



A classic white marble scheme by CP Hart

DESIGN ADVICE

from the experts

Ten industry insiders reveal the latest trends, must-have buys and essential ideas to help you plan your perfect bathroom **Words Rachel Ogden**

For most homeowners, the perfect bathroom is a careful combination of style and simplicity. A well-planned scheme will give you a layout that feels sleek and minimal, but is practical and eye-catching, too. As more elements filter into our bathrooms, and we spend more time in them, designing a space that functions perfectly and looks good has become increasingly challenging and also more important. We've hunted high and low to find the top experts to help you achieve your dream sanctuary, and over the next few pages, they share their secrets of great bathroom design, as well as the hottest trends to look out for in the coming year. They have also opened their address books to divulge the go-to places for the best bathroom furniture and finishing touches, as well as revealing where they find their inspiration. Our experts offer advice on the areas of your design that are worth spending on and where you can save money. →



Drummonds' latest double basin is a practical option

Meet the team



Lesley Taylor



Jamie Hemsall



Neil Curtis



Dawn Pirie



Joanna Wood



Arif Bhaluani



Charlie Borthwick



Tommy Bendall



Dan Cook



Luke Beveridge



For Town weathered bronze shower set, £7,234, by Kallista at West One Bathrooms (0333 011 3333; westonebathrooms.com)



Arif Bhaluani

DESIGNER AND
AREA MANAGER,
WEST ONE
BATHROOMS

Latest trends: We expect to see more spa-like and hotel-styled bathrooms with luxury features, plus larger en-suites.

Favourite quick fixes: Maximise the light and sense of space using LED lighting strips in recesses and fixtures, and large mirrors.

Smart finishing touches: Anti-calcium glass in showers is worth the investment.

Biggest bathroom mistake: Overfilling a room is a common error. It is easy to fit double basins and freestanding baths that cover too much floor, making the space look small and cluttered.



Arif's style tip

Try to make savings on basins and baths so you can use more of your budget on fine details



Charlie's style tip

Bespoke furniture will provide ample storage and make the best use of an unusual space



Freestanding Spoon bath and basins in natural stone resin from Home etc; oak flooring by The Natural Wood Flooring Company; custom-made vanity unit with marble countertop, bathrooms from £10,000, Cue & Co of London (020 7731 4728; cueandco.com)



Joanna Wood

INTERIOR DESIGNER,
JOANNA TRADING

Latest trends: More of my clients want showers instead of baths and drawers rather than cupboards, to save space.

Smart finishing touches: Spend on quality accessories such as shower baskets, rope hooks and towel rings.

Biggest bathroom mistake: Rushing into the design. Always check the measurements thoroughly to make sure that there is enough room to walk around, open drawers and access doors.

Favourite bathroom project: The Kensington townhouse (right), in which the lines of the bay window inspired the design and make a focal point of the bath, with the shower and WC concealed behind sleek aqua-hued doors.





Charlie Borthwick

FOUNDER AND
LEAD DESIGNER,
CUE & CO OF
LONDON

Latest trends: Statement features, such as bold floor tiles and wallpapers are proving popular. There's more longevity in choosing neutral units while playing with floor or wall coverings, which are easier to update in the future.

Smart finishing touches: Standard units dictate how the space inside is used, so I'd recommend investing in a custom-made vanity with storage tailored to your needs.

Favourite bathroom project: A top-floor bathroom in Holland Park, London (left), which was challenging because the space was very large with angled ceilings. Rather than see this as a hindrance, however, we positioned mirrors to reflect the light, making the space brighter. To offset the large size, we fitted a walk-in shower, freestanding bath, custom-built vanity unit, and bespoke fitted wardrobes.



Joanna's style tip

Keep the finish fresh: lay tiles with minimal grout lines to avoid dirt getting trapped

Paris bath by The Water Monopoly; Casino chairs by Soane, projects start from £40,000, Joanna Trading (020 7730 0693; joannatrading.com)



Ladybower double vanity, from £7,860; Derwent vanity mirrors, from £1,302 each, Martin Brudnizki Collection for Drummonds (020 7376 4499; drummonds-uk)



Tommy Bendall

DESIGNER,
DRUMMONDS

Latest trends:

Open shelving has become popular. Vanity units without doors, such as our new Ladybower design, allow for useful storage underneath the basin without enclosing the space. It's part of the Martin Brudnizki for Drummonds Collection, which also includes some vintage-luxe styled lighting (below).

My inspiration: I often look to art deco bathrooms, such as those in Eltham Palace, or Twenties hotels. I also take ideas from ornamental gardens that use stone and water features.

Biggest bathroom mistake: Positioning the WC in full view is a no-no. Make sure it isn't the first thing you see when you walk into the room. I tend to box it off for privacy, plus

the addition of a wall provides a surface on which to mount a basin or a shower. Don't assume that everything needs to be placed around the outside of the room as this can create a characterless scheme.

Favourite bathroom project: I recently worked on a project in an Elizabethan building where we created a grand wet room opposite a double vanity. We complemented the original features of the room by using black marble, dark colours and classic products in brass. →

Tommy's style tip

A freestanding bath takes up less space visually than a fitted one



Double Derwent light, from £570, from the Martin Brudnizki Collection