



LEFT The curved lines of a slipper tub on claw feet set a soft, traditional tone.

Design: Matthew Patrick Smyth

OPPOSITE In this contemporary design, bold rectilinear lines are accented by the wavelike interior of the tub.

Design: Marmol Radziner + Associates and Monica Conroy Bodell

Line

Line is the most basic element of design, defining style as it glides, darts, curls, swerves, angles, wanders, and zigzags through a space, forming walls, ceilings, floors, and furnishings. Generally, traditional styles are characterized by more curved and ornamented lines, while contemporary styles often employ lines that are straighter and less embellished.

Because of their inherent emotional power — thick lines feel strong, thin lines are delicate, angles are energetic — lines combine in an endless profusion of rhythms and patterns that can alter our thoughts and feelings as we enter a room. The lines in a French country bedroom may embrace us with their warmth and comfort, while an Asian minimalist bathroom can offer a cool serenity.