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ENGLISH HOME

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Layers of comfort

Considering how the bathroom will be used will dictate how else it is furnished. "The bathroom is one of my favourite rooms in the house," Mahon says. "It's a place for bathing, reading and slowing down. I like to treat it just like my other rooms, with layers and textures and plenty of soft details. Bathrooms can traditionally be sterile and echoey. I like mine to feel mellow, gentle and comfortable."

Adding curtains or blinds will immediately soften and add warmth and tactile texture. Man-made fibres will be more resilient to the damp environment, but a lightweight linen or cotton that can be washed regularly will also be a good choice. A pretty voile can add a romantic note as well as privacy.

Mahon notes softness can be added underfoot with a rug, and she has also lined cupboards with a cotton print. She adds: "If you have the space, soft furnishings are everything in a bathroom for the ultimate in peace and luxury. I covered a sweet little vintage chair in our joyful Berry print for an extra touch of freshness and modernity." Consider other furnishings such as a handy table or repurposing an antique chest of drawers as a vanity. Interesting details rather than smooth clean lines will enrich the room and make it feel like a true part of the home. ▶

ABOVE LEFT Layer eclectic detail, colour, pattern and textures for an inviting look. Wallpaper, Bronte Bird Tree, Light Green, £69 a roll, Bobbi Beck

ABOVE RIGHT A bold tile can be as effective as a wallpaper to introduce pattern. SoAdmiral Scallop, £2.90 a tile, Soho Home x Marlborough Tiles

RIGHT Make a splash in a small space with interesting details. Leawood Lever Chrome three-hole basin mixer, from £1,536, Drummonds

