

Wash away the old and welcome the new

KEREN BELLOS

Once purely functional spaces, bathrooms have evolved to become canvases for showcasing personal expression alongside cutting-edge innovations.

According to Trendsetter Homes Design and Strategy Executive Rachel Maree Smith, two distinct trends are shaping bathroom design, catering to diverse tastes and preferences.

She said one trend capitalised on bold blocks of colour to make strong visual statements, injecting modern and dynamic flair into the room.

In contrast, a shift towards natural-looking products – such as materials mimicking stone and wood – focuses on gentle subdued colours and textures to create a calm atmosphere.

"The coexistence of these two trends indicates a broader range of stylistic expressions, allowing for personal creativity to flourish," Ms Smith said. "This duality between bold and natural aesthetics provides a rich tapestry of design possibilities, making the current era an exciting time for new builds."

Ms Smith said there were several notable innovations being incorporated into modern

bathrooms – from smart technology to eco-friendly fixtures.

"Smart mirrors equipped with LED lighting, touch controls and anti-fog technology enhance convenience," she said. "Water-saving toilets, low-flow faucets and eco-friendly showerheads are increasingly popular, reflecting a growing emphasis on sustainability in bathroom design."

"Additionally, the inclusion of radiant floor heating systems add luxury and comfort."

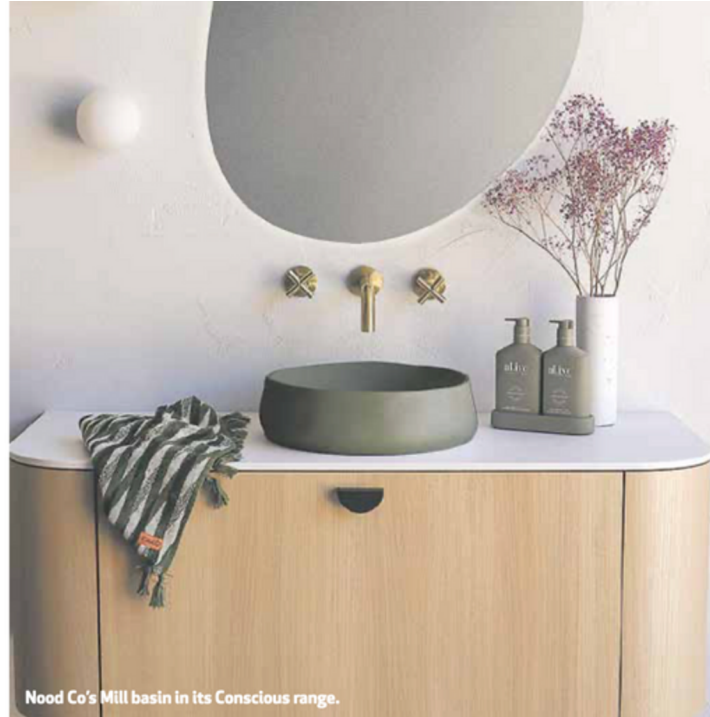
Ms Smith said an exemplary wet area innovation was Nood Co's Conscious basin range, which blended artistry with performance.

Inspired by the wabi-sabi philosophy of finding beauty in imperfection, the basins are hand-crafted using traditional pottery techniques.

"Each piece is unique, enhancing the natural, imperfect beauty of the materials," Ms Smith said.

"The focus on tactile and textural qualities makes these basins stand out as both useful and decorative, adding a sensory experience to bathroom design."

Ms Smith said balancing aesthetics with practicality was crucial in the design process, starting with a deep understanding of the owner's



Nood Co's Mill basin in its Conscious range.

preferences and then the selection of a hero element.

"Choosing a highlight feature, like a distinctive marble, a striking tile or a stunning light fitting, sets a focal point," she said.

Essential to the layout are flow and accessibility, as well as clever storage solutions like built-in cabinets and floating shelves.

A cohesive colour palette and materials complementing the hero element, coupled with a mix of task, ambient and accent lighting, further refine the wet area.

"Select durable water-resistant materials and easy-to-clean finishes to ensure utility," Ms Smith said.

"Reflecting your personality through custom touches, as well as including comfort factors – like heated floors and towel warmers – assist in creating a bathroom both stylish and user friendly."

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