

# Designing with Bathrooms in Mind

By Katrina Smith

Designing a bathroom can take a bit of time. The fittings must not only gel together, but they must also be practical. There is no point having a beautiful sink and bath if there isn't the room to use the toilet.

## About Katrina

**Katrina Smith is the owner of True Colours Interiors, an interior design company based in West Sussex, serving the Sussex and Surrey area. Katrina has a real passion for interior design and ensures this passion is brought to the project she undertakes.**

"True Colours Interiors has been trading for over 7 years now" explains Katrina "but we only really got involved with kitchen design around 3 years ago when a long standing client begged me to design her kitchen. Since then we have designed kitchens for modern houses, apartments and even listed buildings. It is challenging but very rewarding".

Katrina runs her company from a studio in her garden, and believes that her success has come from ensuring she uses only reliable, local trades people that she would be happy to have in her own home.

"I am always being told how wonderful Adam was, or Mark or Jenny – they are all part of an expert team".

**For more information about Katrina and True Colours Interiors call 01403 263509 or look at [www.truecoloursinteriors.co.uk](http://www.truecoloursinteriors.co.uk)**



**T**o get started simply draw out your room to scale, using graph paper. Include on your drawing existing electrical points and exterior plumbing – remember it can be costly and difficult to move soil pipes.

Once you have your drawing cut out templates of the items to be fitted – ie. bath, sink, shower, toilet etc.

You can now move them around your drawing to best determine the layout of your new bathroom.

If you are tight on space consider re-hanging the door on the opposite axis if this will assist you in achieving your dream. You could also consider sliding doors or bifold doors.

Whatever the style or size of your bathroom you can have the bathroom of your dreams.

I recently worked on a very small bathroom in a Grade II listed cottage, and even with oak beams all over the room we were able to add an amazing walk in modern shower, as well as a Victorian bath, sink and toilet.

### **Practicality vs Style**

If you have a good size bathroom and have a family, then perhaps two sinks will work well for you, with a large bath or walk in shower. If the room can take both, then brilliant.



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A great way to add style is to be daring in your choice of sink. I love the glass basins, which come in so many beautiful colours from lime green to bright red – a real WOW for any bathroom, and remember you do not have to buy a 3-piece set, you can buy the sink, toilet and bath separately. But do remember to keep the style similar.

Wall and floor finishes need careful consideration. Ceramic tiles offer a versatile and practical finish to any bathroom, and can be used on both the floor and walls. However some of the glazed products can be slippery underfoot when wet, so take care when choosing the right product for you and your family. If you are painting the walls then look at emulsions specifically designed with the bathroom in mind. I would stay clear of carpet in the bathroom, as once wet they can smell damp and may eventually rot.

### It's Just an Illusion

Very often the bathroom is the smallest room in the house, but you can still create the illusion of space.

Firstly keep the floor clutter free – go for wall mounted fittings.

Mirrors used cleverly reflect light as well as giving the illusion of space.

Give the illusion of space by using whites or pale colours. You can give the room a lift by adding a contrasting colour in the towels and accessories. At this point also think about lighting – nowadays you don't just have to have one single pendant light. Look at task lighting above mirrors, and perhaps lighting at floor level. Take a look at spots that mimic natural daylight.

Instead of a radiators opt for a wall mounted heated towel rail.

If the space really is small why not use a corner sink.

To stream line the entire look position all the fittings along one wall.

How you choose to dress the bathroom window is important. Roman blinds are unfussy and work well in bathrooms. Roller blinds, metal venetians and wooden blinds are also a good choice and very practical. You can wipe down these type of blinds with a damp cloth, keeping everything clean.

### Storage and more Storage

And as always, good storage is the key to staying clutter free. Most bathrooms seem to accumulate clutter, from lotions and potions to hair gels, shampoos, toothpastes, bathroom cleaners, toilet rolls and much, much more. The cleaning liquids can all be hidden away under the sink in a vanity unit.

Toilet rolls need not be hidden they can be placed in a wicker basket and kept on display. Glass shelving in the bathroom looks good, and because you can see through the glass will give the illusion of space.

Put your lotions into decorative glass perfume bottles and they will add style as well as serving a purpose. Recessed shelves can look very effective, and can house all manner of items. Look at custom made fitted units for your bathroom. These units make maximum use of available space and give the room a streamlined look.



### Focus

Now that you have some ideas about how to go about designing your perfect bathroom, focus your attention on a theme. This will make choosing everything so much easier. I recently worked for a lady who knew that she wanted a bathroom that was largely black. This was going to be "her" bathroom, somewhere she would come to relax and watch TV and listen to music. That was my starting brief.



We chose some beautiful mosaic iridescent black tiles that would reflect the light. The main focal point was a large freestanding double ended white bath, and at one end of the bath we fitted a bathroom safe recessed television. We also built in recessed shelving for all her candles. What a fabulous bathroom for a lady to relax in!

### Finishing Touches

Some bathrooms may only need a little bit of a facelift. In these cases consider adding coordinating towels, or a different lighting scheme. Rid yourself of the fluffy toilet seat cover and the plastic shower curtain with mould growing at the bottom, and install a new shower screen. Add lovely smelling soaps and hey presto a different bathroom.