

The London Magazine

Luxury lifestyle, prime property

THINK SPACE

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Flights of fancy

Anne Ashworth on London's most dramatic staircases

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INTERIORS

BOUTIQUE BASINS

Top to bottom: West One Bathrooms' waterproof wallpaper is ideal for creating a feature wall in a luxe guest bathroom; wall lighting saves space in this Belgravia WC designed by HÁM Interiors

guests feel at home. "I particularly enjoy introducing soft details into more typically practical rooms and I like to treat them just like any other room, with layers, textures and plenty of floral pattern and colour," she says. "In my bathroom I've covered a sweet vintage chair in our joyful Berry print for a touch of freshness and modernity."

Mandarin Stone's Louisa Morgan cites bold colour as a continuing bathroom trend (mandarinstone.com). She suggests dynamic combinations such as stix tiles in Teal with onyx-effect porcelain in Gemstone Green, or Loki Pink tiles with Chaplin Spiro floor tiles for a maximalist scheme. "While slick, polished designs will always have their place, there's nothing quite like a textured finish to bring depth to an interior. For flooring, natural stone and stone-effect porcelain tiles are ideal for adding character underfoot. These are ideal surfaces to pair with underfloor heating to create a hotel-like bathroom at home."

The guest bathroom presents an opportunity to depart style-wise from the rest of the home, notes René Dekker, founder of the eponymous firm (renedekker.co.uk). Personalising can go beyond monogramming to seek ideas from heritage. In a London guest WC, René's client from Mexico wanted to showcase 'Mexican glam.' "We used a vibrant, semi-bespoke design offered by Tektura, called Frida's Garden in the powder room, while the rest of the house is mostly pale, neutral shades."

Also encouraging a more colourful approach, Jamie Watkins, Divine Savages co-founder, advises even the use of a statement bold shower curtain can make a difference.

CHARACTERFUL CLOAKROOMS

Often the neglected area of the downstairs, the WC can be given a new lease of life. "A cloakroom is an Aladdin's cave of sorts. The baby of the house, but what it lacks in size it should make up for in character," says interior designer Augustine Atobatele (studio-augustine.com). "Add wallpaper with fun details, so that each time you or a guest is in the space, you discover something new. Mix up the tiles for playful sophistication."

Gail Taylor, co-founder and creative director of Th2 Designs (th2designs.co.uk), acknowledges the tricky nature of cloakroom design. For her own guest WC, Gail added wall-to-wall mirroring that enhances lighting, reflecting the garden where she drew inspiration to bring the outside in. For impact, Gail used Three Farm Green by Little Greene to lacquer a bespoke panel.

Also encouraging the use of bold colours, Kast Concrete specialises in vivacious basins and sinks (kastconcretebasins.com). Creative director Amy Bartlett cites Luna and Iva models, or pieces from its new Wave or Holm ranges for a memorable impression. For lighting Charlie Bowles, director of Original BTC (originalbtc.com), recommends wall lights as a space saver. **L**



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