



{bathrooms} transform

trend report: sink sensations

Update your bathroom with a next-generation basin that fuses function with flair

WORDS ANNA McCLELLAND

AS BATHROOMS continue to evolve from purely utilitarian spaces to luxurious pamper zones, their fixtures are following suit. With lavish powder rooms, sleek shower spaces and increasingly elegant ensuites, the not-so-humble basin is under the spotlight. "Basins have developed from a solely functional item to a design icon," explains Dr Nicholas Matten of Hansgrohe Oceania. Six key trends are shaping the latest looks, with new basin styles to suit every bathroom. >



Mimic these subtle curves with the Omvivo 'KL' above-counter basin, \$496, Reece. Stockists, page 246





"Gentle shapes inspired by nature remain a strong focus" - Belinda Geels, Reece

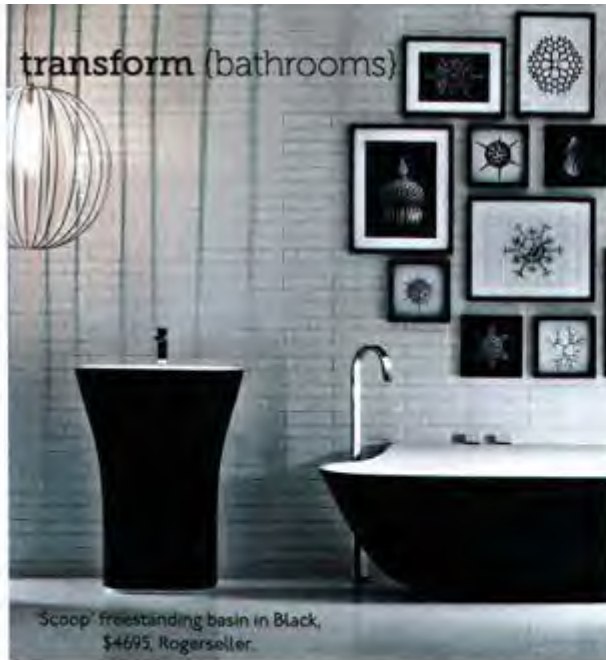


trend 2: slimline

"Thin is in. Slimline shapes are currently on trend, offering form without bulk," says Belinda Geels of Reece. From pressed steel to thinly sliced stone, skinny minny basins bring refined elegance to the bathroom. The trend is enhanced by new technologies and manufacturing methods that facilitate the production of thinner profiles. "At [renowned global trade fair] ISH, Laufen revealed a phenomenal material called SaphirKeramik, a new ceramic with greater flexural strength than traditional ceramic, creating exciting opportunities for basins with thinner profiles," reports Belinda. "Thanks to its potential to create thinner-bodied products, it uses less material and therefore creates less waste."







trend 4: bold colours & materials

If the idea of coloured fittings conjures visions of the over-the-top eighties, think again. The newest hot hues for basins are vibrant statement-makers. "Basin materials have taken on a really new dimension in the last five years – for a long time they only came in white and they were all ceramic," says Darren Genner of Minosa. Now, choices range from dramatic black to sunny yellow and every colour in between. Colour aside, polished stone, metals and spun-glass offer a more subtle – yet equally striking – take on the trend.



shopping list



THINGS TO CONSIDER Changing your basin can be an easy update, provided you retain your bathroom's original plumbing and tap configuration. "Depending on whether you're using existing tapware or purchasing new, there may be limitations as to the type of basin that will fit your space," says Belinda Geels of Reece. "Take height and reach measurements of all taps to ensure they fit with your basin and the space."

trend 5: above the counter

Inspired by ancient Chinese wash bowls, vessel-style sinks offer a new look with an old-world feel. "The popularity of above-counter basins, standing proudly with high-rise mixers, continues to grow in the Australian market," says Dr Nicholas Matten of Hansgrohe Oceania. Bowls are available in all shapes, colours, patterns and materials, and deliver real wow factor, especially in a powder room. >



shopping list





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'ScoopED' washbasin,
from \$1650, Minosa.



Falper 'Shape Evo'
washbasin with
integrated cabinet,
from \$3989,
Rogerseller.

trend 6: integration

Basins that merge fluidly with the vanity are also hitting their straps. "Integration - where the surface of the bowl and the bench are one - is one of the strongest trends I'm seeing," says Darren Genner of Minosa. "At a recent global trade fair, we saw basins merge with baths to create impressive, completely integrated pieces, as well as moulded basins that blend seamlessly with furniture and even walls," adds Belinda Geels of Reece. If space is a concern, a small wall-mounted basin with built-in vanity and storage shelf is a trendsetting solution.

shopping list



'Crest' basin,
from \$1995, Apaiser.
Stockists, page 246

'B4' Australian-made
vanity, from \$3200, Formed.

Laufen 'Palomba' counter/
wall basin, \$1337, Reece.

3 EXPERT TIPS FOR CHOOSING A BASIN

1. "Evaluate how you use it: wash planes won't work if you like to fill the basin with water," says Darren.
2. "Measure every possible distance and surface in the bathroom to avoid any unforeseen errors," says Belinda. "Be sure to allow adequate room for doors to swing."
3. "Choose long-established manufacturers who offer good warranties, so if you do have queries you can be confident that they'll still be around in years to come," suggests Dr Michaela Hatten of Homography Design. **hb**