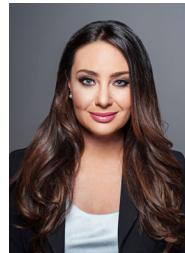
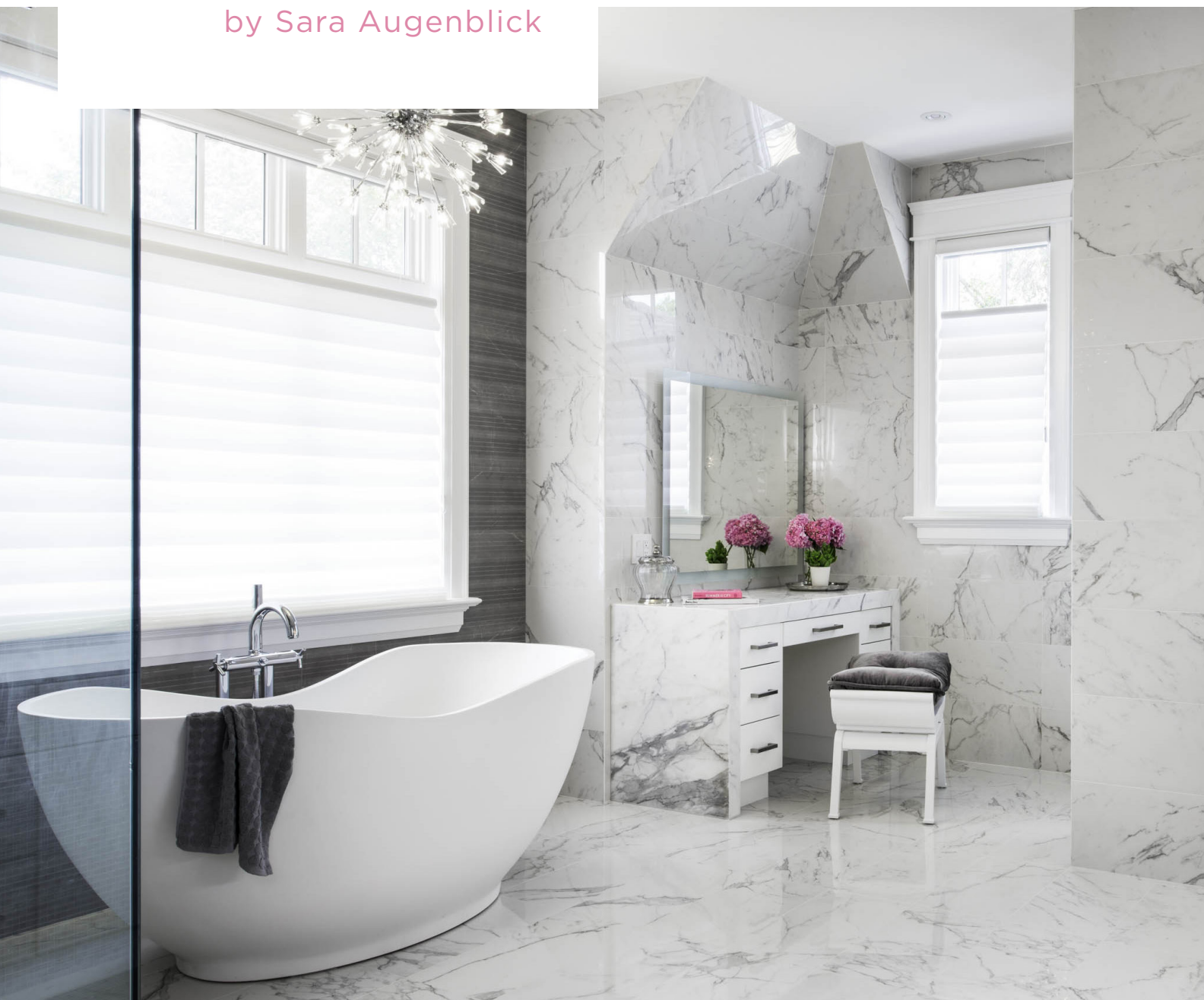


# BATHING WINDOW BEAUTY

by Sara Augenblick



Sara Augenblick is the principal and designer at Model Space Designs, a leader in full service custom-made window covering design firm. With over a decade of experience, they are known for providing the latest products and stylish design solutions for all your window needs throughout the Greater Toronto Area.  
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Bathrooms are a place of sanctuary and by way of design, we can introduce a variety of serene elements to enhance the experience. From the latest in soaker tubs to marble sinks and custom vanities, do not stop short at window coverings when re-designing your bath. After all, if any room requires style and privacy in the house this should be top of the list.

Bathroom lighting is something that shouldn't be compromised. It's a room that needs to be bright with natural light. Shades that lower from the top of the window referred to as "top down shades," are a modern take on old-fashioned café curtains. The top portion of the window is exposed while the bottom part is covered, offering maximum light and privacy. There are many types of blinds that are made with this option including Hunter Douglas Silhouettes, Vignettes, and Duettes. This is a brilliant solution unless your bathroom faces windows that are directly above yours. In that case, the top down style shade is not the best solution.

There are many transparent roller shades that have just enough opacity to stop the glare and preserve natural light. Roller shades have come a long way in design. They are available in many modern fabrics including linens, recycled materials, bamboo, mixed cottons and silks. These fabrics are made on a circular tube (hence the name roller) and operate with a clutch. The trick for a glamorous covering is pairing these up with a Roman shade. Romans should be installed on the wall above the frame or from the ceiling and only cover one quarter of the glass, or less. This will create illusion of a taller window and add height to any room without compromising on sunlight.

Roman shades are by far the most popular treatment for a bathroom because they allow you to introduce textiles into a neglected powder room or ensuite. For instance, textures such as linens and natural fabrics can be used to bring natural



elements indoors. The patterns and colours in shades today now offer further drama, much like what the addition of wallpaper can do to a space.

Technology is a huge part of our life and we cannot escape it, even in the bathroom. Motorization is very convenient, especially for windows and over the tub places that are hard to reach. Motors are available now for all blinds, including electric to battery-operated options. The cost of these have gone down significantly in the last few years and we are now incorporating them in most of the residential work we install for our clients today.

Bathrooms may be the smallest room in your house but that doesn't mean they cannot be big on style. We believe this year will be less about shutters, vinyl and wood blinds, and more focused on elegant, natural and eco-friendly fabrics.

Start with a more blissful bathroom experience by taking a look at your windows and creating your own spa at home feel.