

BATHROOMS :

simple pleasures

UNLEASH YOUR INNER STYLIST ON THE OFT-FORGOTTEN BATHROOM WITH SCENE-SETTING FINISHING TOUCHES

WORDS KYLIE JACKES

BATHROOMS HAVE EVOLVED into a pampering destination: a place to escape and soak up a sense of luxury. Creating that feel-good factor extends beyond beautiful tiles and the big-ticket basics – it's the extra creature comforts and beautifying accessories that add definitive style for a truly indulgent space. >



Shelving

In a well-appointed pamper zone, clearing the clutter is essential for a sense of calm. With a plethora of options, from floating shelves and freestanding units to bespoke boxes and slick mirrored cabinetry, merging form and function is a breeze. “For a clean, minimal look, glass shelving ticks all the boxes,” says Daniela Santilli of Reece. “It provides excellent functionality without dominating the aesthetic or style of your space.” As the bathroom is becoming a place to express your individual style, open shelves, like this bathroom by Darren James Interiors (left) and multifunctional, stand-alone timber pieces, like the Cibo ‘Habitat’ range from Reece (above), are evolving trends. “The range provides a suite of products that complement each other or can be used independently. They offer wonderful storage and are incredibly convenient, with all your essentials within easy reach,” says Daniela.

SHOPPING



Omvivo ‘Venice’ box-frame mirror in Arlington Oak, \$1199, Reece.



Bamboo 4-tier shelf, \$35, Kmart.



‘Hjalmaren’ hanger shelf in Black-Brown, \$39.99, Ikea.



Falper ‘Via Veneto’ shelves in Sand Oak, \$300, Rogerseller.



‘Ragrund’ bamboo corner shelf, \$29.99, Ikea.



I D E A "Use your walls to full effect and position items like towel rails within arms' reach from where you'll be bathing or showering," says Sarah Nolen of Birdblack Design.



towel rails & small furniture

Think of your bathroom as a retreat from the everyday, and deck it out accordingly. Perhaps that means a bath-side table for candles and a glass of wine, or a stool for dressing. It's these little touches that elevate a space from purely functional to wonderfully indulgent and relaxing, says Sarah Nolen of Birdblack Design. The key is to furnish for comfort, but not overcrowd the space. And if working with a limited footprint, don't forget to utilise your walls for things like towel rails and hooks. "Keep in mind though," says Sarah, "if you're using heated towel rails above the bath, they'll need to be 12-volt hardwired to meet safety requirements." Also, according to Sarah, it's all about timber tones right now. "Whether the backdrop is dramatic charcoal or crisp white on white, blonde Scandi-inspired pieces or darker timber furniture adds warmth and textural contrast," she says. >

SHOPPING



'Bandini' round stool in Natural, \$379, Oz Design Furniture.



'A Frame' towel ladder, \$850, Mark Tuckey.



'Pirch' side table, \$895, Rogerseller.

'Black Concrete' tripod stool, \$250, Some Artists.



'Tan Leather' ladder, from \$100, H&G Designs. *Stockists, page 220*



I D E A Embolden neutral schemes with solid colours, on-trend geometric prints or add textural appeal to a monochrome look with beautiful loomed towels in natural organic fabrics.

towels & mats

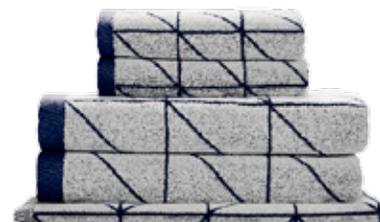
Draw inspiration from luxury hotels and day-spas and invest in gorgeous, fluffy towels. “Wrapping yourself in a towel is a daily ritual we all love, and as the finishing touch to a bathroom, they need to look and feel beautiful,” says Sharon Patsiotis of Hale Mercantile Co, which offer inviting, pure-linen waffle towels. Simple fringing details

and tassels can add an exotic feel to these everyday items, and thick-pile floor mats are perfect to sink your toes into. Another option is sophisticated, slimline Turkish hammam towels. “They’re incredibly fast drying, can double as a beach towel and their flat-woven design means they take up less space on shelves and in the washing machine,” says Verity Kizek of Atolyia. >

SHOPPING



‘Fidelis’ bath towel, \$99/each, Ziporah Lifestyle.



‘Kami’ towel set in Dove/Indigo, \$179/set of 5, Aura.



‘Flocca’ linen bath towel in Tempest Waffle, \$155/each, Hale Mercantile Co.



‘Truva’ hand towels in Charcoal, \$29/each, and towels, \$59/each, Atolyia.



‘Spice’ bath towel, \$79.95/each, Sunday Minx. **Stockists, page 220**



'Minimal' hanging garden in Cinnamon Half Dip, \$59/medium, Angus & Celeste.

Home Republic 'Basque Organic' vase in Light Blue, \$34.95, Adairs.

Zakkia 'Concrete' round tray in Natural, \$49, Honey Jackson.

'Monochrome' plywood signs, \$35/small, Mooza Designs.

art & objets d'art

"When it comes to decorative elements, treat your bathroom like any other room in the home and select pieces that reflect your personality," says Petrina Turner of Petrina Turner Designs. Think pretty porcelain pieces for the vanity to hold jewellery and bathing accoutrement, decorative hooks for draping bathrobes and towels, hanging plants for a flourish of greenery, and embellishing walls with artwork. "If you don't have existing issues with damp and your bathroom is properly ventilated with a good exhaust system, framed artwork shouldn't be a problem," says Petrina. "It is best, though, to steer away from steamy wet areas, and hang pieces on a wall beside the vanity, or showcase them in a powder room."



Collapsible laundry hamper in Black Spot, \$10, Kmart.

'Laundry' jute basket in Charcoal, \$165, The Dharma Door.

'Felt' laundry hamper, \$34.95/large, Freedom.

'Wooden Hamper Double' laundry hamper in White, \$169, Howards Storage World. **Stockists, page 220**

hampers

Keep your dirty laundry under wraps with a hamper that offers style and practicality in one neat package. "I love the jute baskets from The Dharma Door, as they're a great way to add texture to a minimalist scheme," says Jo McIntyre of Beautiful Home. Avoid heavy lifting by choosing a lightweight hamper or a basket with a removable bag that allows you to bundle up the contents. "Hampers with inner bags made of polyester are a nice alternative as they don't absorb moisture or odours from the laundry," says Tiffany Buckins of Ikea. **hb**

