

Splash out in 2017

LISA JEPSON from Willbond Bathroom Centres looks at some of the hot bathroom trends for the coming year

THE bathroom is no longer a mere functional space, where we wash and ready ourselves for the day. We're spending far more time in there, with it being the most intimate and personal place in the home - a place to lock the door and get away from it all. So why not let your imagination run free and turn the space into a room of real style and beauty.

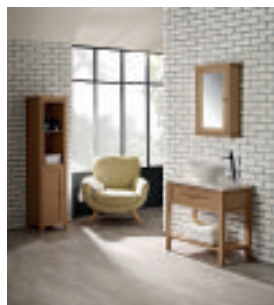
2017 is all about creating a really special place to relax in. The bathroom can still be practical of course but why not make it a 'real' living-space. This can be achieved with a statement bath or shower, an interesting vanity unit or console, or simply a great wallcovering or impressive light fixture.

COLOUR

The most on trend colour for the year will be grey which isn't as dreary as it sounds as it works beautifully with a variety of shades and hues.

This year's neutrals come in the form of a palette of winter-morning greys with moodier shades of inky indigo, denim blues and timeless black to create a tranquil, elegant or dynamic atmosphere to the bathroom.

The Scandinavian influence in design will continue to have a major impact on our homes and this works particularly well in the bathroom with its clean aesthetics. Predominately white but broken with natural finishes, textural accents and bold decorative elements.

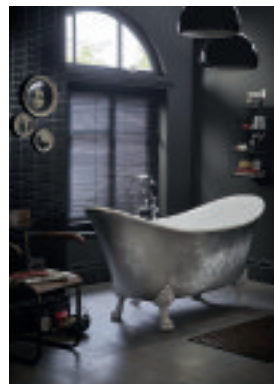


The Scandinavian bathroom is the epitome of a tranquil, refreshing and contemporary interior, looking clean and neat but also with a cosy inviting feel.

Statement baths

To indulge your fantasy for a bathing boudoir, take the plunge in 2017 and go for a freestanding bath. Whether you choose a cast iron, bateau or slipper style, you'll find them all blissfully deep with smooth soft curves for comfort.

Add texture to the bathroom with tactile rugs, ornate mirrors and for a real show-stopping statement hang



an oversized light fitting or chandelier over the bath or vanity console.

Alternatively, group two or three lights together for maximum impact.

SHOWERS

The bath has always taken centre stage in bathroom design, however, there is now a trend to replace the bath with a grand super-luxurious shower instead.

The new generation of wireless remote controls means the shower can be switched on and off from the bedroom at the touch of a button which, together with Bluetooth speakers operated via a tablet or phone, should satisfy the needs of today's gadget seekers.

FIXTURES



A hot trend for 2017 is black chrome or matt black fixtures, taps and showers and is the perfect style for all you minimalists out there.

This unusual alternative to chrome is a perfect finishing touch to any bathroom and can even be the centrepiece.

To incorporate this into your home make sure to keep things simple and use a neutral colour palette with touches of concrete and metal.

ACCESSORIES

Marble is returning to our bathrooms for 2017. It's easy to integrate into the design of any bathroom not only for walls and flooring but also for accessories and bathroom fittings.



Look out for marble tiles, vases to display plants or flowers or a simple tray to display your favourite bits and pieces.

Filling our homes with greenery and living plants is also going to be popular in 2017 so expect to see bathroom interiors influenced by nature.

This can include the use of large prints and even spectacular wallpaper.



TILES

Large-format tiles are a must for bathrooms and the larger they are, the grander the statement but no more bright, high gloss surfaces as tiles in 2017 will be matt, nude and neutral. We saw hexagonal tiles used on walls and floors in 2016 and we will see their popularity rise in 2017.



However wood effect tiles used on walls as well as floors will also continue to be fashionable, helping to create the Scandinavian look by creating warmth and character.

A key pattern for 2017 is herringbone.

It is no wonder the bathroom is starting to take centre stage in interior design and in people's homes.

These days with so much choice you can customise your bathroom according to your personal style, budget and needs. So don't be afraid to make your bathroom more of a living space in 2017 and create a room to be proud of.

For more creative ideas or practical advice, visit Willbond Bathroom showrooms at 265 Ilkeston Road, Nottingham, NG7 3FY. Call on 0115 841 8855 or at 66 London Road, Grantham, NG31 6HR. Call on 01476 512 360. www.willbond.co.uk