

The
ENGLISH
HOME

2023
DECORATING GUIDE

INTERIOR DESIGN

CREATING THE PERFECT ENGLISH HOME



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Considered position

The size and type of lighting and where it is sited is essential from a practical as well as an aesthetic point of view. It is generally advised to hang wall lights at around eye level to avoid glare from light bulbs, though this may need to be adjusted if ceilings are particularly high, and to avoid protruding wall lights in narrow spaces such as entrance halls. Pendant lights and chandeliers should be suspended high enough for a tall person to walk beneath them – although they can be hung lower over a dining table or kitchen island.

In the bathroom, fixing wall lights either side of a mirror at face height gives the most flattering light, while a statement chandelier is a dramatic option over a bath. As electrics and water are a dangerous mix, bathroom light fittings are regulated by zones (depending on how near they are to water) and given an Ingress Protection (IP) rating. This requires that only low-wattage, immersion-proof lights at IP67 can be used within baths and showers, IP65 fittings directly above baths or showers, IP44 fittings around baths, showers and sinks, and IP20+ fittings elsewhere in a bathroom.

ABOVE LEFT A manoeuvrable lamp head keeps task lighting practical. *Ledbury adjustable table lamp with Ribbed Glass shade, £405, Fritz Fryer*

ABOVE RIGHT Lighting within showers or baths must be low voltage. *Usk bath, from £4,710; Grand hand-shower and wall bracket, from £426, Drummonds*

RIGHT Concealed LED strip lighting works equally well within shelving and inside wardrobes. *Anthracite built-in dressing table, from £1,100 a linear metre, Neatsmith*





Colour

Strong colours and bold patterns make a huge impact in a large bathroom and can be a good choice in a smaller room, too. Simply choosing a lively colour to paint the walls (and perhaps ceiling) is the straightforward option, while including blocks of different, toning colours can be hugely rewarding. Consider other areas where colour and pattern can be added – perhaps in the form of towels, rugs or window treatments, or the sanitaryware itself. Many baths, for example, have the option to be coloured during manufacture or painted in the home.

Wall and floor tiles are, of course, often dominant features in a bathroom and, says Louisa Morgan, marketing director of Mandarin Stone, the boldest approach is to choose one patterned tile and use it on both floors and walls. “Alternatively, use patterned floor tiles and opt for a plain-coloured wall tile in a complementary shade,” she says. “For a more subtle approach, use patterned tiles just in feature areas such as in the shower or as a splashback.” There are other methods of creating interesting pattern, too, she points out: “Marble, or marble-effect porcelain tiles have their own patterns of veining and shade variation, or you could employ mosaics, chevrons or hexagon shapes, or interesting ways of laying brick-shaped tiles.”

ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS

On tile designs



“While there is plenty of choice, don’t be tempted to use multiple shades of patterned tiles in one space. Just one or two shades will feel far more timeless and sophisticated.”

Louisa Morgan, marketing director,
Mandarin Stone



TOP LEFT Here soft-hued tiles complement a bold colour scheme. Carnaby Mint ceramic wall tiles, £55.20 a square metre, Mandarin Stone

ABOVE This statement bathroom by interior designer Orla Read, in a four-bedroom London townhouse, features Series S hand-painted tiles by Balineum and Dalby showers in antique brass by Drummonds.

LEFT This ribbed bath in a soft rose-pink, ties in with gold finishes and shape of the basin. Casini bath by BC Designs, £3,850; Angelica basin, £849, The London Basin Company