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 FUTURE

DESIGN FEATURE OF THE MOMENT

vanity areas

PULLING FOCUS FROM STATEMENT TUBS, THIS SPACE IS GOING BESPOKE WITH SCULPTURAL BASINS AND CAPTIVATING CABINETRY

FEATURE Keith Flanagan



There is a perfectly plain reason to customise your vanity area: it is often the focal point of modern bathrooms, whether you like it or not. From countertops to sinks and cabinetry (not to forget a bathroom mirror), the amount of details concentrated in one space can create an altogether eye-catching design moment.

‘It’s worth using the excuse to create something beautiful, and there are endless possibilities in combining elements that must exist next to each other to create a functional bathroom interior, and which can be composed to create a unique combination of textures, shapes and solids,’ says designer Katarzyna Baumiller.

Designers flex dramatic materials like marble to craft sculptural bathroom sinks in fascinating shapes and colours, or bespoke bathroom storage ideas that maximise space and usher in textural surfaces beyond the reach of store-bought solutions. Throw in a dazzling mirror and flattering lighting, and your vanity area is guaranteed to take centre stage.

‘We have definitely seen a trend where people want to adopt a more luxurious, hotel-like approach to the vanity area, especially in cloakrooms,’ says Liz Ride, associate director at Studio Tate, noting how these compact spaces represent an affordable place to splurge on high-end materials and fittings – a small area with major wow-factor potential.

And for many designers, the vanity area is just another way to create an experience, a design moment that gives us pause. ‘Our time in a bathroom is usually solitary, quiet, and contemplative – whether we are in our own home or someone else’s – so those occasions are prime times to reflect on a piece of consequential design,’ says designer Dylan Farrell.

Going bespoke? These crafted vanity areas bring a new layer of attraction to these next-level bathrooms. >

1 FIXATING FIXTURES

Playing with balance and levels, designer Kate Cooper used a clever bath tap to mix up the traditional set-up, ultimately creating a vanity area that gives levity to hefty materials. ‘I wanted to use a floor-mounted bath filler that spilled into a pedestal style basin, and the idea of doing a stone floating vanity was then brought to life,’ says Kate, noting how the tap arches over a custom pink marble bench. ‘I love to have more fun in a cloakroom as it’s always great to surprise people when they walk into a space.’

PROJECT BY

Kate Cooper Interiors

2 POWER PLAY

Bespoke aesthetics are on full display in this material-rich bathroom, where a custom oval-shaped mirror shines alongside a green marble arch that frames the entire vanity. But what don’t you see here is a single power outlet. ‘Installing electrical outlets at strategic locations makes it easy to plug

in electrical appliances such as hair dryers, electric razors or electric toothbrushes,’ says French studio Caprini & Pellerin of its disguised and tailored-to-perfection vision. ‘We always make sure that they are hidden in the cabinets.’

PROJECT BY Caprini & Pellerin

3 ACED BASE

Conceived by New York and Sydney based designers Dylan and Nicolette Farrell of Dylan Farrell Design, this geometric base was achieved with a simple twist: the shape matches pentagonal floor tiles beneath it. ‘If you want to make for an interesting shaped vanity without blowing a budget, try and reduce the amount of functions required,’ recommends Dylan. ‘For example, if you need toilet paper storage, attempt to find it in an adjacent location, like a wall niche, medicine cabinet or basket. This way there are less moving parts to be addressed when considering atypical shapes, materials or finishes.’

PROJECT BY Dylan Farrell Design





RAD SHAPE

While many modern vanity areas are shaped around rectangular or square cabinetry, this playful design gives the concept a twist - a rounded base floats above the floor, reflecting similar curves in an arched mirror installed above. 'I like to surprise with a clever combination of shapes,' says designer Katarzyna Baumiller, who also plays with materials, colours and textures to create vanities that are altogether unique. 'I think it's important not to be afraid of non-obvious combinations, because it pleases the eye and inspires.'

PROJECT BY Katarzyna Baumiller Studio

PHOTOGRAPHS (RAD SHAPE) AGNIESZKA MURAK/ALICJA T./PHOTOFOYER;
(MAIN DRAW) CARA WOODHOUSE INTERIORS



MAIN DRAW

The vanity area can seem daunting with so many crucial elements – sinks, mirrors, millwork, hardware and more. But designer Cara Woodhouse believes that if you can dream it, or draw a picture of it, you can find someone to build it. ‘Don’t be afraid to go for it and try to create something different,’ she says. She designed this abstract double vanity in dramatic green marble. ‘People get very overwhelmed by custom pieces, but don’t! All you have to do is draw a sketch, show an image of something that inspires you and find a local fabricator or millworker to create it.’

PROJECT BY [Cara Woodhouse Interiors](#) ➤



WORK OF ART

Choosing a dramatic material is one of the easiest ways to make a statement. 'Materiality is key - as cloakrooms tend to be smaller it's a great area to splash out on a fabulous feature stone or a specialist wall finish,' says designer Liz Ride. But the material does not stand alone in this interior: Liz made the most of a sculptural sink by placing a full height mirror alongside it, plus an adjacent marble shelf. 'Ideally, storage is concealed, towels and soap are accounted for, and areas for display or decoration are integrated.'

PROJECT BY Studio Tate

PHOTOGRAPH ANSON SMART