



GUEST OF HONOUR

Timeless travertine and crisp whites reinvigorate a decades-old bathroom, which is now a warm and luxurious space that beckons guests to relax and rejuvenate

WORDS ANNA McCOOE STYLING LEESA O'REILLY PHOTOGRAPHY EVE WILSON

before This early '90s guest bathroom was very 'safe' and dull. It boasted a long stretch of clean-lined joinery, a double shower and beige-on-beige limestone. The look was pared-back, muted and a bit Kate Moss in a nude Calvin Klein shift dress.

Two decades on, the fittings were dated and the floor and walls were seriously grungy (and not in the cool Kate Moss-does-Glastonbury kind of way, either).

Add into the mix an adjoining bathroom that was far too small and it was time for a rework. The owners, a pair of empty nesters with grandchildren, still wanted to honour the architecture of their '90s house – they just wanted the look to be less of the era.

after Enter the new minimalist bathroom as interpreted by designer Shareen Joel. In this redux of pure, uncomplicated space, the lines are clean and the materials are more luxurious.

Shareen describes her design style as elegant, classic and lasting. She stole almost a metre from the old double shower to give to the small adjoining bathroom. A slight step down and frameless screen enclose the shower, allowing it to blend in with the rest of the space.

In fact, just about every surface – shower, vanity top and splashback included – is dressed in elegant filled travertine. "It's not over-designed," she says. "The materials speak for themselves." ❖

For more info on Shareen Joel Design, visit shareenjoel.com.

TOM DIXON STOOL, SAFARI LIVING, SAFARILIVING.COM, TOWELS, HUB FURNITURE, HUBFURNITURE.COM.AU, HENRY DEAN VASE AND TOM DIXON CANDLE, MANON BIS, MANONBIS.COM.AU, BOWLS AND SOAPS, MONTREUX, (03) 9510 9100.



curve appeal The Kaldewei 'Centro Duo' freestanding bath was a budget option. "An inset bath ends up being more expensive as you have to build and finish a casement for it," explains Shareen. Of course, it was also an aesthetic and practical decision. "The old hub bath was like a coffin in the middle of the room, whereas this bath is a beautiful feature," she says. The smooth curves combine forces with an arched Zucchetti 'Pan' floorstanding bath spout to soften the hard edges of the minimalist space.



set on stone Shareen used sealed and filled travertine on the vanity top and splashback, as well as sealed and filled travertine tiles on the floor and walls. She affirms that travertine is less likely to show wear than limestone, which was used in the old bathroom. "It has so much colour movement – with all the light and dark variations, you don't notice marks," she says. Even though she's used stone in the wet area, Shareen isn't worried. "It's not like marble or limestone – it's very forgiving."

barely there Fittings are pared back to their simplest possible state. Take, for instance, the Zucchetti 'Pan' basin set or the undercounter Duravit basin that don't dare compete with the natural travertine benchtop.

"I'M FOR A CLEAN AND SIMPLE PALETTE. THE QUALITY OF MATERIALS SHOULD DO THE TALKING" Shareen Joel, designer

This guest bathroom was formerly a dull space (opposite, inset) in the home of a couple of empty nesters. Luxe finishes, a pared-back colour palette and clean lines modernise the previously outdated appearance of the space, giving it the feel of a minimalist retreat.

the brief

To transform a dated '90s guest bathroom into a minimalist retreat. Of the three bathrooms in the home, the guest bathroom was only ever used when guests or grandkids came to stay, so the owners needed it to be practical and easy to maintain. At 3m by 5m, the bathroom was also larger than they needed it to be, while the adjoining second bathroom was much smaller.

the budget

With almost 50sqm to dress, the bathroom was going to be expensive to tile in travertine. "The luxury is in the finish," says Shareen. But she saved on plumbing by working with the old layout – the only deviation was the single basin and shower, which was moved from the left side to the right. Shareen also chose a budget-friendly undermount basin to free up funds for the tiles.

star fittings

Filled travertine 600mm x 600mm wall and floor tiles, and a filled travertine 20mm benchtop and splashback, CDK Stone, cdkstone.com.au. Kaldewei 'Centro Duo' oval bath, Bathe, bathe.net.au. Zucchetti 'Pan' wall-mounted basin set and floorstanding bath spout, Streamline Products, streamlineproducts.com.au. Duravit 'D-Code' undercounter basin, Mary Noall.