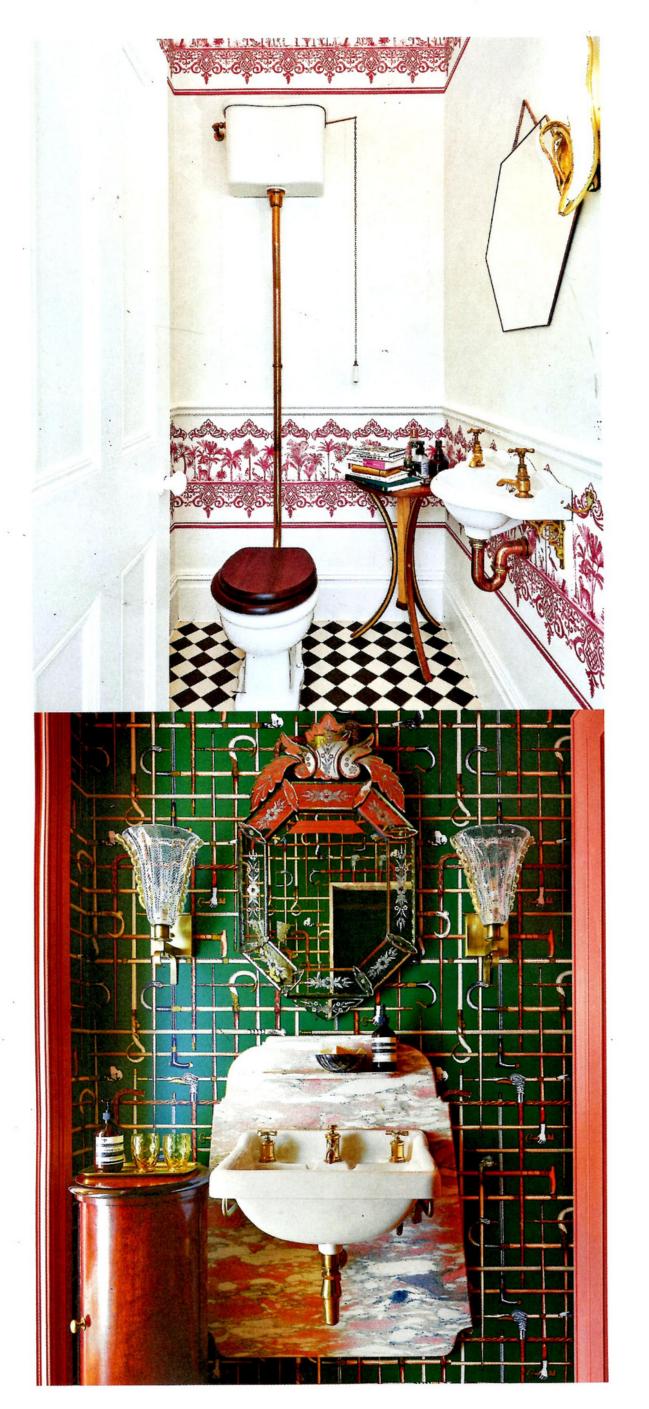


KITCHENS & BATHROOMS



3 BORDER LINE

'In cloakrooms, bold impactful wallpapers can be overpowering, making the room feel small and fussy. A border, however, offers the impact and personality wallpaper provides, without that drawback,' advises Chris Scott, director, Mascot Bespoke. 'A high border will draw attention to generous ceiling heights, amplifying a sense of space, while a border at dado rail level, around 90-100cm from the ground has a widening effect.' Marlborough cloakroom basin set, £762; cloakroom basin taps, £339; Comtesse cistern and pan, £1,068, Thomas Crapper. Rousseau border in Fuchsia on White, £96 a roll, Cole & Son. **Project** by Mascot Bespoke.

4 TAKE IT TO THE MAX

The only rule to decorating a powder room is there are no rules; be as brave and decadent as you dare. As transient spaces, there's little chance you'll have time to feel overwhelmed by bold decisions. Follow the lead of interior designer Martin Brudnizki, who has created a veritable feast for the senses in his own country home. Mixing lavish materials, playful print and ornamentation, this is a room guests will never forget. The Syre wall-mounted vanity **basin**, £1,224; The Bestwood X head 3-hole basin mixer taps in unlacquered brass, designed by Martin Brudnizki, £1,692, Drummonds. Project by Martin Brudnizki.

FEATURE AMELIA THORPE PHOTOGRAPHS (BRAZIL ASSOCIATE BARRY MURPHY; (DRUMMONDS) SIMON BROWN

MIRRORED SURFACES TAKE CENTRE STAGE

STYLISH AND PRACTICAL WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF MIRRORS

AT THE BASIN While an eye-level mirror above a basin is always a practical addition to a bathroom, it can be a decorative one, too, as a pretty frame or shape will draw the eye to the vanity area and highlight its role as a focal point of the room. The mirror needs to be well lit for applying make-up or shaving, generally with balanced lighting on both sides of the frame to cast an even light across the face, and large enough to see yourself well and to suit the proportions of the basin or vanity below. Louise Ashdown, head of design at West One Bathrooms, suggests ramping up the impact of a basin mirror. 'An oversized mirror can add drama, not just to the vanity area but to the whole bathroom, boosting the interest and sense of depth in the space,' she says.

MIRRORED STORAGE 'Opting for a mirrored cabinet above a vanity unit is an excellent storage solution, useful for keeping everyday bathroom items, containers and bottles out of sight and helping to keep the room clutter free,' notes James Lentaigne, creative director, Drummonds. The cabinet can be recessed into a niche for a streamlined look or wall hung – those designed with open shelving offer space for creating attractive displays of scent bottles and other decorative items. Some bathroom mirrors and mirrored cabinets come with additional useful features, including adjustable LED lighting, sensor lighting, built-in speakers, sockets and USB ports, plus demisting pads to ensure a steam-free mirror.

CLADDING 'Mirrors can enhance the illusion of height, depth and width in a room,' explains Laura Marino, creative director of Studio L, London, who used mirror cladding to cover the upper half of wall in a bathroom underneath the eaves in a listed home. Not only does the mirror make the bathroom appear larger, it also reflects natural light to make it feel much brighter.

WALL TO WALL A simple sheet of mirror, hung wall to wall above a vanity, is another practical solution for seeing your face as you get ready for the day, and a cost-effective one too. Elevate the design by mounting basin mixers or wall lights on to the surface of the mirror. 'I love the look of mounting lights on mirror as it creates a pretty glimmer in the reflection at night,' says Henriette von Stockhausen of VSP Interiors. 'I always make sure that the lights are on dimmers so you can adjust them to any mood you like, for instance, to create a soft glow while you're having a relaxing bath.'

ANTIQUED STYLE 'Using antiqued mirror softens what can sometimes be a clinical feel in bathrooms,' advises Dominic Schuster, head of Dominic Schuster, a specialist antiqued and gilded mirror studio. A large wall panel adds a decorative feature and Dominic recommends controlling the antiquing effect to just the perimeter. 'Then the centre of the mirror is still perfectly usable for grooming,' he explains.

SOURCEBOOK: BATHROOM MIRRORS

HIB

This company offers a range of steam-free mirrors, including the LED illuminated Platform mirror, from £574, with integrated toothbrush charger. hib.co.uk

BALINEUM

The Flora mirror, from £1,180, has a pretty, scalloped frame and comes in seven high-gloss hues from pastel blue to vibrant yellow. balineum.co.uk

KEUCO

The Royal Lumos mirror cabinet, from £1,906, has dimmable, touch sensor LED frame lighting, a built-in demister and a shaver socket, keuco.com

WATERWORKS

For an elegant, classic choice, try the Flyte wall-mounted rectangular mirror with glass shelf trimmed in your choice of finish, £804. waterworks.com

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