

Making a splash

Bathrooms are ripe for bright ideas and experimentation. Think beyond the everyday and yours can be transformed into a luxurious personal wellness space or an explosion of colour that makes your daily routine a joy

WORDS CLARE SARTIN

Monolithic marvel

Bathroom fittings can be works of art in their own right, like this sculptural vanity unit by architect Crina Arghirescu Rogard. Boldly bichromatic, the piece is made of a single block of black marquina marble cantilevered on a foot carved from polished white marble. The same two stones have also been used to clad the large cabinet above (crina-architecture.com).

The vanity unit is a bespoke design crafted using Calacatta Lincoln and Nero Marquina, both price on application from ABC Stone and New York Stone (abcworldwidestone.com; newyorkstone.com). The tap is the '121' by Vola, £963, TattaHome (tattahome.com). For similar marble trays, try the 'Spa' trays by FiammettaV, from £115, Artemest (artemest.com)

inspiration



Clash course

The Memphis Group's irreverent and rule-bending designs were a key influence on architecture studio Jean Verville when creating this home (called MEV) in Laurentides, Canada. And nowhere is the design movement's 1980s style more apparent than in this bathroom, with its clashing geometric tiles displaying joyful abandon (jeanverville.com).

All of the tiles in this bathroom are from the 'Mattonelle Margherita' collection by artist and founding member of the Memphis Group Nathalie Du Pasquier, £176 per sq m, Mutina (mutina.it). The blue basin is the 'Aura Double' by Kast Concrete Basins, £3,558, CP Hart (cp Hart.co.uk), and the tap is the wall-mounted 'Litze', from approx £455, Brizo (brizo.com) ▶

PICTURES: ISABEL PARRA, MAXIME BROUILLET PHOTOGRAPHY

Out of this world

Bathrooms, just like the rest of your home, should reflect your unique interests and obsessions. For architect and designer Anthony Authie, founder of Zyva Studio, that meant including bright colour and playful cultural references, such as this bespoke 3D-printed light and pink toothbrush holder inspired by Spinies, the spiky menacing turtles in Mario Bros (zyvastudio.com).

'Jojojo On Fire' stool, price on application, Alix Coco (alixcoco.com/thecocopopshop). For similar grey terrazzo, try 'TE127', £174 per sq m, Diespeker & Co (diespeker.co.uk)



PICTURES: ASIER RUIA, YOHANN FONTAINE



Inky iridescence

The glossy blue of this bathroom (like the colours on the body of a beetle) is a defining element of this Madrid apartment by architect and artist Raúl Almenara. Tasked with designing for homeowner Antonio Najarro – dancer, choreographer and director of the National Ballet of Spain – he created spiralling internal walls that are a visual representation of pirouettes, with the ridged design of the tiles emphasizing the feeling of movement in what is a compact space (raulalmenara.com).

The tiles in this room (also used throughout the rest of the apartment) are a bespoke design, as is the matching cobalt-blue basin, which was produced by José Lora, a potter from Córdoba. For a similar tap, try the 'Avid' in brass, from approx £425, Kohler (kohler.com) ▶

Queen's gambit

New York-based architecture and design practice Ashe Leandro's masterful use of the chequerboard pattern in this townhouse is instantly arresting – especially when you catch the geometric design reflected in the polished brass of the traditional tub. Made from cement, the square tiles have a muted quality, which is an aesthetic step up from glossy monochrome porcelain (asheleandro.com).

Cement tiles in 'C4' and 'C14', Mosaic House (mosaichse.com) – for similar, try 'Solid Square' tiles, from approx £105 per sq m, Clé (cletile.com). The bath is the 'Camden', £5,000, CP Hart (cphart.co.uk). The tap and shower are from the 'Tara' collection, from £1,835, Dornbracht (dornbracht.com)



Pastel pick-me-up

There's a detectable whiff of Wes Anderson about the palette of this bathroom by Gülmen Interiors. Situated in an old house in the town of Celaliye, Istanbul, the scheme accentuates the charm of a round portal window by following the wood trim across the dado rail and trim of the arched mirror. The bespoke timber vanity unit's handles and the playful pattern of the tiles also echo this architectural detail (gulmeninteriors.com).

'Sunset Patchwork' tiles, £135 per sq m, Otto Tiles (ottotiles.co.uk). 'Vessel' basin by Bocchi – for similar, try the 'Rho Vision', price on application, West One Bathrooms (westonebathrooms.com) ▶

PICTURES: STEPHAN JULLIARD, SEMMA GÜLMEN

Peachy clean

Designing for homeowners who wanted to mimic the feel of a stay in a boutique hotel, Australian design studio YSG devised a scheme that was high on quality and low on frippery. The vanity unit in this compact powder room makes a big impact, seemingly carved from a single block of Tiberio marble.

The vanity unit is a bespoke design created using Tiberio stone from Artedomus, price on application (artedomus.com). It's fitted with an 'Assemble Dial' tap, £477, Astra Walker (astrawalker.com.au). The mosaic tiles on the walls and floor are tumbled 'Rosso Travertine' from Bisanna Tiles, price on application (bisanna.com.au), and the mirror is a vintage design from Studio ALM (studioalm.com)



PICTURES: ANSON SMART, PIET ALBERT GOETHALS

Steel the show

Mirrored steel is one of the most exciting emerging looks for bathrooms (see p260), and this Antwerp apartment by Belgian studio Atelier Dialect shows how its edginess can be subtly softened. From the thick-pile grey carpet to the mint-green paint (used in a gloss finish on the ceiling), this space is a masterclass in tone and texture (atelierdialect.be).

A 'BetteLuxe Silhouette' bathtub, from £5,407, Bette (my-bette.com) has been clad in mirrored steel to create this effect. The basin is also a customised design, fitted with an 'Uno' tap by Axor in chrome, £485 (axor-design.com). For a similar paint shade, try 'Piermint', £59.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene (littlegreene.com) ▶





Inner beauty

Interior designer Pamela Shamshiri took inspiration from the work of Paul László – the original architect of this LA home, whose softer take on mid-century modernism was notable for its unexpected colour choices – when designing this open-plan bathroom. A toilet and shower are concealed behind frosted doors for privacy, while the bespoke blue tub, lined with marble, takes centre-stage (studioshamshiri.com).

The custom-designed bathtub is fitted with Waterworks taps – try the ‘Highgate’, from £1,038 (waterworks.com). The pendant lights are vintage finds from Woka Lights Vienna (woka.com) and the wooden stool is a piece by American sculptor Alma Allen



Natural refinement

Three materials – solid oak, antiqued steel and dramatically veined marble – are combined with consummate precision in the design of this bathroom for a private villa in Bali. The success of the look is down to the sharp lines orchestrated by interior designer Polina Ditsman, who has arranged the natural elements like a well-tailored suit, not a button (or soap bottle) out of place (polinaditsman.com).

John Pawson designed the ‘JP’ tap, from £775, Cocoon (bycocoon.com). All of the other elements, from the marble basin to the metal vanity unit and mirror surrounded by wall lights, are bespoke designs by Polina Ditsman ▶

PICTURES: STEPHEN KENT/JOHNSON/OTTO ARCHIVE; WADYSŁAWA TORHONSKA

Podium finish

Commanding the room like a minimalist take on a Grecian column, this bespoke freestanding basin is carved from Calacatta Vagli marble and was designed by Australian studio Fiona Lynch. The same stone is paired with sections of Ocean Blue travertine on the walls and floor (fionalynch.com.au).

The custom-made basin is paired with a '590B' tap by Vola, £781, Walton Bathrooms (waltonbathrooms.co.uk). The bath is the 'Faroe' by Piero Lissoni for Boffi, £5,375, Tattahome (tattahome.com) and lighting includes the 'Glass Anton Mini', £950, and 'Longton Gunmetal', £2,300, both Volker Haug (volkerhaug.com).



PICTURES: SHARYN CAIRNS/PHOTOGRAPHY, ANISON SMART

Rainforest shower

Regularly forget to water your plants? Why not build a sizeable planter into your shower, like the verdant example in Aussie architecture firm SJB's latest project, 19 Waterloo Street? Home to the studio's director Adam Harrow, the property's bathroom is illuminated from above by a skylight and hydrated by dual showerheads – a recipe for happy greenery (sjb.com.au).

The taps are a design by Adam Harrow in collaboration with Parisi (parisi.com.au). Setting the dramatic scene are two types of tile – Rosso Ceppo marble and 'Oxide Red' zellige, both price on application, Surface Gallery (surfacegallery.com.au) ▶



All together now

Reimagining the bathroom as one immaculately designed do-it-all unit isn't just the preoccupation of British designer Tom Dixon (see p244), it's an idea that's also been picked up by Sabine Marcelis. The Dutch design star's use of yellow epoxy to create a monolithic combination of shower, bath and basin suits the architectural nature of this new-build by De Kort Van Schaik, while the sunny yellow colour glows under the glazed roof (dekortvanschaik.nl; sabinemarcelis.com).

This freestanding bathroom is a completely bespoke creation by Sabine Marcelis, but if you like the buttery colour of this epoxy resin design, hunt down one of her 'Sweets Cube' side tables for Side Gallery, £6,032, 1st Dibs (1stdibs.com)



PICTURES: IWAN BAAN, CO:STUDIO



Two-tone timber

Marquetry is a rare choice for the bathroom – a space usually reserved for ceramic and marble – but the natural grain and softly chamfered waves and edges of this bespoke vanity unit in a project by Polish interior-design studio Craft of Interior lend a warmth and softness to the otherwise contemporary scheme. Dark stain has been applied to sections of the timber to add a decorative stripe (c-o-i.pl).

'Helm' taps by David Lopez Quincoces, from £470, Zuchetti Kos (zuchettikos.it). Reflected in the mirror are graphic 'Cartabón' tiles, £76 per sq m, Cerámica Ferrés (ceramicaferrés.com). The mirrors are all custom designs by Craft of Interior **ED**