorlin says. “It’s cheerful and a little astringent, and it signifies water. I was thinking of the stained-glass windows in the cathedral at Chartres, a blue with a healing quality.”

While the all-white bathroom is a classic, there are those bold personalities who like to sing the body electric when they get in the shower. For them, a bathroom drenched in color is energizing, a nice complement to their morning double espressos.

“Suddenly, brights are very high-fashion in the bathroom,” says Cynthia Lerner, a design director for WestPoint Stevens, Inc. “Especially cobalt or French blue and bright yellow.”

In designing this bathroom,

Gorlin looked at photographs of Pierre Chareau’s Maison de Verre in Paris (built between 1928 and 1932), with its fastidious tile work. As luck would have it, he found the perfect tiles in Italian cobalt-blue glass.


Gorlin used this tile to cover the bathroom’s walls, the shower stall, and the wall that curves around the oval bathtub. The tub is acrylic, with molded armrests. “There is nothing about the human body that demands cast iron,” Gorlin observes. “There are more shapes available in acrylic, and some people love the slippery feel of it.”

Before you do a bathroom in a single bold color, Gorlin warns, “be sure you love it, because you will probably live with it for a long time.”

An alternative to making a long-term commitment is experimenting with a few brightly colored towels or accessories—a towel rack in tomato red or a bowl in daffodil yellow. In the end, that may be all the color lift your bathroom really needs—a single shot of espresso rather than a double.

## TRADE SECRETS

### Color hits



MULTICOLOR SHOWERHEAD  
\$95, by Ondine,  
Davis & Warshaw  
212-593-0435

COTTON TOWEL  
\$19.99, by Designers Guild,  
Neiman Marcus  
800-456-7000

HANDBLOWN GLASS BOWL  
\$450, by Craig Winer,  
Margaret Bodell Gallery  
212-477-1820

TOWEL BAR  
\$65, by Colorella,  
Davis & Warshaw  
212-593-0435

TOILETRY BASKET  
\$155, by Gingers,  
Simon's Hardware & Bath  
212-532-9220

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