



bathrooms special report

Chill-out sessions

A focus on elegant design and relaxation is turning bathrooms into living spaces in their own right, writes **Susan Redman**.

Bathroom envy is alive and well across the Australian urban landscape as householders transform their boxy bathrooms into resort-style private spas, complete with the latest high-tech gadgetry, energy and water-saving sensibilities and drop-dead gorgeous designs.

No longer the smallest rooms in the house nor, indeed, considered a mere service area, bathrooms are the ideal place in the home to unwind, relax and rejuvenate.

This trend is reflected in the fittings, fixtures and decorations slated to appear this year and beyond. Some of these are appealingly radical, such as black basins, toilets and tapware, music and mood lighting in showers and a strong trend in the bigger bathroom to separate the toilet and expand the space to include living areas.

Perhaps the very concept of bathrooms will become obsolete as notions of parlours and day spas gain popularity.





26 Room with a view

It seems many Australians are now designing their bathrooms around large open windows that provide a beautiful view, whether it be out to the garden, over a pool or out to the countryside or city skyline. The bathroom is now being used to extend the living areas in the home and this trend looks as though it is here to stay. **Villeroy & Boch Aveo washbasin, from \$999, 1300 364 748, www.villeroy-boch.com, www.argentaust.com.au.**



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Circles, triangles and squares have no place in the conceptual design of this collection. Using flowing water as inspiration, Japanese architect Toyo Ito has created a new "organic" range for Paco Jaanson. The basin mixer is a twisting, looping form that arches over the basin as gracefully as a bird, while the lever is an elegant curve that rests like a loose ribbon above the spout and is placed on a gently curvaceous basin. **Toyo Ito from Paco Jaanson 1150mm white basin, \$4490, Toyo Ito basin mixer, \$799, 1800 006 260, pacojaanson.com.au.**