

INSIDER INSIGHT

TOP TIPS FOR PLANNING AN EN-SUITE BATHROOM

DESIGN Faced with ever-rising costs of moving house, many homeowners have opted instead to stay put and make the most of their space. An attic often converts well into a master bedroom suite, but presents a design challenge when it comes to finding sufficient headroom underneath the eaves. One option is to mount the showerhead flush into the ceiling, or choose a lower-height freestanding bath that can fit under the eaves. Go as far as to tape out elements on the floor to be sure of what will fit, recommends Irene Gunter of Gunter & Co Interiors.

COLOUR These days, all-white bathware and restrained chrome-coated brassware risk seeming too cold and clinical. Patterned wallpaper, decorative tiles and marble, bronze and brass finishes and coloured baths – yes, even in avocado – are all staging comebacks. En-suite spaces – either for a master bedroom or a guest bedroom – can handle this particularly well. ‘Steer away from a strictly monochrome palette and lean into colour combinations,’ says Kirsty Walker, senior product designer of Matki. ‘Striking matt-black framing can bring out rich green marble, while polished gold glistens against warm and rosy tones.’

BATHS IN BEDROOMS An idea that began in boutique hotels has crossed over into many domestic environments. Placing a freestanding bath in a bedroom tends to divide decorator opinion: some say it’s the best way to spend time catching up after a

long day at work; others say it should be restricted to holidays only. If you are considering installing a bath in your bedroom, ensure that you plan the layout very carefully. ‘Begin where people enter the room and plot out the different zones to see what you actually have space for,’ recommends James Lentaigne, creative director of Drummonds.

STORAGE An eternal bugbear for interior decorator Nina Campbell is a lack of storage space in a bathroom. ‘You can never have too much,’ she says. Seamless wall-mounted cabinets behind mirrors are a great way to sneak in some practical toiletry and cosmetic storage. And it’s a good idea to go for drawers in low-level vanity units. ‘They are much more practical than having to scramble around on the floor to delve into the back of a cupboard when you need to find something,’ says Katie Glaister and Henry Miller-Robinson of K&H Design. ■

“MAKE AN EN SUITE MORE PERSONAL BY UPPING THE DESIGN NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF CABINETRY, MIRRORS AND FITTINGS BUT ALSO WALLPAPER, RUGS, CHOICE OF TOWELS AND ART”

Barbara Sallick, co-founder of Waterworks and author of *The Perfect Bath* (£35, Rizzoli)

THE SOURCEBOOK: EN-SUITE BATHROOMS

WEST ONE BATHROOMS

With some of the smartest and most luxurious brands on its books, this family-run, London-based company has a wide range of innovative and contemporary bespoke bathroom schemes to choose from, westonebathrooms.com.

CP HART

Established by a south London builder in 1937, this design-led, high-end bathroom specialist, with an impressive showroom under the arches in Waterloo, is known for sourcing exclusive products from Europe, cphart.co.uk.

PERRIN & ROWE

Using traditional manufacturing techniques, with brassware cast in the Black Country and with sanitaryware made in Staffordshire, this British brand exports timeless style all over the world, perrinandrowe.co.uk.

THE WATER MONOPOLY

Specialist restorer of antique baths and sinks, with its own workshop in Queen’s Park, London. The company also has its own line of reproduction designs inspired by original and one-off pieces, thewatermonopoly.com.