



**BATHROOM COMPONENTS & DESIGN FEATURE**

# Organic forms reign over minimalism

**Stephanie McDonald** reports on three words dominating new bathroom trends – colour, materials and shapes.

Bathrooms are not typically considered the most exciting area of a home. But as consumers look to spend time creating a resort-like feel in their home instead of travelling to a resort, the bathroom has emerged as a room in the house in which creativity can be let out. This has largely manifested in the use of colour and interesting and unique shapes.

Despite the economic downturn, the trend towards environmentally friendly design and products is still growing. This has had a flow on effect to the materials being used, for example, Paco Jaanson's Drop showerhead, which is made from silicone, has no toxicity and low chemical reactivity.

The sustainability movement has also focused on saving water. Damien Cool, general manager – marketing at Argent Australia, says manufacturers have responded to this through simple measures such as creating basins which hold less water and therefore reduce excess water consumption.

While white and chrome will remain consumer and designer favourites, Ari Zorlu, director at Paco Jaanson, says



Paco Jaanson's Kong basin.

colour trends are leaning towards pastels in basins and bathroom accessories. "We are seeing a trend toward introducing a 'splash of colour' to vamp things up a little, whether that be in accessories or a feature tap, basin, etc."

This move towards colour is a step away from the monochromatic colours of minimalism. But at Villeroy & Boch, black still has a place in the bathroom as a secondary and contrasting colour for basins and even toilets. "The black and white monochromatic look is particularly popular and is especially evident in tiles and tapware," Cool says.

Villeroy & Boch's Memento Black comes in a rectangular shape in a glossy black finish in the sizes 1,200 mm x 470 mm; 800 mm x 470 mm; 500 mm x 420 mm; and 600 mm x 420 mm. More colour is also being thrown into the bathroom with bright walls, such as red, orange and green tiles, but Cool concedes this could just be a short-term theme. Paco Jaanson has also introduced elements of black into its products with

the Antonio Miro bathroom concept, comprising a washbasin, drawers, shelving and mirrors.

Different shapes have also been introduced into the bathroom, namely through uniquely shaped basins to give the room a twist. Paco Jaanson's Urban range includes the Helix bench mount basin, which has an asymmetrical curl towards the tap and allows for wall or bench mounted tapware. Meanwhile, the Piroga basin looks like a 3D leaf with thin and varying edges. All the counter top basins also incorporate water efficiency with a shallow design.

In another departure from the minimalist theme, the sharp, strong lines of that trend are being softened into a more organic feel. Royston Wilson, designer at Caroma, says the company had a strong minimalistic style which has now softened out. In the long-term, Wilson sees a blending of the minimalist style and the Rococo Revival – glitz and glamour – into a trend called the New Romantic. "This basically means softer

**Jefa Greenaway's design of the Kew bathroom.**





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## BASINS

# How to make a bathroom urban

The range of Urban basins from Paco Jaanson has been created by a number of designers with practical industry experience.

Made in Italy, Urban counter basins are easy to clean and manoeuvre due to their shallow design. The collection consists of seven pieces, including the Piroga Basin, Ca Doro Basin, Catita Basin, Pitagora Basin, Mini Pitagora Basin, Cata Basin and Helix Basin.

The Piroga Basin sits like a leaf on a bench top with thin edges. Shaped like a triangle with soft, rounded edges, the Ca Dora Basin features a small platform for the tapware of choice. The Catita Basin is a classic style within the Urban Basins range and has a shallow rectangular shape.

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