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3 WAYS TO...

## Bathroom bliss

**Q** How can we bring fashion and function to the new bathroom we're planning? We like the appeal of double basins and a ledge-style vanity, but we don't need two basins. *Jan Coburg, via email*



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**A** A large elliptical or asymmetrical basin will look like a piece of sculpture and give your bathroom an important contemporary design feature. You have the option of a basin positioned in the centre of the wall space or slightly offset, which allows more bench space for displaying pretty perfume bottles and toiletries. Taps mounted on the wall, with an elegant spout overhanging the basin, will free up even more space. A full-height mirror above the vanity ledge creates a 'floating' impression; I suggest you continue the mirror below the vanity, as this can make a small bathroom appear enormous. A wide storage cabinet can be custom-made to fit underneath the ledge.

**A** A single basin set into a cantilevered, ledge-style vanity can look just as stylish as a double if it's balanced by one or two other grand gestures. This could be a wallpaper, a pendant light hung low to one side of the vanity or a whole wall of feature tiles. The trick with these gestures is to really commit to a pattern, colour or scale that will make you smile every time you walk into the space. Rather than adding a band of mosaic tiles, for example, use them to cover a whole wall from floor to ceiling. I often make a feature of the wall opposite the basin: the reflection in the mirror gives twice the effect. Consider alternative storage ideas such as a slim, vertical mirror-clad cupboard set into the wall.

**A** You have a multitude of options, depending on the size of the bathroom and the number of people it needs to serve. There are many great modern versions of the traditional pedestal basin with towel rails and good-sized surrounds – a fine solution in a small bathroom. Above the basin you could have a recessed or wall-attached mirrored cabinet. Top-mounted and above-bench basins are the flavour of the month and come in a great variety of shapes and sizes. You can fit one into a cabinet with drawers, or have it perched on a slab of stone. Good lighting is essential, as are plenty of hooks and towel rails. Add a funky chair, plants and a great laundry basket, or just go minimal. **H&G**

**Have a question?** Whether it's a decorating dilemma or a product enquiry, we'll consult the best in the business. Send your questions to H&G Advice, GPO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028, or email [h&g@acpmagazines.com.au](mailto:h&g@acpmagazines.com.au). Include your name and address.