

Future PERFECT

Discover the latest trends and looks to hit your bathroom

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Even bathrooms aren't immune to the fickle world of home fashion; style, textures and the basic necessities are being revisited to make your bathroom state of the art. Here's our pick of the newest trends trickling through for 2012.

trend WALLPAPER

In spots, stripes and decadent florals, wallpaper is here to stay! "It injects personality and sophistication into a guest bathroom or powder room," says colour consultant Nell Courtenay. Avoid using on walls above baths, where it could get wet, and ensure there is good ventilation. Kohler 'Reve' cast-iron freestanding bath, \$3999, Mico Showrooms. Background in Schumacher 'Imperial Trellis' wallpaper in Charcoal; for further details, contact Grant Dorman Interiors. >



'Oban' marble console, \$6289, Acquaclassica.

trend 2 STAND-ALONE FEATURES

"Have a series of beautiful objects in a room: a bath sitting on a timber floor, a washstand in place of a built-in vanity, a lovely chair and timber racks for towels," says architect David Gole of Riddel Architecture. "Nothing on walls, nothing built-in."



'Cannes' vanity, \$1095, Recollections.

trend 3 WHITE WASH "Still a great colour," says Melbourne architect Avi Milder. "It always looks fresh and clean, and you can match it to anything. White porcelain tiles and marble are a great combination"

trend 4 BUILT-IN HEATING
"You'll need the wall space," says Reece's Belinda Geels, "but there is nothing better than a heated towel in winter, and the rails are great for drying smalls." In colder climates, underfloor heating is also becoming a must-have.



Hydrotherm 'Milan' floor-to-ceiling heated rail, \$1784, Reece.

Kohler 'Falling Water' basin set, \$389, 'Conical Bell' vitreous china basin, \$349, both Tradelink.



trend 5 NATURAL ELEMENTS

Stone, timber and renewable resources such as bamboo are hot right now, along with soft, organic shapes. Think curvy baths and basins, ceiling-mounted showers that dispense 'tropical rains' and bath fillers that flow like waterfalls.

trend 6 FREESTANDING BATHS
"They are proving to be the focus in many contemporary bathrooms," says Tradelink's Tim Dawson. "Their form provides a look not often found in Australian bathrooms, creating a point of difference for your home and a memorable bathing experience."



Kohler 'Abrazo' acrylic freestanding bath, \$6199, Mico Showrooms.



trend 7 CONCEALED STORAGE

"Minimalist bathrooms with no storage just aren't practical," says Avi. "Every bathroom needs something - be it mirrored cabinets, recessed into the wall; a floating vanity with cupboards or drawers below; or, in a family bathroom, wall-to-wall storage." The trend is for simple, clean lines.

Subtle storage is key in this look, featuring a 'Kong 50' ceramic basin (\$595) from Paco Jaanson, discreet towel rail and storage tray.

trend 8 CURVACEOUS LINES "There has been a strong swing away from sharp, definitive edges and a move towards softer edges on tapware, accessories and basins," says Tradelink's Tim Dawson



'Teorema' ceramic basin, \$700, Paco Jaanson.

trend 9 UNEXPECTED COLOUR

Hot hues are revving up tapware and fittings; Astra Walker's 'Icon' basin mixers come in funky orange, red and yellow (below, \$623). "Black is also back, and extremely popular in basins, toilets and mixers. We're even seeing two-tone basins in black and white," says Brisbane interior designer Darren James. >



'Sfera 8009' ceramic basin, \$404, Paco Jaanson.



trend 10 GREAT GADGETS

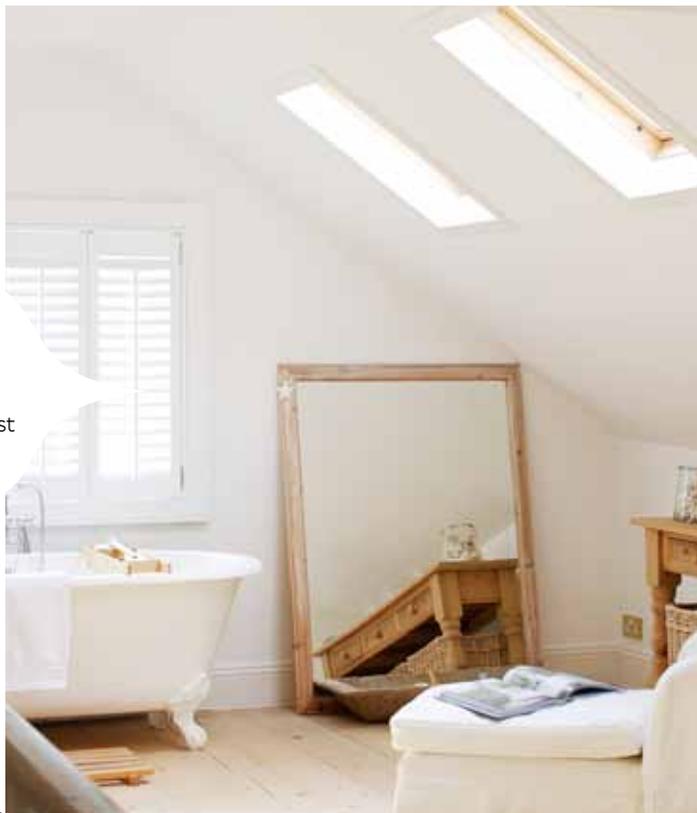
Wall-mounted TV? Check. MP3 player? Check. "These are new additions, as bathrooms become more like living spaces, where people take time to look after themselves," says Karine Lim of Rogerseller. Other coveted gizmos: taps with temperature-controlled LED lights that help prevent scalds; and, in showers, LED lights that change colour and combine with mist and drench functions, all controlled by a touch-screen panel.

trend 11 SKYLIGHTS

A leafy garden outlook is the ideal, but what to do in a windowless space? "A big skylight over the shower lets you look up and see the sky," says architect Avi Milder. "We're talking a glassed area of at least 1m x 2m, so it really feels like you're showering outside."

trend 12 WATER-WISE FIXTURES

Between dual-flush toilets, preferably connected to rainwater tanks, solar-powered hot water tanks and super-efficient mixers, the options for saving water are many. Set to make a splash in showers: thermostatic mixers. "They are the most amazing invention," says Belinda Geels of Reece. "You set your desired temperature and the tap automatically mixes the water. You'll end up saving money on heating bills because you're not wasting water getting to the desired temperature."



5 FIXTURE TRENDS

COMING TO A BATHROOM NEAR YOU



Kohler 'WaterTile' rain shower panel, \$990, Tridelink.

1. STEAM ROOMS

Now possible in your own shower enclosure, and activated at the touch of a button, "the heat from the Hammam Touch & Steam dilates pores, penetrating steam deep into skin to eliminate impurities," says Karine Lim.

2. TALLER TOILETS

In a sign of the times, 46cm suites – that's an extra four to five centimetres on top of the standard height – have arrived. "The human race has grown 10cm taller on average in the last 150 years, so, for some, it can be a long way down," says Belinda.

3. RAIN SHOWERHEADS

Gorgeous for a relaxing drenching rather than a stimulating blast, oversized rain showerheads are making their way into more and more bathrooms. Look for ceiling versions for the ultimate in discreet style.

4. INVISIBLE LIGHTS

Lighting will go low-key, with LED strips in shower recesses, under mirrors and built into the top of walls.

5. THE END OF THE SHOWER SCREEN?

Designers are increasing the size of shower recesses, ensuring water remains in one area and drains away quickly in large, stainless-steel floor wastes. **16**