

Design a SMALL BATHROOM

DO YOU HAVE A BIJOU BATHROOM, A NEAT EN SUITE OR A DIDDY DOWNSTAIRS LOO? HERE'S HOW TO MAX YOUR SPACE WITH FUN AND FUNCTIONAL DESIGN

FIT RIGHT IN

When it comes to designing a small bathroom every inch counts, so it is important to measure precisely and take into account doors, windows or sloped ceilings that may dictate your new layout. Don't be afraid to play with pattern, even in awkward spaces. Here, the hexagonal tiled flooring and splashback give a cohesive look, creating a backdrop for this rustic vanity that not only fits perfectly into the alcove but also gives a subtle nod to the house's barn heritage.

En suite **design**, Pippa Paton. Zenith copper aluminium **tiles** (on splashback), Original Style. Small industrial round wall **mirrors**, Graham and Green



CRYSTAL CLEAR

While a wet room may be a more expensive option than a conventional shower, it can be a worthwhile investment for a small space. The main cost is tanking to make the area waterproof but the result is a roomier space, as you don't need a closed-off shower enclosure. Instead, you can have the same flooring throughout and a frameless shower screen to contain splashes without feeling too restrictive.

Bathroom **design**, Katie McCrum, featuring **walls** clad in smooth MicroCrete. **Taps and shower**, Waterworks. **Flooring**, Cement Tile Shop



PERFECTLY PLANNED

In the early planning stages, it is important to get placements right, including light sources. 'The most overlooked part of planning a bathroom is all the different types of lighting needed,' says Marketa Rypacek, managing director at Industville. Ensure you have overhead lighting, as well as task lighting around the mirror. Consider where natural light comes into the space and remember that all bathroom lighting needs an appropriate IP rating.

Bathroom design, Resi, Orlando wire cage wall light, £49, Industville.



Bathroom design, Eyre Interiors. Royal Oak wallpaper, £70.81m, F&P Interiors

INTO THE WOODS

One easy way of injecting character into a country-style bathroom is with patterned wallpaper. While it may not be the first choice, standard wallpaper can be applied as long as the room is well-ventilated with an extractor fan, so steam doesn't damage it. Apply a strong adhesive underneath, and add a coat of decorator's varnish on top to help protect against moisture. Or use vinyl wallpaper designed especially for bathrooms, though it's best to stick to tiles or panelling in wet zones such as around the bath or above a basin.

PLAY IT COOL

Many people use lighter, whiter shades in small bathrooms, hoping to open up the space. Although this approach works, it is also important to get the tone of paint right. As a rule, cool undertones suit south-facing aspects while warmer shades work well in north-facing rooms - in both instances the shades help balance natural light entering the space. Results vary, so test a few colours to see how they look when applied to certain walls. Here, the paint colour flows seamlessly from walls to the eaves for an elegant finish.



Walls painted in Salix 99 absolute matt emulsion, £47 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene



Bathroom design, West One Bathrooms. A similar design would cost around £16,000 plus installation



Tubby Torre Duo bath in Burnished Bronze, from £2,894, The Albion Bath Company

ELEVATE THE SPACE

'If there is one room that needs a little luxury, it's your bathroom,' says Louise Ashdown, head of design at West One Bathrooms. She recommends using wall-mounted furniture to keep floor space clear in a small bathroom and sticking to a neutral palette if you want an elegant spa-like finish. 'This helps avoid breaking up the room with different colours, which will make it feel boxy,' she explains. And don't be shy of adding a little glamour - it's these brushed gold fittings that really make this bathroom shine.

SHORT SOAK

Is a freestanding tub at the top of your wish list, despite a lack of room? Fortunately, there are plenty of reduced-width models to choose from so you can get the look without it taking up too much space. The Albion Bath Company's Tubby design, for example, comes in a 1500mm size while still boasting a double-ended roll-top look. Other options to look out for are slipper baths, with one end curved upwards, and built-in models that are attached to the wall but have the appearance of a freestanding bath from the front.



QUALITY CONTROL
 A plus side of designing a small bathroom is that you may be able to splash out on higher-quality materials and finishes than if you were having to decorate a larger room. Here, the homeowner has commissioned a bespoke map wallpaper designed to fit the room and add interest. The unusual design has been paired with smart grey panelling, which helps to box in any unsightly pipework while also creating a handy shelf around the walls. Authentic encaustic tiles on the floor complete the look.



Bathroom design, Wolf Lewitt Interiors. Panelling painted in Down Pipe, Farrow & Ball. Encaustic floor tiles, Bert & May





Bathroom design, Ripples, featuring BC Designs Boat bath in Farrow & Ball's Stiffkey Blue, from £1,480



Kandy in Brit Pop wallpaper by Elitis, around £221 a roll, Jahn Clayton

IN THE ZONE

It might be worth reconfiguring a family bathroom into zones – such as the shower and bath on one side, with the basin and loo on the other – so that someone could pop in and brush their teeth while you’re doing bath time with the kids, for example. ‘Choosing to have a wet room can actually be hugely beneficial when wanting a bath to sit in the same space,’ says Sally Cutchie, marketing manager at BC Designs. ‘If you opt for a painted bath, use exterior eggshell paint as this is extra durable around water,’ she adds.

TALKING POINT

A cloakroom is usually one of the smallest rooms in your house but it’s the one most of your guests will end up seeing. This can be an ideal opportunity to experiment with colour and pattern and impress visitors with your flair for design. Keep fixtures and fittings to a minimum, opting for a corner or reduced-depth basin, a monobloc mixer tap and a simple towel holder. Then focus your efforts into adding impact through the decor with a beautiful, bold wallpaper pattern or a few pieces of statement artwork.

FEATURE: YVETTE MURRELL; PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVIDE LOVATTI/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM; FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM; KATRINA LAWSON; JOHNSTON; JONATHAN CROSBY; EMMA LEWIS



NEW LENGTHS
Use optical illusion to create a sense of space in your bathroom. For example, horizontal lines can help widen the appearance of your room and these metro tiles are a timeless option. To prevent tiles looking too bare or clinical, incorporate natural materials to add layers of texture and warmth to the space, such as real wood or plants. The grey patterned tiles on the floor help pull together the scheme by bringing out the dark grouting on the walls.

For similar tiles, try metro brick white gloss bevelled tiles, £14.99sq m, CTD Tiles