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Products

The smallest room can also be the most beautiful. We look at five striking new trends in bathrooms

Projects

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Professional

Setting up in practice is both exciting and nerve-wracking. We ask when and how to make the big move

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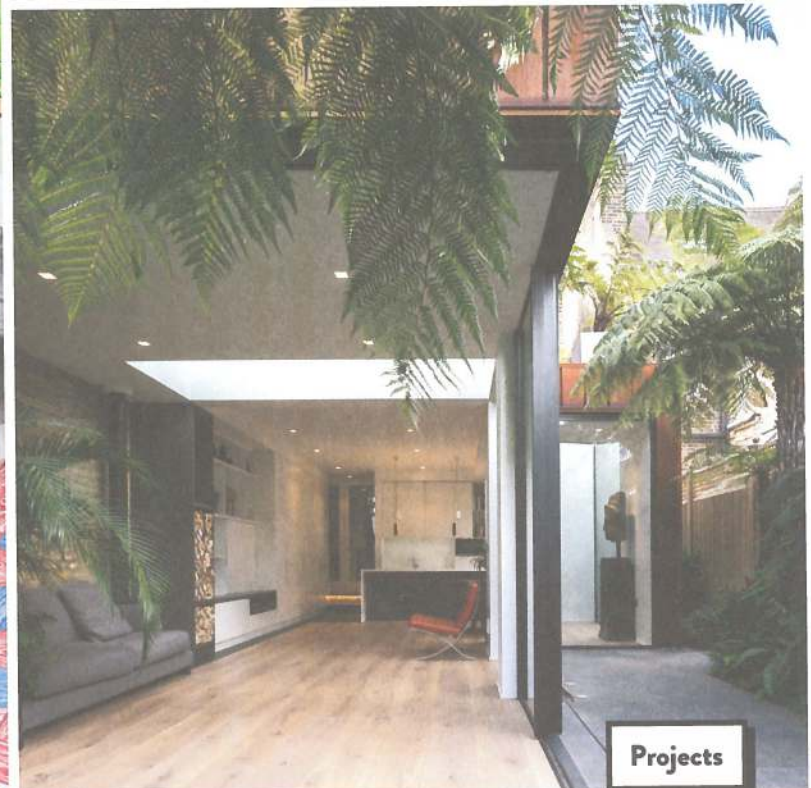
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People



Products



Projects

for residential design professionals



Studio takes a look at five key trends in bathroom design for 2017

ONCE UPON A TIME, bathroom design was at the bottom of the style pile. It was form-follows-function all the way, and aesthetics were an afterthought to quality, durability and longevity. These are all worthy qualities of course, but they don't make for the most beautiful of bathrooms.

That was then. Now, while functionality remains important - essential even - aesthetics have gained equality. Bathroom designers are developing super-practical spaces that are also super-desirable.

"Bathrooms have become a much more significant part of the house, being incorporated into the holistic design of the property," says Roselind Wilson of Roselind Wilson Design. "As a result, its hierarchy is on par with that of other significant rooms like the kitchen. Clients want their bathrooms to feel connected to the rest of the house, so the finishes and look must marry."

This shift in thinking has triggered a flurry of new looks for the bathroom, all of which contribute to its new role as a living space.



A soft aesthetic

Stark clinical looks were officially over when Bette debuted a freestanding bath dressed in water-resistant fabric at Milan Design Week earlier this year. Sure, it was a concept design - but concepts inspire trends, and a 'living bathroom' in which we can truly relax is at the heart of the 21st century home.

Interior designer Niloufar Bakhtiari-

Bakhtiari reveals that she often uses coloured fabrics to soften the look of a bathroom: "I upholster the doors and match these with the blinds. Adding pops of colour and texture can transform the entire space."

It's not just water-friendly fabrics that have found their way into the bathroom. A move away from tiled or stone walls has led

to designers bringing in softer finishes such as wallpaper and even leather.

Perhaps the ultimate in decorative detail is upholstered seating, for here it is possible to truly stake a claim for comfort. Whether an occasional chair or oversized pouf, these pieces are as practical as they are good looking - perfect for perching, preening and posing. ▶

Products



12



13

Bespoke design

"Clients are requesting a more personalised look and feel so that there is individuality to the bathroom," says designer Roselind Wilson. "Gone are the days of the floating lacquer vanity with mirror above. These have now been replaced by bespoke units in textured veneers or laminates with bespoke handles or metal inlays."

But that's not all. Bespoke in the bathroom also translates to made-to-

measure storage – designed, made and fitted to reflect the way the homeowner lives – and lighting, which takes its cue from living room or bedroom lighting.

The ensuite bathroom above takes up over half of the overall 54 m² space filled with luxury products sourced from C.P. Hart. A raised platform with sunken bath creates a focal point, enhanced by LED strip lighting, designed by specialists Twisted Light.

12 – C.P.Hart supplied a range of products and fittings for this extensive en-suite bathroom that also includes a fire and bespoke lighting system. cphart.co.uk

13 – Roselind Wilson's design for this bespoke vanity features pistachio gloss lacquer, a full-width bevelled mirror cabinet with pivot doors is edged in brass to match the vanity. roselindwilsondesign.com

16



14



15

Artwork and individualism

The niche taste for individualism has evolved into fully fledged confidence, with clients now requesting sculpture and artwork for their bathrooms. For designers, the appeal is both aesthetic and symbolic.

"Artwork makes the bathroom feel more welcoming – more personal," says Bianca Sanchez of Halo Design Interiors. "It also illustrates the movement towards spending more time there."

The right art can elevate the mood of a room, and since bathrooms tend to be small, a single piece can make a big difference. 📍

14 – The unusual jagged shelving in this New York bathroom by Shalini Misra is by glass sculptor Danny Lane. The oversized beads add an element of surprise, as do the lace-covered candles from Arte Pura. The wallpaper is a bespoke design by Shalini Misra and is printed by Wall & Deco. shalinimisra.com

15 – These three tree statues are much loved by their owner and can be seen and enjoyed from anywhere in the bathroom. Design by Halo Design Interiors. halodesigninteriors.com

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