



FRESH LOOKS

Want to make sure you're on trend? Then read on for what's new for bathrooms in 2012.

The bath, a shower and a basin are all necessities, but it's the attention to detail and buying the right fixtures and fittings which create the ultimate indulgence and will catapult your bathtime sanctuary successfully into 2012. One of the most influential trends is the blurring of the line between contemporary and traditional looks as the focus is on individualism and mixing design-led, top end pieces and styles. Drummond Shaw, director of Drummonds, agrees, '2012 will develop the new fusion of classic and contemporary styles in the

bathroom, but another emerging trend is the rise of bespoke finishes which use favourite colours and patterns to totally individualise chosen products.'

In keeping with this more eclectic feel, mixing traditional brassware with a very modern bath or adding sleek contemporary taps to a classic basin is key. However, the introduction of bronzes and gold back into brassware also plays a vital role, as bathrooms begin to take on more warmth and tactility with the use of colour against natural and organic backgrounds. The bath continues to be

the focal point and, although white will still be the couleur du jour, new, more flexible and tactile materials allows it to be a real statement piece as it takes on the growing trend for curved lines in the bathroom.

Another key trend comes from the increasing popularity of en suite bathrooms. 'Design-wise, this gives bathrooms a new focus because they are no longer a standalone space,' explains Jane Gilchriest, director at The Alternative Bathroom Company. 'The decorative theme in the bedroom is now linking through into the bathroom so that the



two spaces 'flow' visually and achieve the same levels of comfort. For bathroom design, this means better lighting, better heating and an increasing use of colours, patterns and interesting materials.'

It's natural, organic elements such as wood and stone, which are set to dominate the bathroom scene. 'There is a shake-up coming for stone effects with the ubiquitous conservative limestone replica being firmly shunted out of the limelight in favour of stronger multi-hued markings,' predicts Karen Brimacombe at Reed Harris. 'Look beyond the quiet, generic pale stone finishes and opt instead for colour, geometric shape and strong surface pattern.' Tiles are also going to be much more daring than the more reserved styles witnessed over the past couple of years, and bringing in interest and contrast with tiling will be very much the flavour for the coming months. 'I love what the ceramic world is offering for the year ahead with wonderful faux slates in browns, greys and copper mixes →



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1 The bathroom is increasingly taking its lead from the bedroom as colours, finishes and furniture become more luxurious and less functional looking. Designed by Samantha Johnson, EPOA.

2 The Sienna Collection from Bathrooms International is hand-crafted in marble. Bathtub, from £31,200, bench, from £2,496, basins, from £3,042, pedestal, £5,382.

3 The brand new Curvo range from Dansani is available in graphite rubber lacquer and matt white lacquer finishes. Prices start from £2,262.

4 Crema limestone tiles from the Eco Collection. Prices start from £303 per sq. m, at Limestone Gallery.