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Bathroom predictions for 2009

Residential bathroom style will resemble those of high-end hotels. In basins, we'll see a move away from the minimalist approach towards a more sculptured shape and new natural geometrics. Expect to see patterned tiles depicting baroque wallpaper styles. Look out for limes and oranges plus the usual blacks, whites and reds.

Planning essentials A typical bathroom renovation can range from \$1000 to \$60,000 and the cost will depend on scale, the quality of the products selected and changes to the plumbing set up.

Tips for small spaces A clever design means you don't have to compromise on style. There are terrific products on the market at the moment, such as the White Stone Salt vanity unit with generous counter space and deep drawers for storage. The trick is to look for products that are versatile – focus on products that complement the shapes of the room, such as the Sonia 'PO4' corner wall basin and the Posh 'Solus' corner bath. Wall-hung products, such as pans, basins and cabinets, take up less room than larger units with a sleek design.

Hot picks Energy-harvesting devices that convert ambient energy into electrical energy – converting the random motion of water or human motion into energy, such as the Rheem solar hot water unit and Reece's Mainsflush sensor touch pads.

Sustainable steps I'm really excited about the new showers with a water deposit/storage, where the water flush quantity is being rapidly reduced, and also thermostats that electronically control water temperature, such as the Everhot Temperature Controller.

My dream bathroom ... is one that is a natural extension of our habitat, with lots of glass, and one packed with lots of integrated high-end technology, such as the Tahí Thermostatic mixer to suit the Tahí rail shower with Satinjet technology.

Budget basics I would invest in advanced shower solutions – to me, this immediately upgrades your quality of life. Then just add simple objects and a controlled light source and some music to the room to add atmosphere. Visit Reece at www.reece.com.au.

BATHS & SHOWERS

LUXURIOUS RAIN SHOWERS AND FREESTANDING BATHS CONJURE UP THE MOOD OF SANCTUARY-STYLE LIVING

1. Tahí Satinjet rail shower, \$749, from Reece.
2. Drop shower, \$250, and holding arm, \$100, both from Paco Jaansón.
3. Dornbracht 'RainSky M Balance Module' shower, \$23,845, from Cass Brothers.
4. WaterTile rain shower panel with adjustable sprayheads, \$1200, from Kohler.
5. Grohe 'Rainshower' showerhead with 300mm arm, \$1218, from Domayne.
6. Merge acrylic freestanding bath, \$1318 for 1750mm x 800mm x 600mm, from Bunnings Warehouse.
7. Agape 'Pear Cut' bath by Patricia Urquiola, \$19,178, from Artedomus.
8. Duravit 'Blue Moon' freestanding bathtub with wooden inlay and acrylic surround, \$22,725, from Mecó Australia. ADDRESS BOOK page 42.

