

BATHROOM
design notes

VANITY Custom designed by Sophie Davies. Topped with Blue Cheese marble, Aeria Country Floors

HARDWARE Custom aged brass knobs designed by Sophie Davies

BASIN Perrin & Rowe 'Oval' undermount basin, The English Tapware Company

TAPWARE Perrin & Rowe wall-mounted basin set, The English Tapware Company

MIRROR Custom design in brass by Sophie Davies

LIGHTING Vintage Murano glass and brass wall sconces, 1stDibs

FLOORING/SKIRTING Popham Design tiles in Butter and Milk

SHOWER SCREEN Aluminium, powdercoated Dulux Monument



**MIX
MASTERED**

Opposites attract to beautiful effect in these purposeful rooms by Sydney interior designer Sophie Davies.

STORY *Carli Philips* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Alex Reinders*



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BATH SURROUND Calcite
Caraibica Blue honed marble,
Signorino

JOINERY Finished in Farrow
& Ball Cromarty

HARDWARE Sphere
solid-brass cabinet knobs,
Two Tease

BATH Kaldewei 'Classic Duo'
bath, E&S

SHOWER Olde English
shower head, Astra Walker

SHOWER WALLS Square
white tiles, TileCloud

SHOWER CURTAIN Custom
pelmet and curtain installed by
Curtain Machine

TOWELS Scalloped bath
towels, Rebecca Udall

FLOORING Mini French
Pattern tumbled limestone,
Granite & Marble Works



For Sydney-based interior designer Sophie Davies (above), the key to a great interior is juxtaposing seemingly opposing elements to create a warm and well-rounded whole. This often means pairing classic features, such as traditional-style tapware and hardware, with contemporary finishes like a bold stone.

Believing that small spaces can still pack a punch, Sophie regularly uses dramatic wallpaper and eye-catching sconces to create an element of surprise in powder rooms. But she tones it down in ensuites, offering a more soothing atmosphere. Here, it's all about graphic lines across tiles, on joinery and even on decor, including shower curtains.

Sophie is also adept at maximising space and functional details. In these pages, for example, a vestibule is transformed into a mini mudroom thanks to a multipurpose bench seat with storage above and below. And in a tight laundry, she optimises the crucial features - sink and bench space - to create a chic-yet-practical design.

"I prefer natural finishes that patinate over time, as this adds character and warmth." Sophie Davies

How would you describe your design aesthetic? Warm, homely, soft and sophisticated. I prefer to use natural textures and finishes that patinate and age over time, as I believe this adds character and warmth.

Bathrooms, powder rooms, laundries and mudrooms were once an afterthought in Australian residential design. How has that changed? I studied interior architecture in London, where I was taught that these spaces (with the exception of laundries) are public spaces within the private. They are areas that guests frequent, so they should be designed to feel warm, welcoming and special.

What are some of the luxuries you include in these rooms? I love finding

unique and striking wall lights, mirrors and pendants. I often use special finishes on the walls and select beautiful (often traditional) fixtures and fittings that are mixed with natural materials such as stone.

Do you enjoy designing these more intimate and utilitarian spaces? I do. These areas are often smaller in size, but they can pack a punch.

What is top of your clients' lists of must-haves for these rooms? Every client is different, but I think wall lights and mirrors that command attention are must-haves for bathrooms and powder rooms, whereas a good sink and tap are essentials in a laundry.

What are your key considerations when designing these spaces? **Bathroom:** That the space functions practically but is also calming, sophisticated and not too precious. **Powder room:** Good lighting is important and an element

of surprise is always fun. **Laundry:** The ergonomics of a laundry need to be thoughtfully considered during the design process. Plenty of good storage, a big sink and lots of bench space are imperative. **Mudroom:** Seating space and storage is essential in a hard-working mudroom.

Some of these rooms have to work hard in a small space. How do you maximise aesthetics and functionality? I spend time sorting the floor plan and joinery first. Once I've worked out how the room will

function, I then select finishes that will age nicely or patinate over time.

If your client wants to include one key luxury element in these rooms, what would you advise them to choose? Beautiful wall lights, because these can double as works of art and create a focal point in the room.

Is there a product or supplier you go back to again and again in your design work for any of these spaces? I love Perrin & Rowe tapware from The English Tapware Company, and there are lots of antique dealers I frequent when trying to find unique lighting, mirrors and pendants.

What is the best reaction you've had from a client to one of your finished rooms? "Wow, we love it. It is better than we had even imagined."

sophiedavies.com.au

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WALLPAPER Lioness & Palms wallpaper in Midnight, Common Room

BASIN Kaali 46 undermount basin, The English Tapware Company

TAPWARE Olde English wall set in Aged Brass with Black Porcelain levers, Astra Walker

LIGHTING Parker wall lights with Trapezoid shade in Navy, Balineum

PAINT Dulux Ahoy (on the joinery, walls and ceiling)

FLOORING Herringbone flooring in Penza, Tongue N Groove



"I love finding unique wall lights, mirrors and pendants, and I often use special finishes on the walls." Sophie Davies

VESTIBULE
design notes

JOINERY & WALLS Finished in Dulux Natural White

SEAT Cushion in striped linen from Rossetti Fabrics

FLOORING Eterno oak floorboards in Bistre, Tongue N Groove



LAUNDRY
design notes

JOINERY Finished in Porter's Paints Mist

BENCHTOP & SPLASHBACK Cartapietra quartz composite in SuperWhite, Stone Italiana

TAPWARE Perrin & Rowe tapware, The English Tapware Company

BASIN Fireclay sink, Belfast Sinks

LIGHTING Cup and Ring wall lights, Anna Charlesworth

WALLS Microcement finish in custom colour, Farrell & Son



"The ergonomics of a laundry need to be thoughtfully considered. Plenty of storage, a big sink and bench space are imperative." Sophie Davies