



Coastal retreat

Natural materials in the bathroom reflect our desire to get back to basics and also a renewed appreciation for the beauty of nature. This style is a reaction to sleek, utilitarian chrome and clinical, square, white bathware and accessories. Plus, the colours of stone, wood, marble and metal are soothing and complementary. In wall and floor treatments, earthy marble and pebble mosaic, textured tile and grained wood-laminate cabinetry is gaining ground. And because natural materials complement one another, you can use different materials for the vanity benchtops and others for wall tiles.

Nature-inspired organic shapes are turning up in sinks and tap designs but also in toilets, whose shapes are rounded, some even completely egg-like. There are also small oval urinals appearing on the domestic market.

Natural lighting is a key element in these bathrooms, with many houses featuring floor-to-ceiling windows to take advantage of a nice view or leafy aspect. In a dark bathroom, draw light into the room through tubular skylights or simulate natural light with LED illumination.

Eco-friendly textiles are the go here, too. Bamboo towels have an incredibly soft handle; fine, lustrous basketry is being used for laundry hampers and storage bins; and natural sponges and loofahs make for practical decorations.



1. Centro Duo Oval free-standing bath by Kaldewei, \$5600, Cass Brothers, 9569 5555, cassbrothers.com.au.
 2. Mesh sandstone mosaic tile, \$60 a sq m, Beaumont Tiles, 9629 8666, www.beaumont-tiles.com.au. 3. India Hicks Casuarina scented candle, \$49.95, Crabtree & Evelyn, 1800 2722 8733, www.crabtree-evelyn.com.au. 4. Rattan Island bin, \$69, Citta Design, 1800 256 723, cittadesign.com. 5. Riflessi Soffio washbasin, \$2750, Paco Jaanson, 1800 006 260, pacojaanson.com.au. 6. Bamboo bath towels, \$69 each, Todae, 1300 138 483, todae.com.au. 7. Happy D free-standing bath, \$8719, Cass Brothers, 9569 5555, cassbrothers.com.au.