

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

Livingetc

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BEAUTIFUL SPACES

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COOKER HOODS

Design-led choices for this kitchen essential

3 ADD THE GLAM FACTOR

Family bathrooms can be glamorous too – not least because all children grow up, eventually. Harness the on-going trend for warm metals by adorning basins and baths, jewellery-style, with accessories and brassware in polished copper and rose gold. Glam style heroes to hone include Barbara Barry for Kallista, Marcel Wanders for Bonomi and Jaime Hayon for Bisazza Bagno. Do dial down the gaudy – modern glamour is an altogether more sophisticated affair. One solution is to dilute luxe fittings using raw finishes with an industrial edge – think polished concrete and burnished copper baths. If your children are still pint-sized, it may pay to keep investment pieces out of reach. Try dressing up off-the-peg fittings with an irresistibly glitzy chandelier (such as Masiero's Drylight range), for example.

Project details A feminine pink and grey palette with mirrored furniture brings subtle glamour to this spacious bathroom. For a similar roll-top, try the Torridge bath with a painted exterior, £3,570, from Drummonds. This is the Eames DSR chair by Vitra, £235, Heal's. →

'Lifting bathroom fittings off the floor is a well-established space-boosting trick that can make a family bathroom feel bigger and lighter'

Jane Gilchrist, director, Alternative Bathrooms





7 SUPERSIZE THE SPACE

Increasing a bathroom's footprint will do wonders for the morning rush hour. 'Many of our clients are now turning a spare bedroom into a spacious family bathroom, recognising that the benefits far outweigh the loss of unused guest accommodation,' says Drummond Shaw, chairman of Drummonds. Other space-boosting options include merging an adjacent box room, vacant landing area or redundant airing cupboard with the existing bathroom. Curiously enough, large bathrooms can be harder to plan than compact ones, where the options are conveniently limited. To avoid what interior designer Joanna Wood calls the 'intimidating ballroom effect', it's important to take a holistic approach to your layout. Experiment with angles – an offset bath is far easier to access behind for cleaning – or bring the bath into the middle and create a walk-through shower behind. Choosing smart fittings with suitably outsized proportions will also make a big difference, so don't be afraid to go large.

↑ **Project details** Large-scale fixtures, such as Drummonds' Tay bath, £3,570; and Double Crane vanity basin, £8,940, work perfectly with the grand proportions of this converted bedroom.

[FAMILY-FRIENDLY FLOORING]

Make sure the floor can stand the pace of a modern lifestyle

- * Look for flooring specifically designed for use in high-traffic areas such as a bathroom. Porcelain is especially tough, stain-resistant and easy to clean, and – unlike stone – doesn't need to be sealed after grouting.
- * Through-body porcelain, where the colour/design is the same all the way through the tile, is more hard-wearing than glazed porcelain, which can occasionally chip. Ceramic tiles designed for floors come a close second on the low-maintenance front.
- * Rubber, vinyl, lino and Marmoleum are great for family bathrooms. Warm underfoot, affordable and effortless, they also come in fresh, modern designs – try Harvey Maria for examples –

and often have a non-slip coating.

- * Wooden flooring can look great in bathrooms, but spills and splashes need to be quickly mopped up. It's far wiser to fake it with some of the convincing wood-look porcelain tiles now available. The latest launches (try Porcelanosa and Mandarin Stone) include textured surfaces, designed to emulate wood-grain, which boast built-in non-slip benefits.
- * Further reduce potential slip hazards by installing effective ventilation. Go beyond building regulation standards if you can – that will help stop steam settling on surfaces. Decent heating will also help floors dry faster and you'll never regret investing in underfloor heating.