

The next wave

Welcome to the bathroom design trends that will become the new classics, writes Robyn Willis



NATURAL CHOICE

This collaboration between master cabinet and furniture makers, Loughlin Furniture and architectural studio, Fabric Architecture, taps into perhaps the most popular bathroom trend in recent years — connecting to nature.

Biophilia, an innate human desire to connect to the natural world, has been at the forefront of interior design trends in recent years as we strive to disconnect from the digital world. This is perhaps most strongly expressed in bathroom design, where the idea of the sanctuary has taken hold.

The concrete basin has been designed as a nod to the traditional outhouse of the 1950s, complete with laundry trough, while offering discreet storage below.

Burnished brass tapware is reminiscent of old garden taps while timber caddies offer storage for bathroom essentials.

The Hargraves vanity is designed and crafted on the NSW Central Coast.

fabricarchitecture.com.au;
loughlinfurniture.com.au



WHITE OUT

The days of all-white bathrooms are numbered. This collaboration between James McNally Architects and interior design firm I & D Studio showcases a mix of materials from classic stone and tile to timber and metal. While neutrals will continue to dominate because of their light-reflecting qualities, the surprise addition to the new classics is black, used here as an accent to frame the shower, as well as the towel rack, tapware, mirrors and even the basins.

Texture is another strong player in bathroom design, as designers play with laying standard tiles in new ways or opt for monochrome wall tiles in textured finishes.

Although there is more colour returning to bathrooms, work with shape and subtle pattern for a bathroom that will look better for longer.

Given it is one of the smallest rooms in the house, there is a tendency in some spaces to feel boxed in. Above-counter basins and mirrors in softer shapes such as circles and ovals break down the hard lines for a more welcoming bathing experience.

mcnallyarchitects.com.au
iandstudio.com.au

MIRROR IMAGE

Designers and architects have long known the benefits of a well-placed mirror in the bathroom. This bathroom designed by architectural firm

Studio Prineas as part of a wider renovation has taken a dramatic approach, extending mirrored panels all the way to the floor to create a greater sense of light and space. Natural light has been drawn through from the adjoining bedroom and bounced around, making the space a practical environment for applying makeup and getting dressed in the morning as well as winding down in the evening.

With space at a premium, extensive built-in storage options have been included without creating a feeling of being hemmed in. Drawer pulls are discreet or have been dispensed with altogether for a look that is both streamlined and practical when it comes to cleaning.

The floating hand basins complete the minimalist look, integrating the bowl and benchspace in one.

studioprineas.com.au



CLEAN AND SIMPLE

Since it took hold in the 1990s, minimalism has come a long way. This bathroom, designed by architect Christopher Polly, offers everything minimalists love in wet areas — clean lines, concealed cisterns and floating storage — without sacrificing warmth.

While double basins continue to be a popular inclusion, the single above-counter basin is gaining ground as more people realise that a little extra benchspace is a beautiful thing, as long as you have a large mirror. Key to this space is the choice of materials. Concrete and timber have both been expressed with warmth and there's still a sense of connection to the hallway beyond. But perhaps the crucial inclusion for this windowless space is the use of a skylight to draw in light without compromising privacy.

christopherpolly.com

