



BATHROOM INSPIRATION

Q&A WITH DESIGNER JENEFER MACLEOD

Words Patrick Tadros

Bathrooms are an important aspect of the home and are defined by its owners. For Australian designer Jenefer Macleod, this Brighton East installation is considered a favourite. By undertaking a large renovation, Jenefer incorporated an elegant bathroom that features a modern style, with elements taken from the rest of the home



Where did your motivation to create this bathroom come from?

Jenefer: The main source of inspiration for all of our projects initially comes from meeting with our clients at their home. Upon meeting the Brighton East client, we immediately got the sense that they required an elegant, high-class style that fitted both their lifestyle and the location of the property. This set the main theme for the design. Inspiration for some of the other design elements were drawn from a recent research trip to the Eurocucina trade fair in Milan which showcases the latest trends from Europe in kitchens, bathrooms and furniture.

What are your top three tips for designing a beautiful bathroom, such as the one featured?

Jenefer: Always start by thinking about what you require from the space in terms of both bathroom fittings and storage. This will help to ensure that the finished bathroom is a functional, as well as beautiful space! Tip two is to think about how the design of the bathroom will relate to the rest of your home (or at the very least, the space adjacent to it). It's important to include some elements that will create a continuity and flow of style throughout your home. Tip three, light within a bathroom is so important. Even if you are not lucky enough to have lots of natural light in the bathroom, you can still achieve a beautifully light space. Always ensure the mirror area is evenly lit and consider feature lighting to add interest.

What are the distinguishing design features in your chosen bathroom and why?

Jenefer: The timber-look tiles are one of the main features of the ensuite and were chosen to create a relaxed, warm and natural feel, without impacting on the formality of the space. One of the other key features is the custom-designed minimalist vanity unit. To keep the vanity look as minimal as possible, push-to-open drawers were used instead of handles, while differing levels allowed us to define different zones within the vanity unit. The Carrara marble benchtop and splashback finishes off the look and helps to create that classic, elegant style.

This bathroom looks like it has a mix of styles. Can you please share with our readers what style/s are shown?

Jenefer: By blending both the modern style that the client preferred with the period ambience of the home, we have created an ensuite with a concept similar to the Hamptons style so often seen in Long Island, New York. This style often incorporates elements such as plantation shutters, soft colours and includes a balance of classic and contemporary pieces.

What is your favourite element of this bathroom, and why?

Jenefer: I love that we were able to re-use a chandelier which the client had removed from another area in the home prior to the renovation. It creates a special feature over the freestanding bath, and it's always nice to be able to keep an element of the existing home within the newly renovated space.

"The first challenge was designing the small space to include the client's must-have free-standing bath. Then, re-using a gorgeous original chandelier; we added timber-look tiles and included Carrara marble benchtops."

Please explain your choice of colours.

Jenefer: Our client wanted a relaxed feel within the ensuite space and didn't want to go for anything too bold. The grey of the timber tiles tied in beautifully with the Carrara marble benchtop as well as the proposed colour scheme for other parts of the home. This colour scheme also ensured a neutral backdrop to allow the client to hang one of their many stunning artworks in the future.

One characteristic feature that stands out is the use of floorboards on the wall. Where did this creative concept come from?

Jenefer: A large area of feature tiling makes for a really great look and we have used this concept in many of our bathroom designs. We had also previously been inspired by timber flooring showrooms that occasionally showcase their timber products on vertical surfaces.

For more inspirational ideas, get a free copy of Jenefer's eBook through her website eatbathelive.com.au