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CLEAN LINES

Daisy Smith talks to the experts at the Ware Bathroom Centre, about the trends for the coming year

There is nothing better than sinking into a hot bath at the end of a long day. But of course, the bathroom needs to be super-stylish to make that soak just perfect. The avocado bathroom suite won't be back anytime soon, but pops of colour are certainly on trend.

Ware Bathroom Centre's showroom manager Bev Jackson says traditional styles are also making a comeback, with vintage or industrial style accessories used to complete the look. She said: "In the 70s and 80s it was all about colour - we all remember the avocado suite. Then in the 90s it moved to white, which is where it largely remains today for our customers.

"We are seeing more industrial style features come into fashion, monochrome bathrooms and accents of colour now." The independent showroom and plumbers' merchant was established in 1982 and has since worked with many changing styles of interiors over the years.

It works with different brands including Lefroy Brooks, Bayswater, Burlington, Imperial, Laura Ashley and Roca's Carmen range. Director Mick Nicholls says that dark colour palettes and gold taps are also on trend for bathrooms this year.

He said: "Dark colours in bathrooms are very popular now, especially dark blue or black frames on shower enclosures. "Also, to help your bathroom stand out are taps in colours like gold and black which are

now more common as a way to give your bathroom a different feel." When it comes to amenities, Mr Nicholls believes there are two different types of bathroom, especially with design - modern and traditional.

He explains that the classic modern shower is chrome-coloured and shiny and made up of sleek, straight-lined, angular shapes - which works well with minimalist and white-washed bathrooms. He believes traditional shower heads add a some elegance with circular 'watering can' styles, exposed fittings, vintage valves and ceramic handles.

Chrome can also be used to create a classic look. There are also more luxurious builds which have expanded into brass, nickel and even gold. Mick touches on aquatic accessories which not only adds to the design



of customer's bathrooms but can switch up the experience.

He said: "For those looking for more from their bathroom routine, there is a variety of high-end and hi-tech designs to change up your morning experience. "Particularly popular right now are rain showers - huge, flat, ceiling-mounted units that deluge the person using the shower with vertical streams of water. "In the era of voice-activated toilets there are also smart shower options. For instance, the SmarTap which warms up automatically in line with your morning or evening routine."

The programme can also be stopped after a set amount of time and warm your towel rail - useful in the cold winter months. He added: "There are even showers with horizontal body jets lined up and down the walls. But you should be aware to expect a bill in the thousands - and that might be just for installation."

If customers are leaning towards fashionable interiors, the pair suggests traditional styles which they say have made a comeback this year.

Accessories can add a vintage or classic feel and they suggest looking at reputable →

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‘Visually if you stick to similar lines and shapes it will be more pleasing on the eye.’

brands such as Swadling, Samuel heath, Cifial and Miller. Bev warns about the main faux pas to stay away from when it comes to bathrooms – be aware of plumbing requirements.

She adds: “Always discuss the products you are hoping to use with your installer before purchasing. “Bathroom designers and experts help you make the best use of your space and help you avoid costly mistakes if you are not aware of regulations. “On paper everything works, but you may have a plumbing issue that prevents you having certain products.

“You need enough storage space to hide toiletries, towels and make-up if you want to achieve a minimalist look and accentuate certain bathroom features. “Remember to furnish to scale. Crowding too many things into a small space or choosing furniture that is not in proportion to the space will make it feel extremely cramped and busy. “Keeping patterns to a minimum and making things simple will help your bathroom feel open. Visually if you stick to similar lines and shapes it will be more pleasing on the eye.”

Bev believes that mirrors can further help make a tremendous difference to bathrooms and act as a feature to bring in more light and style.

She said: “Lighting in a bathroom is not always considered important, but there are manufacturers that have some great lighting options that help create a mood. “Lighting in the right places can open up spaces. Taps and accessories are not just functional but can also act as decorative features. “Thinking about the style of taps and accessories you want for your bathroom is just as important as sanitaryware, furniture and tiles.” Ware is also currently supporting Meryln Showering’s partnership with the Pink Ribbon Foundation and their Just a Reminder Campaign.

Customers will see pink ribbons on all Merlyn Shower products around their showroom as reminder that a shower is the best place to check for irregular lumps and bumps which can be an early sign of breast cancer. ①

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