

PLAY AROUND

GREAT COVER-UP

Colour, texture and pattern can change the perception of a bathroom. Calculate how much tolerance you have for visual busyness, then work with the space rather than against it. Contrary to one decorating myth, a small room can handle a daring print, but it's still advisable to limit it to a single wall (or perhaps the upper portions) so it doesn't overpower. Big rooms, meanwhile, can take dramatic scaled-up motifs. Look how Bisazza's tiled floral wall, (far right), is the main event, warming the white furniture and making the space unique. The bold sink wall in the room below, with floating furniture by Crosswater, adds just the right amount of drama, while monochrome subway tiles keep other areas subdued. The focal point needn't be a wild print; in the bathroom below right, the rough stone texture adds interest, but the grey quartzite porcelain tiles from Tile Mountain offer a very appealing contrast to glossy surfaces. Paint can be used for contrast too, and is often a more economical option. In the bathroom on the right, by O&A Design Studio, wood panelling painted in Benjamin Moore's sunny Baby Chick defines the raised area dedicated to a freestanding bath.

LOOK
book

Pygmy Pineapple
plant, £26.50,
Bloombox Club;
hand-woven basket,
£25, Life of Riley





Raja tasselled patterned bath mat, £44, Anthropologie;
Cactus bin, £29, Red Candy



MORE ROOM



BROWNY POINTS



ACCESS ALL AREAS

Bathrooms often feel squashed into whatever space is left over once the rest of the rooms are in position. L-shapes and awkward corners are common issues, to say nothing of working around the limitations of existing pipework. But there are clever solutions to most problems. Roca, (far left), has kept the big items free-floating around the periphery to create circulation space; the dark bidet and shower tray show how powerful non-white fixtures can look. In the bathroom to the left, an inclusive design by Pelipal for InHouse, the lighting and cabinet height are key for those with mobility issues; it's not just the amount of space that matters but how easy it is to move from one area to the next. Above middle shows the value of zoning: the bold aubergine-tinged paint (from Benjamin Moore's Aura Bath & Spa range) defines the sink area. Another trick to make things appear bigger can be seen above. Here, a run of tiles (Marazzi's Scenario Blu brush-stroke effect) covers the entire floor, linking two tiny rooms without a threshold. Paired with a wall-hung basin, those restricted proportions now feel roomy.