


## little wonders

Limited space needn't cramp your bathroom's style or functionality – simply fill it with big ideas

WORDS LEESA MAHER

**SMALL CAN BE BEAUTIFUL** when it comes to bathrooms. To get the most from your space, consider four key elements: **planning**, to map out a smart design; careful **product choice**, to tap into the wealth of new fittings out there geared towards smaller zones; **storage**, to keep clutter to a minimum; and **style**, for a beautiful yet fuss-free look. >



Rogerseller's 'Zero' basin is a sleek and slimline option for a small bathroom.



## PLAN

### A little forethought can deliver big rewards

- **Map out your layout**, including placement of all fixtures, before any plumbing is carried out. "Sketch everything to scale to ensure products are balanced in terms of size and position," suggests Ari Zorlu of Paco Jaanson. Leave sufficient room for doors and drawers to open.
- **Consider all available spaces** – up, down and sideways. "Maximise the ceiling cavity by integrating lighting and showerheads, optimise floor space by using wall-mounted fixtures, and think about recessed storage in wall cavities," recommends Sydney interior designer Lynn Malone. Nicole Walters of Bespoke Architects agrees: "If possible, continue recessed cabinets along one wall, over the basin, toilet and bath," she says.
- **In a narrow rectangular space**, showers are best installed at the end of the room as a three-walled enclosure, advises Tim Dawson of Tradelink. "If the room is square, install an angled shower enclosure into one corner – this allows greater access in and out of the room."

Mirrors create *space-enhancing* reflections, and can cleverly conceal storage, too

#### • Door placement is paramount.

The direction that bathroom, shower and vanity doors swing open can dramatically impact upon space. "Replacing swing doors with a sliding door for the bathroom and shower, or even removing the shower door entirely, can make the room appear larger," explains Belinda Geels of Reece.

#### • Wet rooms are bang on trend

and can enhance a small space no end, given they have no walls, or frameless glass screens, as pictured right.

• **Wall space scarce?** "Why not create a wall that has a double function?" asks property stylist Naomi Findlay. "By using a nib wall [a short wall section that juts out at 90 degrees] as your shower screen, you can hang your vanity and storage on the other side."



'Mizu' wetroom shower system (left), \$1708, 'Kado Arc' walk-in shower (above), \$1551, Reece. >

PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP LEFT) DEREK SWALWELL (OPPOSITE) GORTA YUUKI

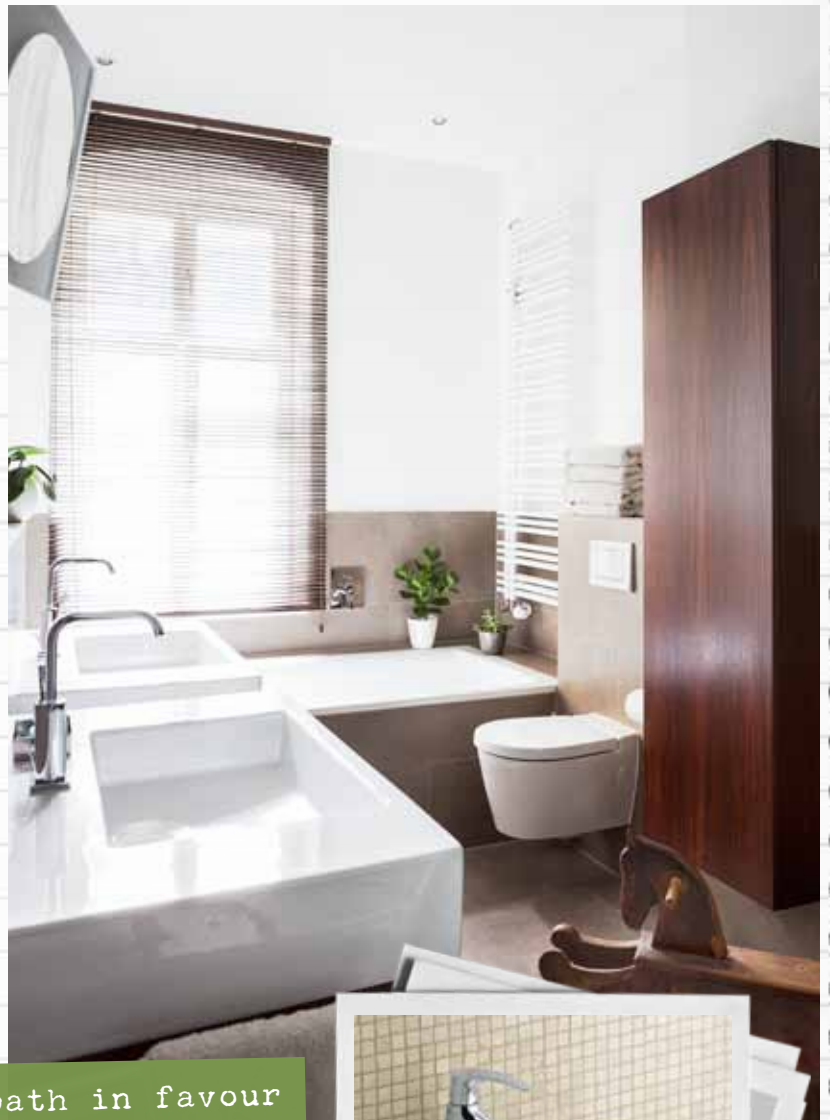


"Add *natural light* sources – skylights or windows – to make your bathroom feel bigger" – Belinda Geels, Reece

## CHOOSE

### Find the right fixtures and fittings to suit petite dimensions

- **An under-counter basin** in your vanity unit will reduce visual bulk and increase bench space. Or, try a small-scale wall-hung basin, like the Kohler 'Escale' 500mm hand basin, \$785 (below right), from Tradelink.
- **Opt for a back-to-wall** toilet pan with an in-wall cistern and button. "This can add vital inches to the smallest bathroom," says Belinda Geels of Reece. To get this look (right), try the Roca 'Meridian' back-to-wall pan, \$653, from Reece. Also check out Geberit's 'Duofix' 75 cistern and frame, \$855 from Christiaan's - it's the slimmest in-wall cistern on the market and can be matched with a multitude of toilet pans.
- **Try a corner-mounted shower** such as the Raindance Connect, \$1495 (below right), from Hansgrohe, which can be installed anywhere to eliminate dead space. "Avoid the temptation to go too big, as this will clutter up the room," advises Scott Beechey of Mitcham Plumbtec.
- **Install underfloor heating** instead of bulky radiators to minimise visual intrusion, suggests Tim Dawson of Tradelink.



Consider doing away with a bath in favour of a well-designed shower



Kohler 'Escale' 500mm hand basin, \$785, Tradelink.



From left: 'Raindance Connect' shower, \$1495, Hansgrohe. Raymor 'Horizon' 900 vanity, \$675, Tradelink. 'Posh Domaine' 500 corner heated towel rail, \$349, Reece. >



## DECORATE

### Maximise the sense of space with clever style tricks

- **Reflective surfaces** make a room feel bigger. "Think gloss wall tiles, mirrors and glass, particularly frameless glass shower screens as they don't have an edge," recommends Nicole Walters of Bespoke Architects. Also, mirrors should be large and frameless. "Don't go for fancy and ornate borders that could easily clutter the room," says Scott Beechey of Mitcham Plumbtec.
- **Opt for neutral finishes** that won't overpower. For a light and lovely backdrop, check out the travertine 'Navona' tumbled mosaic tiles, \$28/48cm x 48cm sheet, from Amber Tiles. Incorporate a darker shade of tile within recessed wall niches to create a feeling of depth, suggests Kate Lane of Amber Tiles.
- **Add a variety of textures** to soften a pared-back scheme – small needn't equate to stark. "Rely on towels and loose objects to provide the wow-factor," advises Nicole.
- **Extend your floor tile** up a wall you view from the doorway to instantly give the illusion of greater space. "It will make the floor seem extended," says property stylist Naomi Findlay. "If you can't afford to tile to the ceiling, tile to the top of the bathroom door height, and maintain this line around the room," adds Nicole.

"White and off-white tiles give the *illusion* of more room"

- Kate Lane, Amber Tiles

## STORE

### Smart storage is key to making your space liveable

- **Just as full-extension drawers** now rule in kitchen cabinets, offering greater storage and access to contents, so too is the case with vanity joinery. Blum is a one-stop shop for fully customisable drawers and internal storage systems.
- **Use robe hooks** – the back of your bathroom door provides excellent storage space. "Hooks are great for towels and bathrobes, and if you're renting, 3M hooks will not damage walls," says professional organiser Robyn Amott of Bless This Mess. The Raymor 'Portland' robe hook, \$36, Tradelink, boasts a sleek, unobtrusive design.
- **Minimising clutter** is paramount in a pint-sized bathroom. Robyn recommends clear containers to group items and let you locate things easily. "Avoid toiletries getting out of control – only purchase items you need, rather than want," she says. "Declutter your supplies regularly – if you haven't used it, it's simply taking up space that could be better utilised to house more necessary items."
- **Use innovative towel rail** solutions, like corner, freestanding or swivel rails. "These are all easy – and often overlooked – space savers," comments Belinda Geels of Reece. 