

# H I M E

PROPERTY  
SUPPLEMENT  
OF THE  
YEAR

## A WILD AFFAIR

Catherine FitzGerald, landscape designer (and Mrs Dominic West) brings her bohemian touch to their London garden p48



### YOUR CARRIAGE AWAITS

Where to find a family house – and a seat for the rush-hour commute p15



### SEEKING SANCTUARY

Don't splash out before you've read our guide to creating the perfect bathroom p44



# Super style me

**B**arbara Sallick is on a mission to transform the spartan British bathroom into "your sanctuary, a private and indulgent space". In 1978, she and her husband cofounded Waterworks, revolutionising the "overlooked" bathrooms of America. "Taste played little or no part back then. If the plumber got a good deal on an avocado tub or a pink sink, you got an avocado or pink bathroom." She introduced the brand to the UK two and a half years ago, and Waterworks soon became shorthand for American-grade luxury.

The British problem, in 2014, wasn't too much avocado (not any more), but settling for hastily installed off-the-peg bathrooms in identikit white. Visitors to the Waterworks flagship store on the King's Road, in west London, ogled the gooseneck shower roses, cooed over the natural stone surfaces and resolved to raise their bathroom game. Sallick's latest book, *The Perfect Bath*, with inspirational photos and a definitive guide to the nuts and bolts of design, promises to convert even more of us to the cult of the no-compromise bathroom.

So why have we been slow to invest in our bathrooms? Sallick's opinion is that, for years, we have been prioritising the communal areas of our homes, such as the kitchen. Bathrooms have been seen as a private pleasure, an unwarranted extravagance. "I think, in the US, we came to it much, much faster," she says. "I feel we're a much more self-indulgent kind of a culture."

Yet she reckons we Brits are finally getting with the programme. "There is a gym on every corner, a spa in every hotel — people are

One thing Americans always get right is the bathroom. **Katrina Burroughs** gets expert tips on how to create an indulgent sanctuary — never compromise, never go for a quick fix, and always check the view from the tub

## MARVELLOUS MONOCHROME

The near-monochrome palette of this room is accentuated by the lines of the tongue-and-groove boards, the distressed finish of the accessories table and the rhythm of the floor. Towels add texture and the picture collage focuses the eye

From top, left to right: Laura Hull, Marco Michels/William Waldron, William Abramoicz, Tim McGhie/Dent and Myers



**PAINT JOB**

A coat of paint can be fun and youthful – and, if you don't love the outcome, it can be changed in a day. Vertical boards give this space the character of a farmhouse or hunting lodge



**A GOOD SOAK**

The pleasures of relaxing in this big soaking tub are enhanced by the symmetry of the room

more attuned to themselves, generally taking more care of themselves. They're beginning to see that there's nothing the matter with giving yourself permission to have a beautiful bathroom that's all quiet and private and relaxing."

British homeowners are more inclined to compromise than our counterparts across the pond, Sallick observes. "My experience tells me that Americans are better at asking for what they want and getting it." She suggests that the way to improve our bathroom shopping skills is to arm ourselves with more information.

Waterworks grew from her father's plumbing supply business in Danbury, Connecticut, so she knows the importance of understanding your water pressure and can talk at length about the virtues of a good-quality thermostatic valve. "My advice is, don't be fooled because something looks good. You want to be able to ask questions – what is the material? What is the valve

like? You want to buy the right faucets and buy them for life."

According to Sallick, the key to the perfect bathroom is not cash (although that helps), but time. Time spent tracking down the right elements and finding the right contractor, as well as leaving time for unhurried installation. And add a little more time on top. "There's always something you can't expect. There's always the moment when you hold your head and say, 'Oh no, how can this be?'"

For this reason, her *bête noire* is the quick-fixer: "People who come into the showroom and say, 'Oh my gosh, I have to make a decision today and I have to have delivery in a week.' It will turn out fine if you have a really experienced sales consultant to help you. But doing it on the fly is not going to get the outcome you are dreaming about."

Perfection comes through patience and planning.

■ *The Perfect Bath* is published by Rizzoli at £35 →

**SUPER NATURAL**

The designer Pamela Shamshiri's bath shows Asian influences and reflects her appreciation for the healing and consoling qualities of wood, as well as the pleasures of bathing close to nature. Always consider the view when supine in the bubbles



**ROCK SOLID**

Inspired by the organic form of rocks, this tap set is pure, timeless and eclectic. A burnished finish softens the outlines and underscores the sculpted story. Classic tropical printed wallpaper amplifies the natural shapes

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### A NEW SLANT

The tiles have been installed diagonally to accentuate the height of the bathroom and the architectural details. Careful planning ensured that the rhythms and patterns of the tiles fell correctly into place without awkward or unresolved moments. Colours single out features; technical architectural tiles were used to wrap corners and create a fluid experience



### KEEP IT SIMPLE

The absence of architectural detail and the absolute simplicity of the design put the focus in this San Francisco bathroom where it should be: on the artwork and the sweeping view



### VANITY PROJECT

Here you can see a number of effective choices, including the stone that wraps the vanity units and the muted, consistent colour palette. Placing the sinks on either side of the door reinforces the idea of separate domains for the couple sharing the room

From left: Fritz van der Schulenberg; Nathan Kirkman; Erica George Dines



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## ROMANCING THE STONE

The front of this tub would have been too big without a void, so the designer has used the opening practically. The presence of a double window has been maximised, the organic river-stone floor and horizontally figured marble contrast elegantly with the room's architectural formality, and chandelier offers a dollop of glamour. All this and storage, too!



Amy Vischo/Mod

## BARBARA SALLICK'S LUXE BATHROOM RULES

### Do it once, do it right

Everything in the bathroom is attached to the wall or floor, and much of it brings in water or takes it away, so you can see how complicated it is to remove it all. If you don't get it right first time, tearing it out is difficult and expensive.

**Take your time** Plan, edit, curate. I take inspiration from magazines, antiques shops, art galleries, travels – and, when I'm ready to do something, I go through them and whittle down my ideas until I get to a place that feels comfortable. I don't dash out and make a decision in a week.

**Steady on** I always say, save something for your next project. Don't throw it all into one space. The more stuff you layer in – the more patterned wallpaper, the more decorative lighting – the more the bathroom is in danger of looking like a dog's dinner. If you keep it neat, it will always look fresh.

**Keep it classic** Don't go crazy on trends. A bathroom is a long-term investment. The only place you could possibly be trendy would be if you have some wall to paint. You can always paint over it.

**Divide and budget** You can divide the costs into four categories: cost of fittings, cost of surfaces, cost of furniture (sink, loo, bathtub) and cost of installation. Each of the first three, you can manoeuvre one way or another if you are attempting to stay in a budget.

**Where to save** You can have a beautiful bathroom with inexpensive 3in x 6in ceramic subway tiles. It might not look glamorous, but it will always be fresh and classic.

**Where to spend** People look at their budget and buy cheap faucets and shower valves – that is no place to save money. You want the best quality you can possibly afford. And materials.

There are such exquisite stones available. A beautiful figured marble adds a layer of richness, a heated floor and towel bars... I could go on.

**Make smaller rooms seem spacious** Washstands work well in smaller bathrooms. They don't add a big block of furniture that takes up space, they make the room feel more open, and they're practical.

**Never, ever scrimp on installation** The easiest thing to get wrong is to hire a poor contractor. You can take an inexpensive tile and, if it's laid perfectly, the grout is the right colour and it's done well, it will look great.

**Create a cosy space** Decorative lighting will warm up the bathroom. The choice of lighting with an IP (ingress protection) rating now is amazing. The hall or the bedroom should align with the design and decor of the bathroom.

## LEATHER FORECAST



► Thonet's S 826 rocker, with a leather seat and a frame in tubular steel, was designed by Ulrich Böhme in 1971. This is a limited edition. From £2,495; chaplins.co.uk



◀ The new Caspar armchair is Neptune's first piece of leather furniture. It features hand-dyed ox hide and brass studs. £1,610; neptune.com

► This soft leather sling on a wooden frame is new from French Connection Home. £350; frenchconnection.com



◀ The Cross Leg lounge chair was created by a young British designer, Magnus Long, for the Conran Shop. It's made in Italy. £2,100; conranshop.co.uk

► Habitat's Hawkins, in buttoned brown leather and grey velvet, is a statement armchair. £1,200; habitat.co.uk



◀ A classic of the leather scene – designed by Poul Kjaerholm, the PK20, shown in cognac, is made by Fritz Hansen. £7,472; aram.co.uk



Here's another Scandi star: Fredericia's Spanish chair in leather and lacquered oak. £3,061; skandinavium.com



◀◀ The Salir chair and footstool, in soft faux leather, has a comfy feel. £499; very.co.uk

