

VOGUE AUSTRALIA LIVING

Create your SANCTUARY



FROM ALL THE ESSENTIAL FIXTURES AND FITTINGS TO THE LATEST BATHROOM STYLE AND DESIGN TRENDS, THIS IS YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO HELP YOU TURN YOUR DREAM BATHROOM INTO REALITY.

Guest-edited by Darren Palmer

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GUEST EDITOR'S LETTER



BATHROOM FITTINGS & FIXTURES, FROM LEFT

Urbane II Basin Mixer in Brushed Brass, \$389; Urbane II Hand Towel Rail in Brushed Brass, \$115; Urbane II Wall Faced Close Coupled Flush Button in Brushed Brass, \$39; Urbane II 200mm Round Rain Shower in Brushed Brass, \$389.

OPPOSITE PAGE Liano II 210mm Wall Basin/Bath Mixer with Round Cover Plates in Brushed Brass, \$389; Urbane II Semi Recessed Basin, \$499, all from Caroma, caroma.com.au

Bathrooms have diversified their role, especially over the last year, from the place to which you can retreat into your own private environment, escaping the hustle and bustle outside to also now creating an opportunity to gain some often needed inspiration within your own four walls.

Bathrooms lead the way when it comes to interior trends. They reflect personality and they're places to express function and form in perfect unity. And because a bathing zone is best when tailored to an owner's needs and desires, there is also not a one-size-fits-all approach to creating the perfect bathroom.

I've created two very different bathrooms for the flagship Caroma on Collins showroom in Sydney — also on display at Caroma on The Parade in Adelaide — and have been able to express the flexibility of my own aesthetic while also showcasing the high adaptability of the Caroma Vogue collection of five metallic finishes utilised by the Urbane II and Liano II ranges.

I hope that within the following trend forecast, you find something that feels like your perfect bathroom, whether you need to retreat or be inspired, and that when the time comes to express yourself through designing one of the most important rooms a home can have, you can create your perfect bathroom with Caroma, too.

DARREN PALMER

AUSTRALIAN MODERN

Darren Palmer's Australian Modern look references the country's unique natural environment. "That for me means sage greens, eucalypts, yellow waratahs... the colours you see on a paperbark tree," he says. The style also speaks to the exploration of rural destinations.

"It's about how sometimes you can happen upon a naturally beautiful spot or somewhere retro cool... it's about reinvigorating a sense of discovery about Australia." Brushed brass creates an elegant and softly diffused finish, which complements the neutral grey and blush tones. "It's a marriage made in heaven," says Palmer. "I love the play of retro material like breezeblocks. It's worth opening your eyes to the application of different materials to give you something new and exciting."

COVER PHOTOGRAPHER: NIGEL LOUGH



“Those perfect elongated, rounded-end rectangles play out over and over again throughout the space”

DARREN PALMER



GET THE LOOK



THE MODERNIST

“This one started for me as an expression of monochrome — high-contrast black and white,” says Palmer. “I wanted to play with the materials’ textures and the quality of light hitting them but keep the palette to a very pure black and a pure white.”

Palmer also wanted to express a play of geometry in the bathroom, such as the curved shower wall with the curve running behind the bath. “Those perfect elongated, rounded-end rectangles play out over and over again throughout the space,” he says. “Any edges are straight, and any curves are perfect radiuses. That plays out in the tapware, the walls, the bath and even the floor tiles.”

For Palmer, some of the bathroom styles featured lend themselves to tranquillity and others, like Feminine Chic, lend themselves to invigoration. “Both have a really strong and relevant place in homes right now,” he says of the two overarching themes. “The Modernist is invigorating because of its avant-garde nature — it’s visually exciting and it’s a little unexpected. Also like Feminine Chic, this look is still expressive of something refined through to its basic elements. Here, it’s the space’s stylised geometry and simplified colour palette that really strike you. It shows that you can have a lot of texture and a lot of play of light and shade, even if you’re looking at something as simple as black and white.”

BATHROOM FITTINGS & FIXTURES, FROM LEFT Urbane II Hand Shower in Gunmetal, \$499; Urbane II Bath/Shower Mixer with Round Cover Plate in Gunmetal, \$259; Urbane II 180mm Basin/Shower Mixer with Round Cover Plate in Gunmetal, \$195; Urbane II Toilet Roll Holder in Gunmetal, \$89; Urbane II Basin Dome Pop-Up Plug & Waste in Gunmetal, \$39. **OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT** Elvire Freestanding Bath 1700, \$4959; Urbane II Single Towel Rail in Gunmetal, \$155; Urbane II CleanFlush® Invisi Series II® Wall Faced Toilet Suite, \$1299; Urbane II Toilet Roll Holder in Gunmetal, \$89; Elvire 400 Inset Basins, \$1096 each; Urbane II 220mm Wall Basin/Bath Mixer with Round Cover Plate in Gunmetal, \$389 each; Urbane II Hand Towel Rail in Gunmetal, \$115, all from Caroma, caroma.com.au

GET THE LOOK



PARED-BACK BEAUTY

“An oldie but a goodie,” says Palmer of this practical and streamlined look. “This style is really about comfort and familiarity. That doesn’t mean it has to be dull; it can be exciting, and it can be new.”

The popularity of this approach is also due to Pared-back Beauty’s longevity. “It’s applicable across larger swathes of time, irrespective of trends,” he says. “You can put together materials and colours that have worked in the past — chrome, white, oak — and will continue to work into the future.”

It’s this longevity that Palmer admires and that keeps this trend pertinent. “Not everybody wants the latest and greatest,” he says. “Not everybody wants to express themselves by making bold statements. A lot of people make a statement through understatement.”

An understated palette is also ideal for the more risk-averse. “I’d recommend the blues or blue-greens like we have here, but really whatever takes your fancy will work with this simplified palette,” he says.

Or you can simplify even further and not have colour at all. “That white, chrome and oak look works beautifully,” says Palmer. You don’t have to push your limits with materiality, pattern or shape either. “It can be just a beautifully considered, well-delivered space with materials and inclusions that will stand the test of time,” he says.

BATHROOM FITTINGS & FIXTURES, FROM LEFT Liano II Tower Mixer in Chrome, \$319; Liano II Mid Tower Basin Mixer in Chrome, \$309; Liano II Basin Mixer in Chrome, \$299; Urbane II Robe Hook in Chrome, \$39. **OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT** Liano II Mid Tower Basin Mixer in Chrome, \$309; Elvire 400 Inset Basin, \$1096; Invisi Series II® Round Dual Flush Plate and Buttons in Chrome, \$212; Urbane II CleanFlush® Invisi Series II® Wall Faced Toilet Suite, \$1299; Urbane II Compact Twin Shower in Chrome, \$599; Urbane II Bathroom Shelf in Chrome, \$179; Liano II Bath/Shower Mixer with Round Cover Plate in Chrome, \$199, all from Caroma, caroma.com.au





GET THE LOOK



FEMININE CHIC

The keys to this style are expression and understanding of colour. “One of the earliest lessons I learned is that you can have two types of timber in the same space,” says Palmer. “The same is true of colour, of stone and terrazzo. A mistake a lot of people make is that they choose one accent colour and go berserk with that.”

The fix, Palmer says, is a layered palette, valuing tone and hue. “This is going to give you the capacity to play with a gamut of colours and materials as long as you can give each material a reference point and look for what ties things together, like the flecks of the terrazzo all relating to some of the colours used.”

Feminine Chic also highlights the distinction between colour saturation and intensity. “You can have a high-intensity colour that’s desaturated so you still get that punch without it being garish, and that’s one of the lovely things about this palette,” he says. “They’re not gelato colours. They’re intense colours that are pulled back in terms of saturation, so they’ve got a slightly greyed undertone to them.”

As for the trend’s relevance right now, Palmer explains: “Bathrooms are sanctuary spaces. And now, because people are spending so much more time in their homes, there’s an inherent need for them to seek respite and retreat within these spaces, with added touches of luxury and even a little glam. A bathroom can be a place to relax, refresh and reinvigorate you for your day ahead.”

BATHROOM FITTINGS & FIXTURES, FROM LEFT Liano II Basin Mixer in Brushed Brass, \$389; Liano II 175mm Wall Basin/Bath Mixer with Round Cover Plates in Brushed Brass, \$325; Urbane II Basin Dome Pop-Up Plug and Waste in Brushed Brass, \$39; 40mm Pop-Up Plug and Waste in Brushed Brass, \$33; Invisi Series II® Round Dual Flush Plate & Buttons in Brushed Brass, \$249. **OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT** Liano II 175mm Wall Basin/Bath Mixer with Round Cover Plates in Brushed Brass, \$325; Elvire 400 Inset Basins, \$1096 each; Urbane II Robe Hook in Brushed Brass, \$50; Urbane II Bathroom Shelf in Brushed Brass, \$229; Urbane II 500mm Ceiling Arm in Brushed Brass, \$169; Urbane II 200mm Round Rain Shower in Brushed Brass, \$389; Liano II Bath/Shower Mixer With Diverter with Rounded Cover Plate in Brushed Brass, \$269; Urbane II Hand Shower in Brushed Brass, \$499; all from Caroma, caroma.com.au

GET THE LOOK



NEW SCANDI

According to Palmer, this is a trend that has been adapted quite well to Australian living. “Rather than being traditional Scandi, with New Scandi, we’ve evolved and reinvigorated the trend in our own Australian way because of how it fits our lifestyle,” he says.

For Palmer, that shows in the playful layering of timber tones and a simple palette. “Something like a spotted gum, for example, has a pink base that plays well with the terracotta and nude colour palette and some of the other tones within this New Scandi look,” he says. “It aligns to an Australian aesthetic but also ties in beautifully with the soft pinks, blushes, tan leathers, brass and raw timber.”

And Aussies seem to like it. “This style has become a part of the coastal Australian vernacular — we do seem to see it a lot,” says Palmer. “But that’s because it does fit Australian lifestyles.” Further to this, he says, the trend merges function, tactility and utility, but with a bit of a rustic edge. “The fusion of all those facets is what makes it so adaptable to our lifestyle.”

Palmer puts this bathroom sanctuary firmly in the ‘tranquil spaces’ category. “It makes you feel like you’re connected to nature because you’re using natural materials,” he says. “It might be handmade tiles, or facets with tactility. Or you might play with leather or satin brass, for example.”

BATHROOM FITTINGS & FIXTURES, FROM LEFT Urbane II Basin Mixer in Brushed Nickel, \$389; Urbane II Hand Towel Rail in Brushed Nickel, \$115; Urbane II Robe Hook in Brushed Nickel, \$50; Urbane II 200mm Round Rain Shower in Brushed Nickel, \$389. **OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT** Urbane II 1600 Freestanding Bath, \$2378; Urbane II Freestanding Bath Filler in Brushed Nickel, \$1169; Urbane II Bath/Shower Mixer with Round Cover Plate in Brushed Nickel, \$259; Urbane II Bathroom Shelf in Brushed Nickel, \$229; Urbane II 500mm Ceiling Arm in Brushed Nickel, \$169; Urbane II 200mm Round Rain Shower in Brushed Nickel, \$389; Urbane II Semi Recessed Basins, \$499 each; Urbane II Basin Mixers in Brushed Nickel, \$389 each; Urbane II Hand Towel Rail in Brushed Nickel, \$115, all from Caroma, caroma.com.au





GET THE LOOK



THE MINIMALIST

“Minimalism is about paring back something to its very base level,” says Palmer. “So, if you’re talking about geometric shapes, they are perfect geometric shapes. If you’re talking about materials, they are very stylised materials. If you’re talking about a palette, it may be just a monochrome palette. And inclusions are at the bare minimum — they have impact and nothing else. Minimalism is about keeping everything refined to the point where it’s been distilled and distilled into its most basic, simple form.”

These days, a minimalist bathroom is a space where people might find order as a bit of relief to the chaos of the world outside. Palmer contends that the re-emergence of minimalism is inevitable. “Given that we’ve seen the 1930s, ’50s, ’70s, ’80s and ’90s all come around again in the last decade, the next thing to come back will be the 2000s’ minimalism,” he says. “It’s going to be the next swing of the pendulum.”

For Palmer, this comeback represents an exciting opportunity. “What I say about reinvigorating trends is that if there was once beauty within the trend, that beauty is retained; it just needs to be rediscovered then put through a contemporary lens,” he says. “That’s what I hope happens with minimalism through a 2021 lens — that we find ways to simplify materials, colours and shapes, but in a more interesting way than we did in 2000, when it was basically glossy white, stainless steel and colour-backed glass.”

BATHROOM FITTINGS & FIXTURES, FROM LEFT Urbane II Hand Towel Rail in Matte Black, \$98; Urbane II 200mm Square Rain Shower in Matte Black, \$329; Urbane II 220mm Wall Basin/Bath Mixer with Rectangular Cover Plate in Matte Black, \$329; Urbane II Bathroom Shelf in Matte Black, \$195. **OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM LEFT** Urbane II Bath/Shower Mixer with Square Cover Plate in Matte Black, \$219; Urbane II Robe Hook in Matte Black, \$43; Urbane II Freestanding Bath Filler in Matte Black, \$989; Liano 1675 Freestanding Bath, \$2308; Urbane II Inset Basin, \$429; Caroma Vogue 40mm Bottle Trap in Matte Black, \$259; Urbane II 220mm Wall Basin/Bath Mixer with Rectangular Cover Plate in Matte Black, \$329; Urbane II Rail Shower with 300mm Overhead in Matte Black, \$799; Urbane II Bathroom Shelf in Matte Black, \$195, all from Caroma, caroma.com.au



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