

# New concepts and insights from the world of washrooms

## EXPERT VIEW

### Serene spaces

Susie Atkinson, interior designer

**“Your bathroom should be a sanctuary.** It's the place you retreat to every day and an opportunity to have time to yourself. Bathrooms by their nature tend to have cold surfaces – flooring is often stone or tiles, and fittings are usually white enamel – yet the one thing you don't want to feel in a bathroom is cold. **I always like to ensure bathrooms feel warm and relaxing,** and there are a few ways to go about this. On a literal level, it's important to put in underfloor heating, wherever possible. **Consider what you want in your bathroom and how you want to use it.** I recently designed a bathtub with Drummonds and had a particular vision in mind for it – a relaxing soak while looking out the window into a garden. As a result, the Whitewater bath is higher than most, and shallower, with a really good back to it so it's unbelievably comfortable to sit in.

**I often think it's nice to have not everything specified from a bathroom supplier.** Perhaps pick out an antique mirror, or a pair of IP-rated wall lights from elsewhere.

**Focus on the textures –** wood is lovely in bathrooms, though you need to have a generously-sized space to avoid water damage. Introduce colour through towels and bath mats or slubby linen fabric at the window.

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#### TAKE A DIP

Thanks to innovative technology and time-honoured technique, BC Designs has introduced the first solid-surface bath that can be hand-painted in any colour – meaning you can match your tub to any bespoke shade you choose. **Omnia bath, from £2,940 ([bcdesigns.co.uk](http://bcdesigns.co.uk))**

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## Full points

Beautiful tiles are clearly in Claybrook's DNA and its new Bermuda Triangle design is an opportunity to get creative with tessellation. The six colours are all matt glazed, giving a homely tint to this directional shape, which works equally well as a splashback as it would to cover an entire shower. Mix, match and marvel. **Bermuda Triangle tiles, £84.24sq m ([claybrookstudio.co.uk](http://claybrookstudio.co.uk))**



### EASTERN INFLUENCE

With delicate detailing and beautiful colours inspired by India, the Xanthia basin by London Basin Company would transform even the humblest of powder rooms. It measures 39.5cm diameter by 12cm deep. **Xanthia porcelain basin, £900** ([londonbasincompany.com](http://londonbasincompany.com))

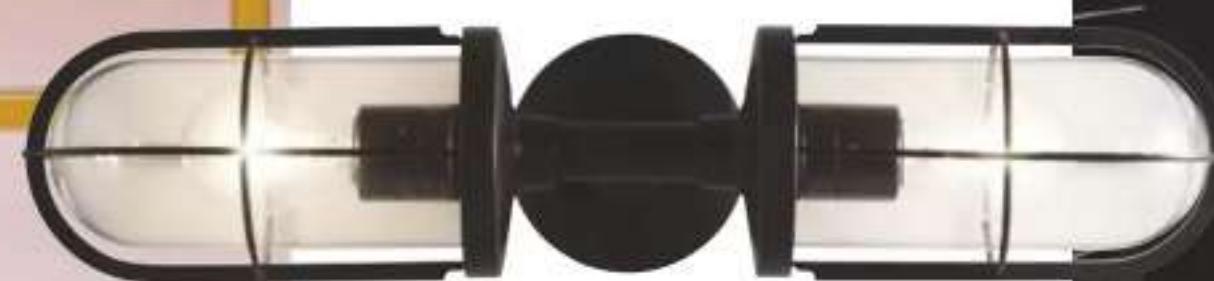


### 3 WAYS TO DO...

#### Wall lighting

Play it safe but by no means be boring – opt for IP-rated wall lighting with wow factor.

- 1 Portreath up and down wall light, £72 ([pooky.com](http://pooky.com))
- 2 Weatherproof Ship's double-well glass wall light, £659 ([originalbtc.com](http://originalbtc.com))
- 3 Winthrop wall sconce, £805 ([arteriorshome.com](http://arteriorshome.com))



### TOP IT OFF

For a truly bespoke look, Axor's latest tap design allows you to specify any finish you please. 'With Axor MyEdition 2.0, we have created a blank canvas, setting the stage for personal creativity,' says Andreas Diefenbach of Phoenix Design. 'The collection is a creative kit for escape and imagination.'

**Axor MyEdition 2.0, price on request** ([axor-design.com](http://axor-design.com))



**SKY'S THE LIMIT**  
Ever wanted to shower under the stars? In a bid to feel more connected to the outside, we're spotting designs incorporating a skylight over the shower enclosure. Here Christopher Megowan of Megowan Architectural created a light-filled wet zone in mono tones ([m-a.com.au](http://m-a.com.au))



**PACK A PUNCH**

Add a gritty sense of melodrama to a dark design with these industrial-style brass handles from Buster + Punch. **Cross pull bar with plate in brass 400mm, £95** ([busterandpunch.com](http://busterandpunch.com))

**EXPERT VIEW**

# Multigenerational bathrooms

Yousef Mansuri, head of design, C.P. Hart

**“When planning a multigenerational bathroom, access and safety are the two main aspects to keep in mind.** There needs to be sufficient space in the room to be able to circulate and access each zone clearly, with even flooring and grab bars for safety. This is where a flush wet room floor with grip is especially important, to reduce any possibility of tripping. A seat within a shower is also key. **Brassware is another aspect that needs careful consideration when it comes to planning a bathroom that is suitable for such a wide age range.** Opt for something simple in form and function, with comfortable levers or cross heads. Lots of brands are producing digital taps that negate the need to twist handles altogether. When thinking about the shower, ensure there is an easily adjustable height mechanism, along with grab bars and footrests in-built.

**Storage is important in any space, but particularly so within a space catered for the whole family.** There are lotions, potions, medicines, towels, as well as children's bath toys to deal with. Wall-mounted cabinets are a good way to introduce storage while keeping the floor clear. For items that need to be kept out of reach of children, ensure there is additional high storage.

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**LITTLE BLACK BOOK BATHROOM LIGHT SWITCHES**

**1 Dowsing & Reynolds** Coppers, blacks and smoked-gold combinations, there's a huge choice of contemporary metallic switches to choose – all designed with concealed fittings for a flush finish. ([dowsingandreynolds.com](http://dowsingandreynolds.com))

**2 Jim Lawrence** Handcrafted and in a range of most finishes, such as antiqued brass and hammered steel, these switches bring the brand's expertise in metalwork into the bathroom. ([jim-lawrence.co.uk](http://jim-lawrence.co.uk))

**3 Corston Architectural Detail** Shop online for custom combinations of brass switches and accessories, including unusually clear switch plates and sockets made from transparent Perspex that allow your wallpaper design behind to shine through. ([corston.com](http://corston.com))

**FEELING FLUSH**

The final touch for a new loo. Create a custom finish with Geberit's Sigma21 flush plates, shown here in White glass with Black chrome, £572.12 ([geberit.co.uk](http://geberit.co.uk))

**GOLD STANDARD**

Not only does Grohe's Rainshower SmartActive 130 handheld shower come in a choice of striking metallic finishes, but it also provides three spray functions at the touch of a button – a soothing Rain shower, an invigorating Jet spray and even a pulsating ActiveMassage spray – for an all-round refreshing experience that's bound to set you up for the day ahead. **Grohe Rainshower SmartActive 130 handheld in Brushed Cool Sunrise, from £156** ([grohe.co.uk](http://grohe.co.uk))