



FRESHEN UP Kaldewei Vaio duo freestanding surround bath, \$2420, Teknobili Plus 400mm vertical shower arm, \$299, Teknobili Plus 220mm shower head, \$999, Ideal Standard Acacia wall pan, \$590, Hideaway Cistern with buttons, from \$715, Reece 1800 035 566, www.reece.com.au

Give your bathroom some extra attention with the latest and greatest in wet room wares, writes Sarah Daly

Great design doesn't have to stop at the threshold of your bathroom, and a space that was once considered only for its utility is going up in the style stakes.

"In terms of the product people have pointed out as the most important in their bathroom, showers are definitely number one," says Reece bathroom marketing manager Belinda Geels. "People want a large and open shower of top quality that delivers a powerful spray and looks fantastic.

"A lot of people are opting for a twin shower with a large overhead and then the mobility of a hand shower; it's great for couples who may like a different water flow."

One of the major issues associated with showerheads is flow rate and the leading manufacturers have invested a lot of money into research and technology to ensure a high-pressure stream without water wastage. Although the shower has been identified as

the most important space in the bathroom, Belinda says in the past 12 months there has been a 36 per cent growth in the popularity of free-standing baths.

"Baths are becoming the centrepiece in many bathrooms and then people are selecting products around the bath. At the moment organic shapes and really well-tapered forms are popular," Belinda says.

Now made from acrylic (as opposed to pressed steel), baths can be moulded into an array of shapes without any unsightly seams; they're also cheaper to manufacture and lighter to transport, so more affordable for the customer. Also taking a more organic form is the toilet and Belinda says: "Nearly everyone that comes in chooses a soft-close suite with a complete back to wall finish, which basically conceals all the pipe work, making the space easy to clean around.

"A trend that is huge in Europe and is



beginning to catch on here is in-wall or hidden cisterns with a back-to-wall pan; they look fantastic and they're great for saving space because they have a smaller projection."

The organic shape of the toilet and bath is also beginning to be explored in tapware but Belinda says a square shape is continuing to dominate in tapware and vanity basins.

"Square semi-inset basins coupled with a square mixer and accessories (the geometric look) is a look that is still quite mainstream. Double vanities are also popular because they make getting ready in the morning so much easier if you're sharing the space," she says. Reece 1800 035 566. www.reece.com.au



RELAXING SOAK

The humble tub has been anything but lately, with this bathroom standard transformed from a rectangle in the corner of the room into a piece of sculpture.

The standalone bath has been popular, and neat corner models have been replaced by voluptuous counterparts taking centre stage. The latest from Showerline is a gorgeous bath collection designed with comfort and relaxation in mind.

"Alexander is the ultimate cocoon-style bath's wider at one end to allow room for your shoulders and slim at the other to snugly envelop your feet," says Showerline's product development manager, Stephen Royce. "With smooth, round sides, Ergonomically designed, Alexander provides a centrepiece that is as much a work of art as it is a comforting cradle."

Alexander bath, 600mm depth x 1800mm length x 860mm width, from \$1600, Showerline www.showerline.com.au



TRY this

FRESH TAKE

French darling of design, Ito Morabito (aka Ora-Ito) has had success with Louis Vuitton and Adidas and has now turned his attention to the bathroom.

His altro + supergrif collection includes basin mixers, showerheads, wall-mounted basins and diverters that streamline your bathroom decor.

Single-lever wall-mounted basin mixer, \$520, pre-assembled thermostatic chrome shower panel, \$5850, Paco Jaanson
1800 006 260, www.pacojaanson.com.au




TAKE CARE

Designed to make life easier regardless of age, illness or disability, the new Caroma Dorf range of Care products offer superior functionality without compromising on style.

Caroma Dorf Care category manager Phoebe Bourke says the basin range has been designed to assist people with special needs by ensuring adequate space under the basin for wheelchair access and an easy reach to the tap lever.

The Care range comes in semi-recessed and wall-basin options and includes toilet suites, rail showers and taps and mixers. *Caroma Cube Extension wall basin, \$449, Nordic Care basin mixer, \$473, Caroma Dorf 131 416. www.caroma.com.au*



ZONE OUT

If your bathroom is your sanctuary, you can help to further the luxury spa experience with a bath spout. Designed to be installed in either the ceiling above the bath or in the wall, the single, circular opening lets water fall into the bath in a splash-free stream.

Kohler Laminar Flow bath spout, from \$1099, Tradelink 1800 228 476, www.tradelink.com.au