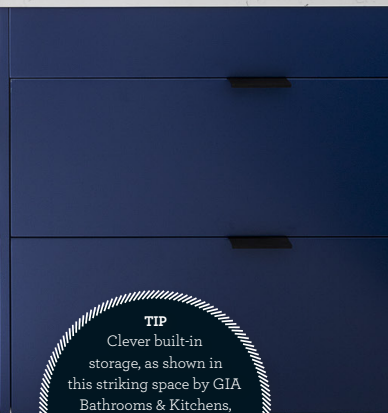


BATHROOMS: SUPER STORE

MAKE YOUR BATHROOM LESS DISORDERLY AND MORE DAY SPA WITH A STORAGE OVERHAUL

WORDS SALLY PATERSON

SMART AND STYLISH storage is non-negotiable in bathroom design. But never fear: it is possible to ramp up a storage quota that's not currently up to scratch in this hard-working room. So grab the measuring tape and discover how to transform a space filled with cluttered surfaces into a sparkling vision of freshness and chic.



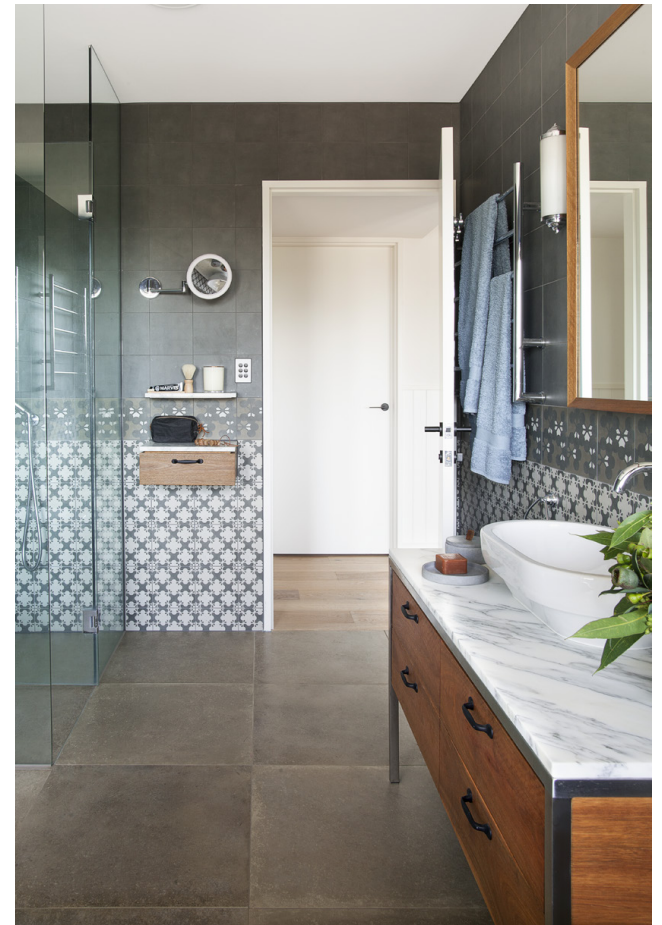
TIP
Clever built-in storage, as shown in this striking space by GIA Bathrooms & Kitchens, can help make the most of your room's existing footprint.

PLANNING AND PLACEMENT

The devil is in the detail with canny storage planning. "Think about who is using the bathroom and then make a detailed list of the most commonly used items and exactly where they should fit," suggests Sandra Baston, founder of Soho Interiors. Sketch a floorplan of the existing room and features, and look at each wall elevation to take note of things such as tiling heights, existing fixtures, windows, doors and architraves. You're hunting for available real estate and anywhere is fair game: behind the door, suspended below the ceiling, above the toilet or where existing features are dragging the chain. Meanwhile, for an easy quick fix, cull any items not in daily use to store elsewhere, and consider decanting bulk-buy products such as shower gel and shampoo into smaller, unbreakable containers to free-up bench or shelf space.

"Pick drawers over cabinets. They allow visibility and access to contents, and you can customise them to fit all your requirements"

~ Sandra Baston, Soho Interiors



PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) SHANIA SHEGEDYN, GREG COX/BUREAUX, BRIGIDA RAROTT. (OPPOSITE) MARTINA GERHOLZ/GIABATHROOMS & KITCHENS



SIZE IT UP

More is more when planning for storage, but it's the weight as well as available dimensions that need consideration. "Cabinets and shelves can be retrofitted to a tiled wall using toggles and wall fixings. However, it's best only to use these for light items," says Ryan McDonald of Ryan McDonald Building. Every millimetre counts, so consider a bespoke storage piece that uses all available space, or look for products that can be customised. "Carefully consider shower and vanity doors, as the way they open can really impact the space," says Daniela Santilli at Reece. Open shelving requires no clearance space for cupboard doors and visually appears less bulky; the downside is keeping on top of the tidiness. >

DESIGNER TIPS AND TRICKS

Match the aesthetic of your storage with your existing bathroom style for a neat look and hunt for product innovations that think outside the box, such as a ceiling-suspended towel rail. Try turning your functional needs into an attractive open-shelf display, freeing up cupboard space for more aesthetically engaging items: think glass canisters filled with cotton tips, stacks of towels in a single neutral colourway, a bath caddy bedecked with soaps and candles or a mirrored tray collating everyday items in a collection of elegant vessels. Pretty hooks for the wall or the back of the door are also a form-meets-function solution.



"When you're low on budget and time, selecting wall-mounted accessories can help your bench space remain clutter-free" ~Daniela Santilli, Reece



FABULOUS FURNITURE

"Multifunctional, clever storage solutions are key," says Daniela. "Units like tallboys allow you to take advantage of unused vertical space, and mirrors with ledges help free up cupboards." Be aware, though, that you'll see anything stored in front of a mirror twice, so be choosy about your shelf arrangement. Swapping a mirror or even a window for a shaving cabinet can reap rewards. Look for cabinets with optimal depth; the diameter of your go-to loo paper roll is a good guide. If plumbing and tiling positioning allows, substituting a tired vanity for a new storage hero such as a substantial vanity with, preferably, plenty of drawer space can achieve dramatic results.



PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, FROM TOP) ALBINE POK, CHRIS WARNES. (OPPOSITE) GREG COX/UREALIX.



Custom ceiling-hung rails, from \$998, DC Short.



'Opaco' ceramic tray, \$79, Temple & Webster.



'Fryken' box with lid, set of 3, \$17.99, Ikea.



'Archie' stool with shelf, \$349, Hudson Furniture.

'Menu' towel and blanket ladder in White, \$950, Luuma.



'Hayley' 700 vanity in South Hampton Grey, \$1800, Vanity by Design.



Pip Studio 'Spring To Life' cotton box in Celadon, \$35, Amara.

Stockists page 220