

BATHROOM

BLISS

Kerry Beardsmore looks at how to create the perfect room to relax and retreat to

With our increasingly busy lifestyles, the bathroom is our last refuge away from the mobile, computer, and the kids. It's therefore a key room to set the ambience to create that feeling of well-being. Conversely it does need to be practical if it is to be used as a family bathroom. Often a bit of a design conundrum, there's a lot of units to be squeezed into a small area. So it's essential to draw up a floor plan to scale and then use representative cutouts to get the best use of space. Look towards wall hung units, under-basin cupboards and integrated baths and showers.

Traditional or Contemporary?

Clean lines and simple designs can often be the most practical in a bathroom. That said, it doesn't have to be ordinary. Fixtures and fittings in particular can add a real contemporary feel to the overall look. To create a spa like bathroom, look out for sunken baths carved from stone. Use pale woods like ash, oak and beech for a natural and modern feel. Alternatively, dark wood teamed with white looks striking, but too much can be overpowering if your room is small. Of course if you have a large bathroom, you can't beat a roll top bath for that instant wow factor. It's luxurious and glamorous, and current designs even have painted undersides for an individual look.

Most independent showrooms and fitters have a full spectrum of designs to suit your taste and space available. James Payne stock the Jacuzzi range of products, with an enormous range of quality and luxurious bathroom suites, as well as their famous whirlpool bath. Thornley Interiors based in Cheshire offer the complete interior solution from design and fitting to flooring, electrical, plastering and decoration for kitchens, bathrooms and wet rooms.



Thornley Interiors



James Payne



Thornley Interiors



James Payne

Design Touches:

A bathroom can tend to look over sanitised with so many white units. Give the room a splash of personality with bold colours, blinds, quirky accessories and mosaic tiles. Cloakrooms can be a place to experiment with some extravagant and funky wallpaper to make a real statement.

Flooring

Personally I like to feel the warmth of a carpet beneath my feet in a bathroom, and it is so much more practical with young children. However, carpet isn't deemed to be as hygienic or easy to maintain as other available options: natural stone such as marble or granite is luxurious and hardwearing but needs regular sealing to prevent staining. To get a stone or real wood "look", a more practical solution is ceramic or porcelain tiles or vinyl. They're much cheaper and easier to clean. For extra warmth consider under floor heating, to keep your feet cosy and help water evaporate from the floor.

Lighting

Whilst the bathroom has to be functional, you can really set the mood with clever lighting solutions. It does however require careful consideration to the current regulations regarding safety, and will benefit from different styles of fittings. On the whole downlights are used, with either a semi-flush or flush design being the neatest and most practical. In addition, task lighting needs to be considered for mirrors and cabinets, and you could also look at units with integrated lighting. Exclusive Lighting in Tarporley have a wealth of experience as well as a qualified electrician to help, and have the latest in design trends including chandeliers for the bathroom...the ultimate in decadence!

Stockists

Exclusive Lighting: 89B High Street
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