



# SPLASH OUT ON ELEGANCE

## NEW DESIGNS ADD LUXURY

**Janita Singh**

FREESTANDING baths have made a comeback, adding a touch of luxury to bathrooms.

It is the focal feature of today's mostly open-plan bathrooms, designer Ari Zorlu says.

Zorlu, of Paco Jaanson fame, says he loves freestanding baths because they not only save space, they turn an ordinary bathroom into a retreat. He says people feel as if they're enjoying a soak in a high-end resort.

"Whether streamlined and modern or traditionally elegant, freestanding baths add warmth and a sense of spa-like relaxation ... imagine a smooth porcelain bath tub that extends into your living space," he says.

Zorlu says updated designs have sparked the renewed interest in freestanding baths.

"Many trends have come and

gone and returned. Originally, the average home would be equipped with a heavy, cast-iron bath, which was commonly freestanding with iconic claw feet," he says.

"From this it progressed to the cast-iron drop in tub. As a result of pricing and weight, we saw the shift to the acrylic bath.

"In more recent times the manufacturing of baths returned to steel enamelled production, making it much lighter and durable."

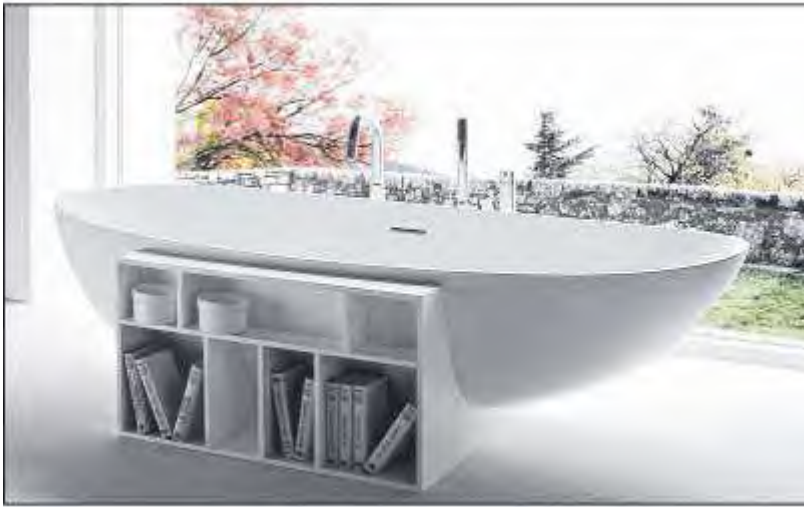
Today it's all about simple elegance and practicality.

Zorlu recently updated his bathroom with a bath from his own collection, the Rexa Unico Egg Bath which features storage compartments.

"We want baths to counteract the chaos of everyday life - where we can relax," he says.

Call 1800 006 260 or visit  
[pacojaanson.com.au](http://pacojaanson.com.au)





**Rexa Design Unico egg bath with storage, \$8400 from Paco Jaanson; below, Victorian-era elegance from Victoria + Albert, \$3000; vandabaths.com/aus.**



## BUYING TIPS

■ When choosing freestanding baths, pay attention to bathroom layout. A freestanding bath is a centrepiece so it needs to be placed either under a window where you can lie back, relax and gaze at the view or placed in the centre of the room with all other fixtures and fittings around it.

■ The shape and size of your bathroom will determine what you can choose. Don't compromise floor space - you don't want your bathroom to feel too cluttered.

■ Ensure the bath blends well with other fixtures and fittings - you don't want it standing out like a sore thumb.

■ When it comes to selecting tapware, the options are huge. The most popular option is floor-mounted tapware to complement the look of a freestanding bathtub. Also available are wall-mounted taps and those that you can mount directly on the bath.

■ Whatever your choice, make sure the floor is adequately supported. If in doubt, shop around and talk to a few designers about what works.



**Ari Zorlu, owner of Paco Jaanson.**