

style guide

Ripples



Welcome

Having undertaken my own house renovation project this year, I can vouch that the bathroom has been one of my favourite rooms to complete, simply because I am not myself without a refreshing shower every day! Fairly early on in the project I learnt that even with style ideas galore, a long wish-list and several practical requirements, I needed a lot of help when it came to actually getting the right products and best layout. There are lots of challenges in redoing a bathroom but the decision making was much easier with a Ripples team by my side. In this Style Guide, we introduce you to the talented teams at Ripples, the people behind the great bathrooms we have designed for our clients, and we've picked their brains to share some of their expert advice with you. To give you a taste for a few of the on-trend products we offer, go to the [Ripples Radar](#) and then delve into our feature on [YouTube sensation Lily Pebbles](#), where she tells us why she loves her Ripples bathroom and cloakroom. If you are thinking about future-proofing your home, we've got some excellent advice from our design teams on how they can help you cover all bases without sacrificing style. And finally, to top it all off, we have architect and TV presenter George Clarke sharing his views on choosing the right shower for your amazing bathroom! Grab a coffee and take a moment to let the pages inspire you - we look forward to seeing you in one of our showrooms soon.

Chloe
Chloe Chettleburgh, Editor



Life lessons from the bathroom

We asked influencers and journalists for their own bathroom memories, whatever they may be. From the awkward to the momentous, the bathroom is the backdrop for many moments in our lives...



"When I was 10 we moved house and I remember the bathroom had a yellow/beige tone (which I wasn't sure was age or design!). However, the most appalling fact was it had a carpet! I remember thinking I cannot wait to rip that out but to my horror my parents, upon redecorating the bathroom, decided to replace it for another carpet! I remember arguing with my parents but at that point my opinion was invalid so I had to live with it. It was bright red too! Carpet is not a practical or desirable flooring option for the bathroom - believe me!"

Roddy Clarke, Interiors Stylist and Journalist
@roddyclarkedesign



"I have three little ladies but haven't managed to have my dream water birth with any of them! However, the closest I got to this was with my middle daughter, I was in the bath, ready for her to arrive but ended up having to go to the hospital - I had her an hour later! To this day, I wish I'd stayed in my comfortable, cosy bathroom! "

Reena Simon, Interiors Blogger and Stylist
@hygge_for_home



"I'm one of three girls and I always remember when the ice cream van would come by our house my Mum would go out and get us one each but we'd have to eat them whilst in the bath! She was a clean freak and this saved us, the house and our clothes from getting covered. Life hack right there!"

Emma Thatcher, Co-Founder of A Style Album @astylealbum
@emmathatcher



"Imagine the delight of finding something floating in the bath that shouldn't be there?! I'm sure a few parents have experienced their two year old present this interesting situation but the real challenge is the retrieval process - let's just say the unwanted guest magically breaks into a thousand pieces. The thing of plughole nightmares."

Lauren Murdoch-Smith, Beauty and Lifestyle Editor of British Vogue
@laurenmurdochsmith



"We moved house when I was eight, and the new place was a '60s time-warp. All the rooms had psychedelic wallpaper but I'll never forget the bathroom - it had huge, dinner plate-size, purple flowers with something that resembled frogspawn all around."

Linda Clayton, Writer for Homes & Gardens, Ideal Home, Livingetc, House Beautiful and many more
@lindaclaytonwrites

Reena Simon Photograph: Marie Falbom, Emma Thatcher Photograph: Kasia Clark, Lauren Murdoch Photograph: Billie Scheepers

Ripples Radar

We've handpicked the products that will give your bathroom instant impact and an eye-catching finish that's bang on trend.



01

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

Get a piece of the urban action with this new brassware collection that's big on the vintage, industrial look. Chunky, functional and designed for purpose, the range of basin mixers, bath/shower mixers and wall-mounted taps combine chrome, brushed steel, brass, graphite and black finishes with curvaceous spouts, angular handles and a nuts and bolts effect. Use in a simple monochrome or shades of grey colour scheme or to add old school charm to a more colourful décor.

02

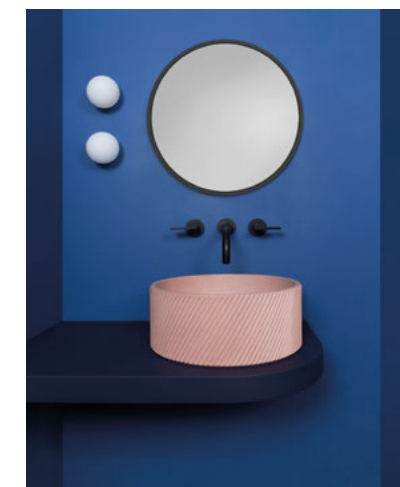
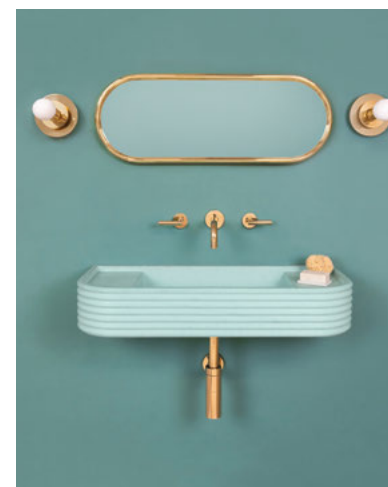
EXTRAVAGANT EDGES

We get so excited when we see artistic brassware presented to us and even more excited when we get to present it to you! This brand new basin mixer is an ode to avant-garde with its asymmetrical design and a geometric aesthetic. Made using diamonds, this luxurious piece comes in a variety of styles and finishes such as daring black chrome and polished gold optic. A truly stunning bathroom statement for those with an extroverted style.

03

NATURAL BEAUTY

Our collection of concrete basins swiftly became Instagram favourites last year so we are thrilled that the range is now available in three brand new designs, in any of the 28 concrete colours. New this season are the **Iva**, **Luna** and **Otto** styles, boasting highly defined, textured external surfaces in everything from diagonal pleats and vertical flutes to horizontal waves. Bring the feel appeal into your bathroom, cloakroom or en-suite and make a statement in any space, no matter how large or small.





04

◀ MINTY FRESH

With Neo-Mint set to be the colour of 2020, our designers say one of the best places to incorporate this, futuristic meets natural, colour is on the classic radiator! Opt for this cool tone in your warmest spot and just imagine those soft, white towels draped over a statement piece like this.

05

▼ PLAYFUL POPS

Add pops of colour into your bathroom and don't hold back, this trend is all about having fun! Introduce strong accent hues to new places, think green, blue and pink on a shower tray, worktop or basin.



06

◀ CATCHING ONTO CUBISM

Unleash your inner Picasso with this on-trend layout. Trust us, you'll achieve a bathroom floor or wall with plenty of good vibes. Up the abstract even more with gold brassware and feature pendant lights in a variety of shapes and sizes.

07

► MID-CENTURY MIX

Form is linked to function in this new range of furniture. With unbroken surfaces and panels the range is clean, strong and perfectly plain. We love the practical elements that this offers too, including internal LED lights and push to open drawers. Mix and match with statement lights and graphic, patterned tiles for the perfect finish.



And for all those who love to make their home that little bit smarter...

08

▼ SMARTEN UP

Give the bathroom a slice of smart technology with this stunning illuminated, Bluetooth mirror cabinet. Use your smartphone to select the lighting ambience you prefer – cosmetic, energising or relaxing – as well as colour and intensity too. It's so easy to use, and if you don't fancy using the app, it can also be operated via the controller or a touch pad inside the cabinet. It can even heat up the doors, preventing annoying condensation and misting.



09

▲ ALEXA: TURN IT UP

Once you've had it, you'll never go back – underfloor heating is a must-have in any modern bathroom. Yet, it doesn't stop there, now you can make your toasty toes tech savvy too! Our underfloor heating hub can connect to an Amazon Echo so you can control your heating with your voice or if you prefer, download the app for your phone and control it from there.

10

► KEEP IT CLEAN

How smart is your loo? Well, this new shower toilet boasts brainpower as it's been created to focus on user benefits and keeping life simple. With its compact design and easy to use functions, it's suitable for everyone in the house with a soft but effective shower jet that ensures maximum hygiene. It has a side-mounted controller for the standard functions plus an app to access the full functionality.





Lily Pebbles

YouTuber and beauty and lifestyle influencer Lily Pebbles opted for a serene, neutral theme for her bathroom with tones of grey, pink and white but don't miss the hint of yellow splashed in the shower, all inspired by her favourite Brooklyn hotel.

Lily wanted the bathroom to be modern and functional with elements such as recessed wall cabinets, practical tiled shelves and a stylish vanity unit that was essential for storage.

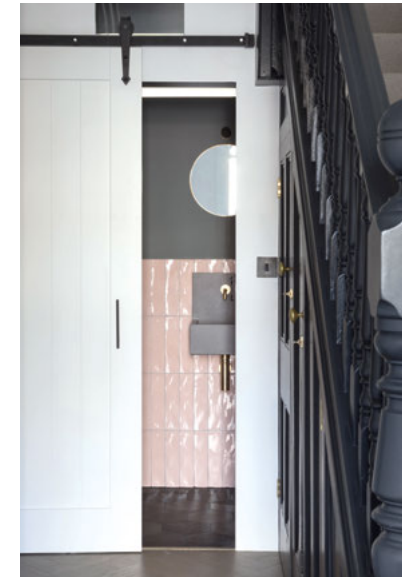
Whilst the herringbone tiles and white basins are minimal, the addition of black taps and blush pink accents bring a sense of energy to the room. Large format grey tiles were incorporated to run throughout the floors, walls and bath panels to give a more seamless, spacious feel.

“My favourite thing has to be the mirrored cabinets, which hold a huge amount of products, and has a designated charging point, which comes in so handy!”



“For the bathroom, we really wanted to be able to find a layout that would allow a bath and separate shower, a decent amount of storage for all my products and a space to fit a boiler that we couldn’t fit downstairs in our kitchen”





The cloakroom boasts industrial elegance. We love the mini concrete basin, a small space doesn't mean you need to lose those statement pieces and they are complemented perfectly with decadent brass taps.

When speaking to her designer at Ripples, Lily gave the brief of 'fun' and we think it's bouncing off the walls. Enhancing a small space is tricky but not impossible - this designer chose to place the tiles vertically and only half way up the walls, creating the impression that the space has more height. With finishing touches like the multi-purpose towel hook and soap plate, it's a cloakroom gem with practical and stylish elements that will surprise guests when that door slides away.

“Our designer helped bring the many ideas and colours I had in my head to life, advising us on which surfaces, brassware and tiles to go for depending on how high or low maintenance we wanted them to be”



Relax and bathe

We asked Lily Pebbles to tell us what her must-have products are to relax and unwind in her brand new, Ripples bathroom.

NEOM Real Luxury Candle

Neom candles are some of my favourites because they burn incredibly clean and turn into an oil. Their scents are gorgeous and instantly make you feel like you're in a spa, so I always have one burning when I have my evening bath.

Thérapie Himalayan Detox Bath Salts

I've used these bath salts for years and repurchased them time and time again. The pink crystals work to balance pH levels & positive/negative ions and to help the body establish equilibrium. They're literally magic salts and if I've had a stressful day, a handful of these sprinkled in the bath restores my energy levels, removes any stress and give me a great night's sleep.

L'Occitane Almond Shower Oil

Showers can be relaxing and luxurious too. I love to use this shower oil as it applies easily, turns into a slight milk and then leaves you with the softest skin all over. The subtle almond scent is also really nice - my husband and I fight over this!

A bathroom friendly plant

I think a plant can add so much to a space, especially if you're trying to create a calm and relaxing environment. I made sure to create a little shelf space in my new bathroom as I knew I wanted to add a plant to the mix. Not all plants like the humidity of a bathroom though, so pick wisely, something like a snake plant, aloe vera and ferns work well. If all else fails, get a faux plant, they still have the same effect on the room.

Underfloor heating

If you're at the planning stage of a bathroom renovation I would highly recommend adding underfloor heating to your wish list. If you think a snuggly dressing gown is an essential, wait until you've experienced the cosy feet effect of underfloor heating. No more cold mornings or tip toe-ing out of the bath, this was one of the best decisions we made in our new bathroom!

[Check out the transformation on Lily's YouTube channel.](#)



Getting the light right

Our quick and easy guide to lighting up the bathroom from Senior Designer Ana Rezende.

TWO LOOKS

Having different circuits in a bathroom can completely change the mood of the room. Opt for one switch that will give you a relaxing mood with a softer tone and one switch for your main down lights. It's an easy and cost effective way to have a bathroom that works for every user and every mood.

MOVEMENT SENSORS

Light sensors are a great investment. Having that wow effect every time you step into the bathroom or knowing it'll be easy to find your way there at night is a little luxury. Plus, it's a very practical addition if you have children who can't reach the switch or regularly leave lights on!

KEEPING ON TASK

Getting back to practical, day-to-day life, I would recommend choosing a mirror with in-built lighting for when you need to do your make up or shave. I love our 'Moon' mirror, which has a light that only illuminates onto your face when you get closer to it. For general use, it releases a soft glow around the mirror edge.

LUXURY LOOK
For the master bathroom or guest ensuite, choose a beautiful pendant to create a luxurious look that will impress. At Ripples, there are a great selection of designs that are suitable for any bathroom so no need to worry about the water or humidity; you can put one right over the bath.

INDIRECT LIGHTING
Indirect lighting is my favourite lighting feature; it's one of the best ways to create a relaxing bathroom environment. There are two main ways to incorporate this, one is building a lower ceiling and putting in lighting around the edges to diffuse it or, you can add LED strips into alcove shelves.

VALUING TEXTURE
Whether you choose textured or large format tiles don't let them blend into the background. Make a stunning feature wall even more of a statement with LED spotlights that illuminate the space. You'll feel like you're stepping into your very own spa.





George Clarke on creating an amazing shower

Sustainability, experience, innovation. Architect and TV presenter George Clarke, best known for his work on Amazing Spaces, gives us an insight into what makes the perfect shower...

When I think about designing a bathroom I often start with the layout and use of light and colour to maximise the space. The bathroom is not only an intimate sanctuary but also a functional space and it is incredibly important to choose the right products to work within it. An integral part of the bathroom is the shower and whilst being functional it can also be used to create a striking focal point within any interior.

When I experienced a Methven shower (available at Ripples) for the first time, I was amazed by the difference compared to other showers. Not only are they beautifully designed; it's the clever technology inside the products that is on the leading edge in terms of innovation. Methven are passionate about delivering an invigorating experience and are constantly challenging ideas and pushing the boundaries for new technologies. This approach has led to three shower spray technologies, each offering a unique showering sensation.

It is a common misconception that greater water

efficiency means you must compromise on experience; however, this isn't the case with Methven as they are committed to protecting the environment and conserving water. The Aurajet® technology that features in the Aio collection for instance, delivers an increased

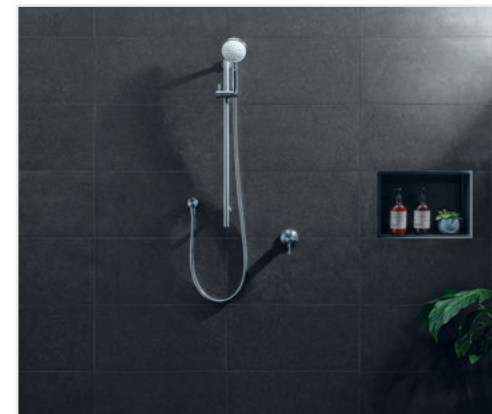
spray force and twice the amount of skin contact*, whilst only using 9 litres per minute – which is half the amount of water used compared to a traditional shower head.

One of my favourite collections is the new Tūroa range, which has a high-grade stainless finish and minimalist design to create a striking industrial look. Not only does it look good but it features the technology, which puts

you in control of your shower and allows you to change your spray from an invigorating jet spray to a fine mist.

To really create a standout interior, take a look at the eye-catching Aio collection, which features a unique and award-winning halo design in matt black. The contrast of matt black against neutral tiles will create a dramatic, modern look.

**Compared to the conventional Methven handset*





Reign of retro

Making an impact in a small shower room can sometimes be a challenge. Not so for the owners of this 1930s family home, which came with a distinctly 1960s décor.

The entire house was in serious need of an update – think single glazed windows, a lack of central heating and even an outside loo!

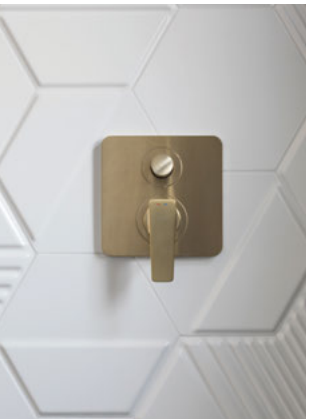
With plans to double the size of the property and reconfigure the layout at the same time, the new owners saw a way of utilising part of the original kitchen space as a downstairs cloakroom-meets-shower room. “A shower and WC downstairs is a great advantage for today’s busy families, especially those with young children,” says Senior Designer at Ripples Jo Sangster, who took on the task of designing the perfect, practical space.

The homeowners had plenty of ideas when it came to the look and feel of the room, and presented Jo with a myriad of pictures and tear sheets from magazines along with moodboards on Pinterest. The overall theme comprised geometric shapes in retro prints and colours. “They really wanted the room to make its mark,” adds Jo. “So I started the scheme with the Patisserie encaustic floor tiles and Exa hexagonal white textured wall tiles, coming up with three hand drawings in different variations to see what worked best.”

In such a small, narrow area, it can be tempting to stick to an all-white scheme to help create the illusion of space. Jo and the homeowners used a varied approach, mixing colour, pattern and shape, to really draw the eye and detract from the compactness of the room. After the electrics and pipework were reconfigured, the design could really start to take shape.



“It’s a style that, thanks to its 1960s influence, isn’t going to go out of fashion in a hurry”



Photograph: Paul Craig



To provide depth and contrast to the white and blue tones of the wall and floor tiles, Jo chose additional large format tiles in a dark grey and used them in both the walk-in shower as well as behind the bespoke wall-hung vanity unit, which is painted in Farrow & Ball Stone Blue.

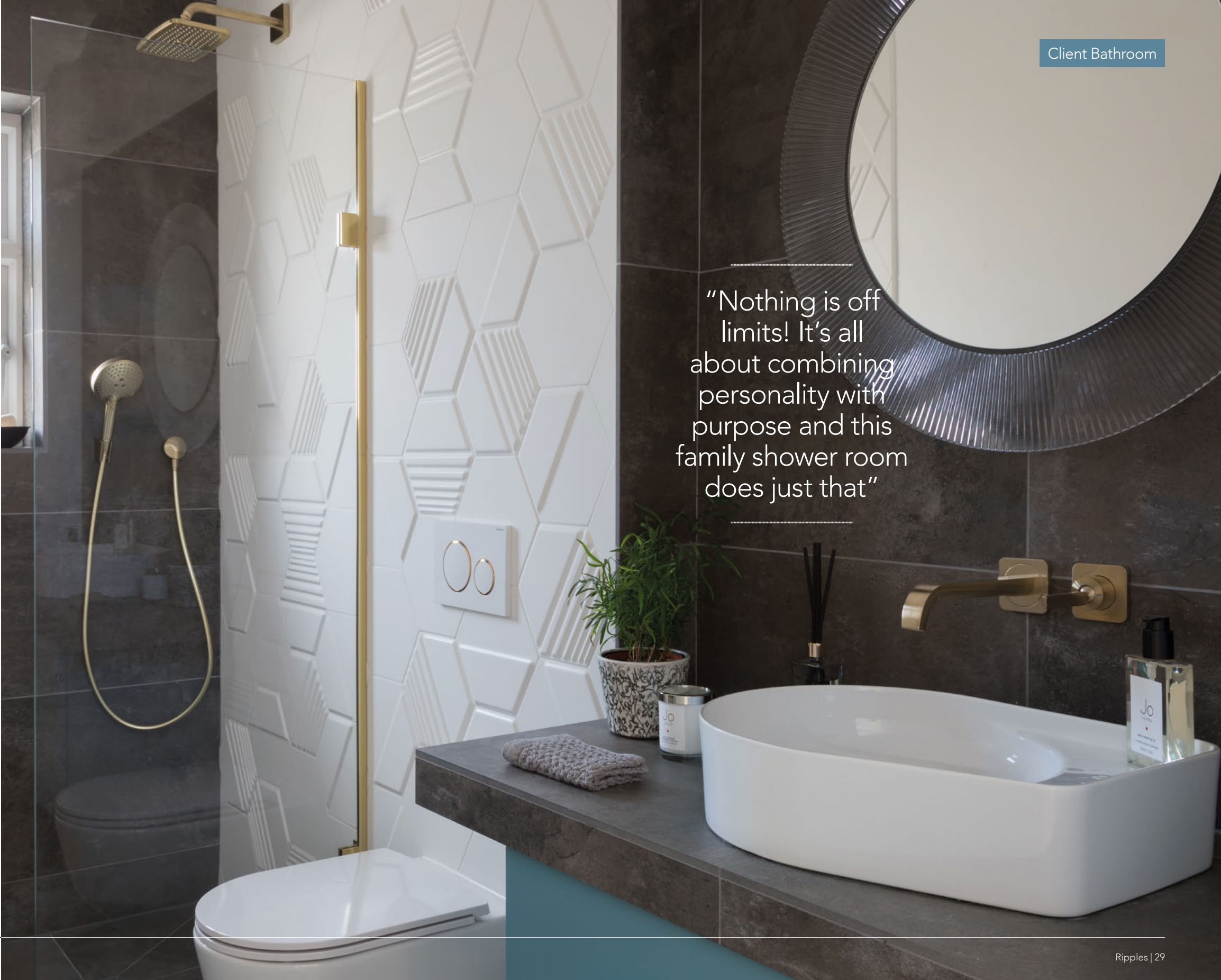
Adding a touch of luxury, a brushed brass fixed head shower, hand shower, shower mixer and basin mixer combine effortlessly with the minimal, frameless glass shower screen.

“Using wall-hung sanitaryware and storage is a great design trick in smaller bathrooms, ensuites and cloakrooms,” adds Jo. “Not only does it enhance a feeling of space but it’s also easier to clean too. We used a rimless wall-hung WC with soft-close seat and topped the vanity with a sit-on washbasin that comes with a handy ledge for soap and hand cream.”

As well as looking the part, the shower room is big on function with a towel radiator close to the shower and large circular mirror above the basin. There’s even space underneath the vanity unit for a small step for the children to pull out as and when needed.

“The overall effect is eye-catching and right on trend,” reveals Jo. “And yet it’s a style that, thanks to its 1960s influence, isn’t going to go out of fashion in a hurry.” As this scheme shows, playing with colour, texture and shape can really enhance the bathroom and bring to life what could otherwise so easily be a bland, boring box room with a purely functional purpose. “Never be afraid to go bold with your choices,” says Jo. “Go as big as you dare and we can always work around anything too outrageous, toning it down and combining it with calmer aspects to make the scheme work as a whole. Nothing is off limits! It’s all about combining personality with purpose and this family shower room does just that.”

TREND FOCUS: Choose a special finish on your taps or shower with endless options, from brushed brass to polished gold.



“Nothing is off limits! It’s all about combining personality with purpose and this family shower room does just that”

How to future-proof your bathroom

Our designers are experts in making sure your bathroom is a long-term investment. Here's their top-notch advice...

Wondering what we mean by 'future-proofing'? We are talking anything from tiled seating to stylish grab bars (yes, stylish) that will assist with any changes to you or your family's current or future health or simply optimising the room so it's compatible with the latest technology. Here's what two designers at Ripples, Billie and Alison, had to say...



Billie
When I think future-proofing I think, timeless products, a safe space and technology so these are my key considerations...

Choose a timeless design
I would recommend a sophisticated and elegant finish rather than something 'of the moment'. Remember, there's absolutely nothing boring about this, we can create an exceptionally classy look for a contemporary, classic or boutique style bathroom.

Get the finest quality
I can't stress it enough; always ask yourself, which items are going to stand the test of time? Even if this means investing more initially it's worth it in the long run. A bathroom is not a small update in your home, it can be disruptive and you don't

want leaking, weak and tarnished brassware after a few years.

Be practical
Again, think how is my life going to change over the next 5, 10, 20 years? A non-slip floor doesn't need to look really obviously anti-slip; we have lots of beautiful tiles that have a good grip and won't draw attention.

Choose a bath that has a lower edge so that children can get in and out easily and if you suffer from any negative physical conditions then it will be easier for you to lift your legs over the bath as well. Another safety feature to explore is our range of thermostatic shower controls, this way you don't need to rely on remembering to check if the temperature is too hot or cold, before getting in. You can set the maximum temperature when it's installed to avoid the risk of scalding.

Ease of clean
You can be sure to avoid watermarks by getting an easy clean coating on top of your shower glass. It will be low maintenance and limescale resistant so you don't need to spend countless hours scrubbing harsh dirt away. Another way you can keep the space clean, is to opt for underfloor and behind the wall electric heating as this will dry the space up, ensuring that mould doesn't grow.



Alison
Our bodies all change as we get older and there's no avoiding it, so it's sensible to consider this when you're redoing your bathroom. However, it doesn't have to be a negative! I want every client to get the most out of their bathroom and we have so many practical products that fit ever so subtly into the room without looking bulky or unattractive. Here are my top tips...

Take out the bath
Generally, I find that as you get older, you no longer feel the need for a bath as it can be difficult getting in and out with the added danger of a slip hazard when standing on one foot. Balance may be an issue too so losing the bath helps reduce risks involved. And, like Billie mentioned, if you can't live without a bath, take a look at getting a low height option.

Wetrooms
Wetrooms are a great solution as everything is on one level and you can keep the spray to a minimum with a single fixed glass panel. This will reduce the risk of tripping over and by removing the bath, you allow for a larger, luxury size shower area.

Within a shower area, a seat can be very useful, either one which folds away or a built in, tiled seat area. The second option is often

"I want every client to get the most out of their bathroom"

more popular as it is an integral part of the design where the tiles blend in together.

Accessories
I think you'll be pleasantly surprised by our selection of hand, grab rails – they look really sleek. We consider them a key part of the design, not an ugly, practical thing that you must have. I always incorporate them into the design and the great thing about our range of accessories at Ripples is that we have some lovely options to match the rest of the products in the room.

Get comfy and be smart
A 'comfort height' loo means that yourself or the user doesn't have so far to go before they get to the seat. There are two ways we can achieve this; by setting a wall hung loo at a higher level or by buying a specific height toilet for this purpose.

I would thoroughly recommend a shower loo and don't knock it until you've tried it! Come into our showrooms and let one of us demonstrate how it works, don't worry – not literally, but we'll show you the mechanisms. This really is just a modern update on the bidet; the benefit being that it washes the user after use, reduces use of loo paper and is operated using a simple remote control. If you're looking to help the environment and avoid difficulty twisting around, this is a great choice, trust me.





A botanical bathroom

Say hello to happy house plants! Martin Ogden, Head of Horticulture at Petersham Nurseries, imparts his expert knowledge on creating a thriving, botanical bathroom...

Ferns

Ferns are at the top of our list for plants that enjoy the humidity and light conditions many bathrooms offer and they come in a bewildering and beautiful range of forms. My favourite is the Maidenhair fern, *Adiantum*. It has very delicate leaves and will enjoy the humidity briefly created by a shower, and the more prolonged steam from a leisurely bath. A regular mist will also keep them happy!

Begonias

A large family of tropical and subtropical plants hailing from South and Central America, Africa and Asia, requiring bright shade - they grow typically in the understory of warm forests. They boast dramatic, exotic and rather brilliant leaves that come in silvers, reds and rusts. Many also have puckered and ruffled qualities, the variety is endless. These are perfect for north and east-facing windows that receive little or no sun.



Calathea and Marantas

A family of dramatic, leafy, tropical plants that love low light levels and lots of humidity, making them perfect bathroom plants. They display graphic leaves in silvers and whites with chevrons, stripes and splashes. Many leaves will have a dark purple reverse, an adaptation to help absorb light at a low level, these are a must-have.

Did you know?

At night, they close up their leaves, like they are saying a goodnight prayer and letting us know it is time for bed.



Monstera deliciosa

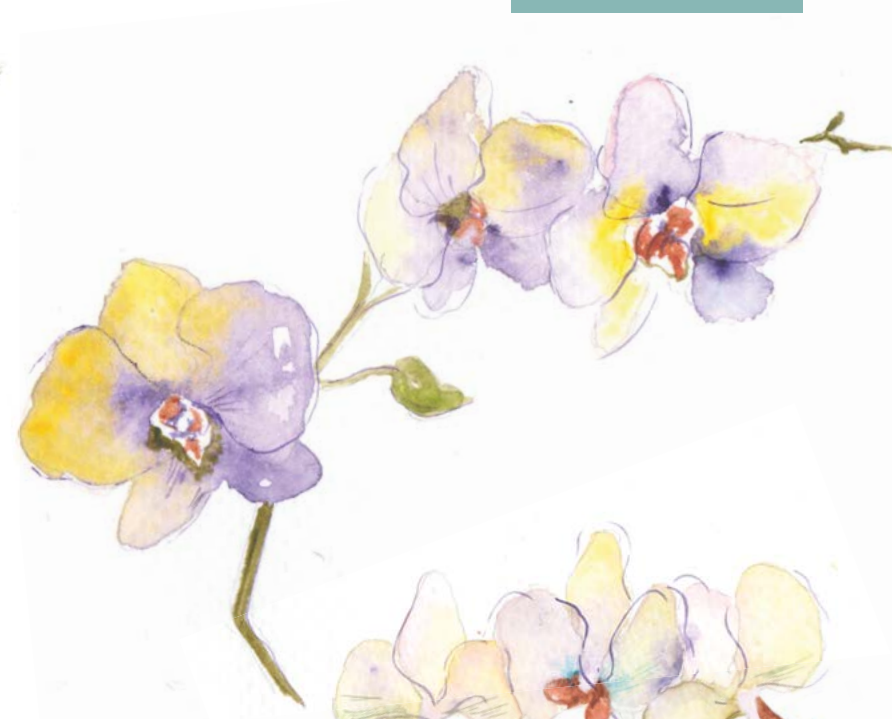
The archetypal 70s houseguest, the Swiss Cheese Plant. With large, lobed glossy green leaves and holes resembling Gruyere cheese, this can be a substantial and very architectural addition to the home, though it is native to the tropical rainforests of Mexico and Panama. It likes to climb, so is perfect for loft ensembles with skylights!

Ficus lyrata aka The Fiddle Leaf Fig

Hailing from tropical West Africa, this plant has huge, paddle-shaped leaves. It enjoys bright light but not direct sunshine. Pinch out the growing tips to encourage branching and enjoy this superstar plant in your home. If you are looking for a statement plant, this one never fails to deliver - it can grow to six feet or taller!

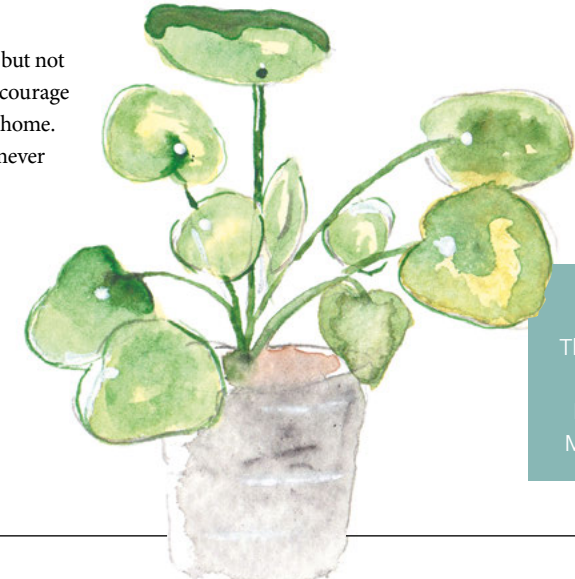
Pilea peperomoides

Instagrammers will love this one! Succulent, round, glossy green leaves held on long stalks. Place these somewhere bright but out of full sun; water sparingly, allowing the compost to almost dry out between watering.



Orchids

Orchids are a huge family, one of the most prolific and extensive of all plant families in the world. These make perfect houseguests with an often dazzling display of flowers over many months. The Moth Orchid, *Phalaenopsis*, is perhaps the best known, with big sprays of elegant, showy flowers in a huge variety of colour, pattern and shading. Their aerial roots soak up moisture in the air, and many enjoy lower light levels, which is ideal for the bathroom.



Top Tip

This is also known as the Chinese Money Plant or Missionary Plant.

Wellness in water

Busy. Busy. Busy. We are all guilty of whizzing around with the stress of day-to-day life building up and more so than ever, there's a need to unwind and maximise your wellbeing. We take a dip into the benefits of hydromassage with Novellini - experts in creating a spa-like retreat in the comfort of your own home.

What is hydromassage?

Hydromassage is a treatment where you experience pressure on the body by water jets. Bathtubs can be equipped with this technology and will stimulate the circulatory (cardiovascular system) and lymphatic systems (part of the immune system).

Restoration

The bubbles generated during a session will help to rid the body of toxins, waste and other unwanted fluids, stimulating the lymphatic system. This will help to combat the accumulation of fat on the body, reducing the appearance of cellulite. Another

restorative benefit to the body is that through the power of the air massage, combined with some essential oils, your skin will feel smooth, polished and toned – a winning formula!

Mind and body

Regular hydromassage sessions will help you to de-stress. Once you immerse yourself in the hot water the parasympathetic nervous system (sometimes called the rest and digest system) produces hormones that cause the body to relax, reducing symptoms related to stress that are accumulated during the day. The increased pressure of the massage helps to produce lots of endorphins too, these will generate feelings of happiness and relaxation – what better way to start or end the day! And if you suffer from insomnia or struggle to settle into a good night's sleep, a hot bath will help you get some shut-eye.

Top Tip

Amplify the benefits of a hydromassage, exfoliate before getting into the bath and use a hydrating cream on the skin after having spent ten minutes wrapped in your bathrobe.

Atmosphere

Let the worries of each day drift off into the distance using the in-built speakers

of a hydromassage bath from Novellini (available at Ripples), select the playlist and immerse yourself in an atmosphere of total wellbeing. Take it up a notch with a touch of light therapy – when you need to re-energise, opt for warm colours like red and orange or alternatively, create a relaxing environment by setting the hue to blue and green.

Love the idea of a hydromassage bath? Call us on 0800 107 0700 to find out where you can see it in action!



Injecting colour into the bathroom

Scoop up these top tips from *Geraldine Tan (@LittleBigBell)*, known for her eclectic, colourful and Insta-famous home.

Ripples are excited to help Geraldine achieve her bathroom goals and we can't wait to show you the results in the coming months! In the meantime, we asked the queen of colour to give you some advice on how to take a dash of bravery, a pinch of fun and a dollop of the biggest trend in bathrooms; colour.

Decide on your colour palette
If you're nervous about introducing colour, then my advice would be to just pick one colour against a neutral base such as white. It doesn't mean that you have to confine that colour to one area or one piece of furniture. For example, if you decided on

pink (one of my favourite colours), then you might pick some pink and white patterned floor tiles but keep the bathroom furniture white. Or, why not consider choosing to tile the walls halfway up in white and then paint a matching pink on the upper half (or vice versa). Alternatively, you could keep the walls white and get matching pink bathroom furniture to go with the floor tiles. The options are endless!

Colour matters
Now you've decided on a colour, make sure that colour is consistent throughout. You can be really precise and colour match your paint to the bath or tiles you've picked.

Create a moodboard
If you have decided on using multiple colours then it's a good idea to create a moodboard to ensure that the colours blend well together, don't hold back! Mix and match colours together until it feels right and visually pleasing, pop into Ripples and speak to an expert designer, they will be able to give you advice on colours too.

In the right light
Always look at your colour samples in the space you plan to use. You can pick up all sorts of samples at Ripples from radiators to basins and tiles! Colours can look different in different light and it would be disappointing to find out after everything is in place! An item that looks light pink outdoors might end up looking a terracotta shade indoors.

The brassware
It's important to consider how the colours you pick will blend with the bathroom brassware you've decided on; taps, shower, accessories. Chrome tends to go with cooler light colours, brass pairs well with light or warm tones, and black looks great against pastel shades.

Love Geraldine's style? Follow us on social media and soon you'll see the final results of her Ripples bathroom.

Did you know?

We are able to colour match with any RAL colour (RAL is an international colour matching system) on items like radiators, baths and furniture.



"If you're nervous about introducing colour, then my advice would be to just pick one colour against a neutral base such as white."



How to transform a bathroom on a budget

Award Winning Interior Blogger Emma, of [Homebirds](#), gives her guide to achieving your dream bathroom – whatever the budget...

The most annoying thing about planning a brand new bathroom is the restrictions imposed by your budget. But it's a challenge we all face! When putting together ideas for my own dream bathroom, my goal was to create a luxury space, full of timeless style. Here's how I did it without busting the budget...

Prioritise
Think about which element of the new space is going to be most important to you. For example, if you're a bath person, make the bath your main priority in terms of where you splash the cash. If you're a shower person, invest the biggest part of your budget there. Once you've decided on your main priority, you can adjust your allocated spend accordingly.

Accessorise
The finishing touches are what make all the difference in any room and won't break the bank. When pieces are picked cleverly, they can really transform a space. Consider incorporating some plants or a few carefully selected framed prints. You could pick out some stylish towels or a statement bath mat that fits with your scheme. Paying close attention to detail is always worth it– even down to the toothbrush holder you choose!

Think carefully about colours
The colour scheme you choose will have a huge impact on the overall feel of the room. You may have a small budget, but choosing a classic, timeless colour scheme won't cost you any extra and has the potential to make your space appear much more deluxe. We suggest keeping walls and tiles muted (i.e. simple whites and greys) because if you

were to go bold and then realise you're not a fan of the result, these areas can be tricky and costly to change. Inject colour through your accessories instead or perhaps via a feature bath or painted sink unit? Navy is a great colour to use to give a feeling of luxury.

Choose a standout feature
You want your new bathroom to make a statement, but choosing one component that draws the eye, rather than overdoing it with all the elements will give your new bathroom a touch of class, without costing the earth. My standout feature was my navy blue boat bath. It fills the entire back wall as you walk into the room and totally steals the show. It's certainly a talking point among houseguests and provides that memorable element that really stands out.

Be prepared to compromise
Yes it's a horrible word and nobody wants to do it! But if you prioritise the elements you desperately want in your bathroom and think carefully about what you would be willing to sacrifice, I promise you will achieve your goals inside your budget. I was desperate for brass fixtures and fittings in my bathroom, but in the end opted for chrome. I'm actually glad I did as it fits beautifully with my colour scheme and offers the classic look I was seeking.



Check out Emma's brand new Ripples bathroom on the blog!

Get the look

Spend



Regency Radiator
£534



Freestanding Fordham Bath 1700mm
£1,287



Jupiter Wall Light
£71



All Saints Mirror
£255



Montreux Shower
£2,200



Esteem Furniture including basin
£1,855

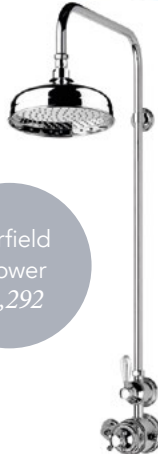
Splurge



Buckingham Radiator
£927



Freestanding Boat Bath 1700mm
£1,532



Fairfield Shower
£3,292



You Mirror
£690



Calidris Pendant Light
£79

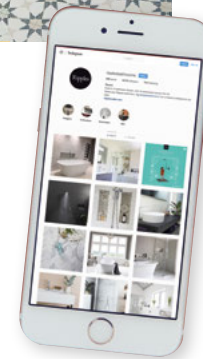
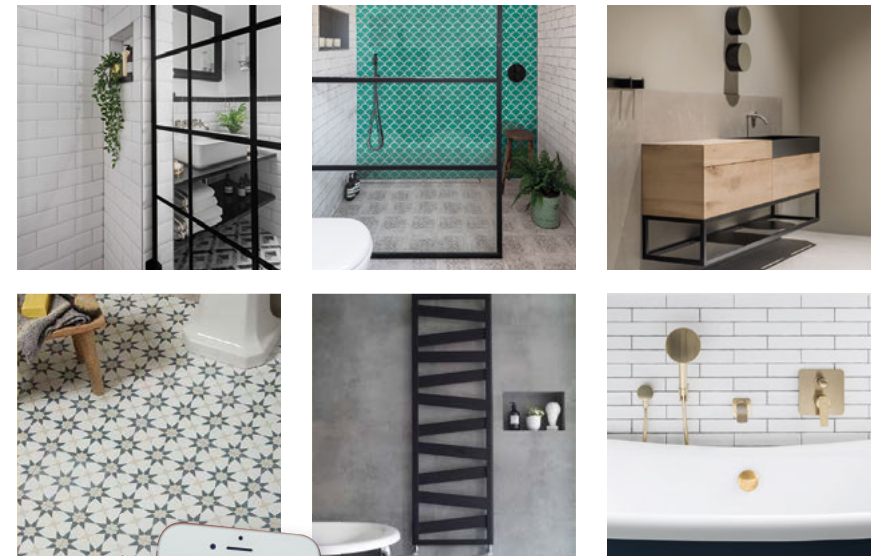


Devon Furniture including the Carrara marble top and basin
£2,720



Get social *#therippleseffect*

We always love to see photos of clients' bathrooms. Whether you're in love with the tiles you chose, adore the bath you relax in every night or the practical solutions that your Ripples designer came up with – tell us all.



Share your transformation
by tagging us on Instagram
@ripplesbathrooms
or email us
info@ripples.ltd.uk



Catching up with Neil and Leanne

Our designers are experts in creating beautiful, unique designs for everyone that walks into a showroom but they are also the loveliest people with a passion for interior design. We took a little time out to get to know two of our Senior Designers a bit better.

Q Tell us about yourself, Leanne?

Leanne: I love a bit of chill out, spending time with friends and family – that’s where I’m really content. And I do love a relaxing bath, ironically it doesn’t happen very often but I’m very happy with a hot bath full of lots of bubbles and candles, just bliss!

Q And Neil, how would you describe yourself?

I am a pretty outgoing person, I love spending time with my family and on occasions that allow me to spend time by myself, I love to unwind in the gym and spa, which help me to switch off and relax.

Q And if you’re ever caught daydreaming, what are you dreaming about?

Neil: I dream about owning a small but very fancy Mediterranean restaurant by the coast, where I could maximise my days away with the family.

Q And Leanne, what’s your perfect meal?

Leanne: It has to be my Mum’s homemade curry. I’m a bit of a foodie and we eat out quite a lot but I have to say no-one’s cooking is quite like your Mum’s.

Neil: You clearly haven’t tried mine Leanne! I am a keen cook and a big foodie too, so I love to try and remake dishes that I’ve enjoyed when travelling. I don’t do recipes, off-the-cuff cooking is much more fun!

Q We know you’re busy people but break it down for us, what does a normal day at Ripples look like for you?

Neil: Our job is very varied, we are trained in the fine art of balancing many aspects from physically designing spaces to choosing products, talking to installers and helping with enquiries - my day is never set in stone but I love that! I start off the day with a coffee in-hand, discussing current projects with my colleagues. During any quieter

periods of the day, I tend to get focused and work on designs allowing the innovative side of my brain to really come to life.

Leanne: A normal day is pretty busy for us both but there’s always time to sit down and have a coffee with a client, it’s our main priority. The majority of my day is spent designing and presenting beautiful bathrooms, nurturing installations, and meeting with new clients. It usually finishes with a trip to site on my way home, either to measure up a new space or to see how our current projects are getting on.

Q What do you love most about your job?

Leanne: Every job is completely different and I especially love visiting homes where the projects have been accomplished, it’s so satisfying. I still find it amazing that my designs turn into a reality.

Neil: I recently travelled to Germany to attend Europe’s largest bathroom exhibition. It was incredible to see some of the amazing products that are about to be released and get some great inspiration for the designs we are producing.

“A normal day is pretty busy for us both but there’s always time to sit down and have a coffee with a client, it’s our main priority”

—— Leanne ——

Q Where do you draw your inspiration from?

Leanne: I probably draw most inspiration from nature, the eclectic mix of different textures, finishes and colours you can see everywhere you look. I love the way natural materials and raw organic forms provide a timeless finish.

Neil: For me, it's travelling around Europe. The architecture, pattern and lifestyle of other countries always inspires me, just being outside of your everyday environment is a great source of inspiration. I also love Instagram and Pinterest as you'll stumble across like-minded designers and people that share your taste.

Q What has been your proudest moment and most challenging moment at Ripples?

Leanne: My proudest moment was definitely cycling from London to Paris with the Ripples team for Sanitation First, the charity with a vision to give everyone access to a safe and hygienic toilet. The training and actual ride itself was probably the hardest thing I've done physically, but what an experience!

Neil: There are some great industry awards up for grabs every year that recognise strong design talent and many Ripples designers have won these awards over the years. It's lovely to have your work showcased to the industry, a very proud moment for me!

Leanne: One of the most challenging moments was probably when we uncovered a disused chimney part way through the installation of a bathroom. It meant a bit of quick thinking and a redesign on site but all turned out well in the end, phew!

Q What are 3 quick top tips for someone considering renovating/updating their bathroom?

Leanne

- 1 Speak to a designer, whether you want to design the room yourself or want a Ripples designer to do it for you, they will give you some great advice on how to get the best use out of your space.
- 2 Consider a variety of lighting options to really transform the finish of your space.
- 3 Embrace new technology and trends to stay ahead of the game and future-proof your bathroom.

Neil

- 1 Do your research. Come in and speak to us, we'll help you pick the products that will work for you.
- 2 Be decisive. If you love something, be confident and go for it.
- 3 Dream big! Don't hold back, a bathroom is a considered investment for everyone so spend well on a room that you'll use for years to come.

"I also love Instagram and Pinterest as you'll stumble across like-minded designers and people that share your taste."

— Neil —

Wetroom VS Shower

There are pros and cons to both but it's about what works for you. If you're updating your shower space and can't make your mind up, our conversation with Ripples designers Richard and Dena will help, as they have both sides to the story...



This Ripples design features a Crittall-style, fixed shower panel - we love it!



Shower Enclosures

Richard's thoughts

Shower trays are a more budget friendly option as opposed to a tiled wetroom floor as they require more complex installation and more materials. Shower trays are great because you can choose from a range of colours to match the colour of the floor; you can very easily create a wetroom look without having to allocate a large proportion of your budget.

An enclosure is great for small spaces such as a loft ensuite or small family bathroom, I'd also recommend choosing a frameless shower to avoid any bold lines, giving a small space an open, roomy feel. Utilise a space in the corner of a room and you can create a fantastic showering experience for everyone.

In an open wetroom you can't control where water splashes, if you opt for a shower enclosure you can contain the water. Put your towels, loo roll and accessories wherever you want and forget worrying about water going everywhere.

There is less maintenance with an enclosure, as you won't need to worry about cleaning the whole floor once you've had a shower. Great news if you've got a family using the space every day.

For those like me, who love a warm, steamy shower - an enclosure is the way to go. The warmth will really surround your body and give you that spa sensation as it contains the steam and creates the perfect place to unwind.



Wetrooms

Dena's thoughts

First things first, get your chosen installer to check you have the correct gradient for your wetroom floor, you don't want anything to prevent you from chasing your waste out.

Wetroom floors are completely bespoke so we'll help you to think about how big you want the space to be. The great thing about a wetroom floor is that it creates lots of options, don't feel like your space restricts you, the sky's the limit!

Make sure you are choosing a suitable tile for your wet floor, we have some beautiful slip-resistant options and we'll make sure these are suitable for the gradient of the floor. And to avoid faded tiles in a

matter of years pick from our selection of non-porous tiles which won't deteriorate.

Something that's easily forgotten in a wetroom is making the drain very subtle! We can make them unnoticeable with just a small gap in the wall or a very simple grate that can be removed or tiled into.

Read the feature 'How to future-proof your bathroom', Billie talks about putting a heated membrane in place, not only under your floors but also behind your walls which dries the space out quickly, keeping it low maintenance. Another future-proofing benefit of a wetroom is that it creates easy access to the shower with nothing to step over or into.



Ready, Set, Eco

We asked our designers to vote on their favourite eco-friendly item and here's the winning product...

Simple, elegant and understated, this new thermostatically controlled shower is made completely from stainless steel, unlike other models, which are traditionally steel plated. This long-lasting material has been chosen with future generations in mind as it can be repurposed, allowing for reuse and reconditioning in years to come.

Durable, hardwearing and stylish, it also offers variable spray patterns, which you can change by moving the useful little slider. Choose from an invigorating blast first thing in the morning or a more relaxing re-fresh after a hard day's work.

Best bathrooms in the world

It's one thing to have travelled to some of the most incredible countries, cities and villages in the world but to have found a gem of a bathroom on your travels, well that's something we can get on board with. We asked every team from our 15 showrooms about their finds...

Chewton Glen Hotel, Hampshire

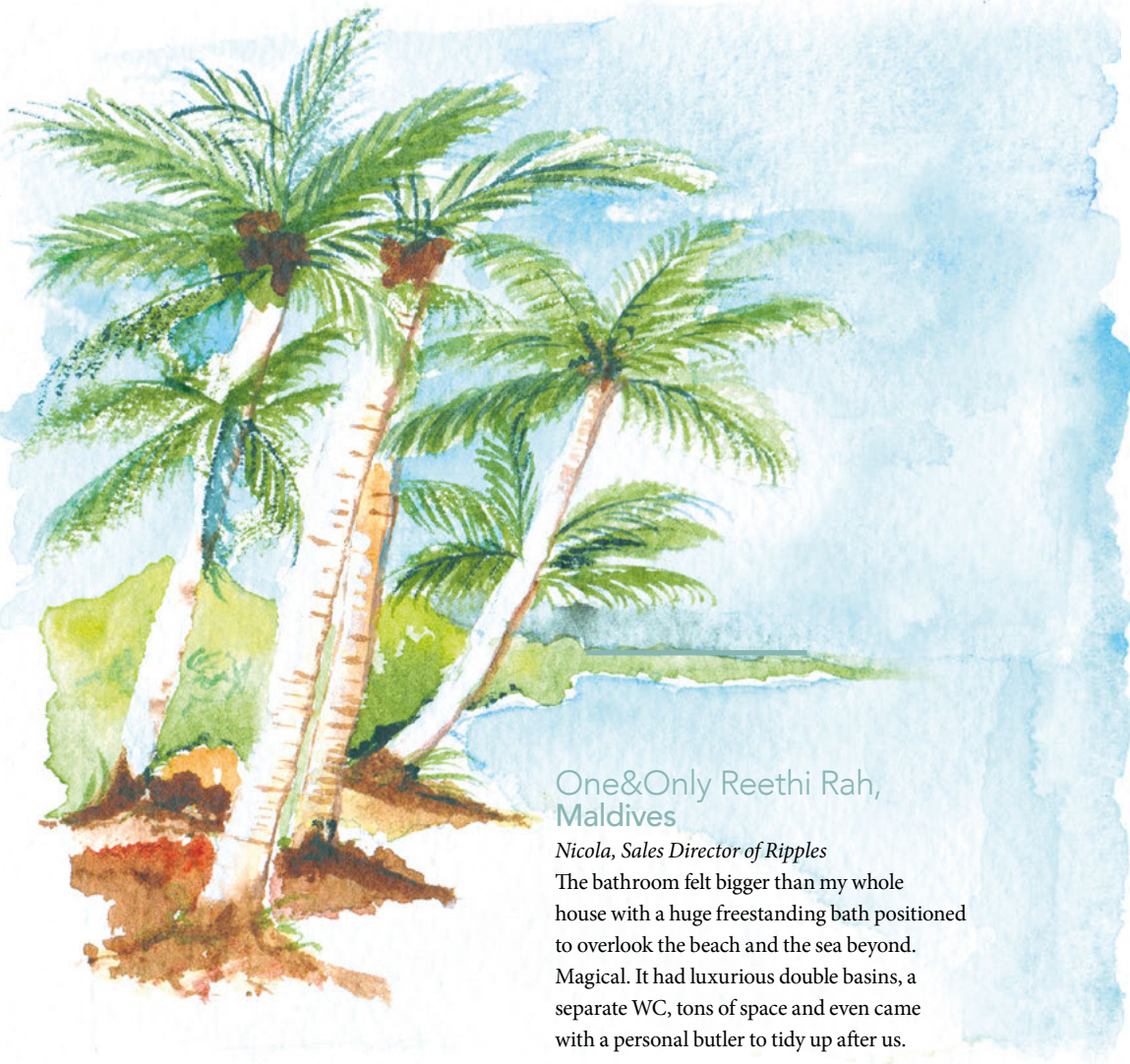
Richard, Newbury Showroom
Imagine the most powerful American-style showerheads that when turned up to maximum would push your head down! Beneath my feet laid a marble wetroom floor, a beautiful shower and perfect for clearing your head in the morning.

Sarova Salt Lick Game Lodge, Kenya

Jo, Reigate Showroom
We stayed in a hotel that was all on stilts, right over an elephant watering hole. The bathroom was small but perfectly formed, very natural, raw materials and beautifully simple.

Milford Track, South Island of New Zealand

David, Tunbridge Wells Showroom
One simply positioned to make the very best of the truly amazing view of the glacier formed valley below, a room with a view, but no one could see me.



One&Only Reethi Rah, Maldives

Nicola, Sales Director of Ripples
The bathroom felt bigger than my whole house with a huge freestanding bath positioned to overlook the beach and the sea beyond. Magical. It had luxurious double basins, a separate WC, tons of space and even came with a personal butler to tidy up after us.



Riffelalp Resort, Swiss Alps

Russell, Birmingham and Solihull Showroom
The room itself had some wonderful décor, including cowhide walls! It was memorable because it was my first experience of a shower toilet and I discovered the real wellness benefit of 'washing with water'. As I sat there, I had my eureka moment and couldn't fathom why anyone would want to use paper again! I cannot bear to be without one in my home now...

Tongsai Bay, Koh Samui

Mark, Bournemouth Showroom
The bath was on the wooden balcony overlooking the beautiful sandy bay below us. We were high in the trees in a small, private wooden home and the balcony was hidden from the view of anyone. You had to step over snakes to get up the staircase but hey, you can't have it all!



Gran Hotel Guadalpin Banus, Marbella

Kim, Bath and Bristol Showroom
We took our family to Marbella for a surprise weekend away and stayed in a 5* hotel that had just opened. Annie (our youngest daughter - she was four at the time) and I went to use the ladies cloakroom and we walked into a high, gloss black cloakroom that incorporated an aquarium! The whole space oozed luxury, Annie named it 'the amazing bathroom' and after that, we spent a large part of the holiday going back in.



The Last Word

Having been involved in the business for over 22 years, I am proud to be continuing the vision that my parents had when they started Ripples over 30 years ago. I am also incredibly proud of the people we have today and truly believe there isn't a more talented group of bathroom designers in the country. Not only do they know the world of bathrooms inside out, but I have witnessed first-hand that they are passionate about doing their best for you.

We look forward to introducing you to them soon.

Nicola
Nicola Crow, Sales Director

Step into a showroom

Walk into one of our stunning showrooms across 15 locations in the UK knowing you're in good hands.

We want a visit to a Ripples showroom to be more than a simple shopping trip. Our expert bathroom design service will open your eyes to the hidden potential of your bathroom. Designing a bespoke bathroom is a collaborative process, we keep the conversation open and always consult you on any changes and adjustments. Once you're fully satisfied with the design, products and layout; Ripples will deliver your dream, luxury bathroom.

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All showrooms are independent franchise companies trading as Ripples. For more details on our franchise opportunities, please visit ripplesfranchise.co.uk.



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