

Livingetc

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LEADING BY DESIGN

BIG DESIGN ENERGY

2024'S MOST DYNAMIC TRENDS DECODED
NEW COLOURS, NEW MOODS AND NEW NAMES TO KNOW
PLUS THE ART OF CREATIVE SPACES

ULTIMATE BATHROOMS

A full-page photograph of a bathroom with walls and floor covered in large, rectangular tiles of green and white marble. A white bathtub is set into a marble platform. Above the tub, a recessed niche in the wall contains a dark, abstract sculpture. To the right of the tub, a brass faucet and handles are visible. The ceiling is white with a dark, ornate crown molding. The overall aesthetic is classic and high-end.

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The calm bathroom

INTERIOR DESIGNER HUBERT ZANDBERG REVEALS
THE SECRETS OF SPA-LIKE SERENITY

The secret of strong bathroom design is to use only three or four materials, no more. Usually, that will be stone, timber, glass and metal – so, for example, if stone is used, I'll want to allow it to sing, so I don't use tiles as well. I'm always looking to create a sense of calm and strength in the design, and too many elements simply become distracting.

Whether I'm asked to create a very functional space or a spa-like, meditative bathroom, both require a certain simplicity. Even if it is intended as an opulent space in a grand house, I'll look at how I can strip back the design and minimise the elements. This is my golden rule. Then you can bring in one beautiful feature, such as a chandelier, and allow it to shine.

In this bathroom in Notting Hill, the client wanted a wooden bath, having fallen in love with the traditional Japanese-style bathing experience in which a long soak in an ofuro tub follows a cleansing shower. This one was specially made by Wooden Baths and it dictated the layout of the room, forming the focal point of the design. It is set beneath a large window with views of the garden. This connection with nature is picked up in the choice of stained oak for the custom-made vanity units, one at each end of the room, creating a balanced aesthetic in the spirit of Japanese design.

There are other Japanese touches, such as the little wall vase, seen right, and the beautiful crystal on the countertop references the emphasis on nature at the core of the country's design. Even the decorative box with stone handles reflects a sense of wabi-sabi – an everyday joy in simplicity and beautiful things.

However, we were careful to avoid a pastiche – the room needed to blend with the rest of the period



Mirrors at both ends of the room enhance the feeling of space

London house with its small touches of glamour. The Murano glass wall lights are paired with 1930s-style mirrors, at both ends of the room. The mirrors are large and set fairly far apart so that the infinity effect is not too harsh – rather, it gently boosts the feeling of space.

My goal is always to seek a sense of calm harmony between the elements, which is especially important in creating a restful bathroom.

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