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# BUILDING INSPIRATION

FROM CHIC WEEKENDERS TO NEW FAMILY HOMES

# WARM HEARTED

### *The brief*

The owners of this home outside Melbourne tasked Carolyn Burns-McCrave of Burns McCrave Design with creating an ensuite with personality. The existing ensuite was only six years old but wasn't the welcoming, glamorous bathroom they were after.

### *The process*

The starting point for this renovation was the fireplace. "We kept it in place and built the room around it," says Burns-McCrave. Because the ensuite was relatively new the plumbing was in order and updating the room was a matter of bringing in new fixtures, fittings and finishes. "Choosing a beautiful Apaiser bath created the feeling of luxury that the homeowners were after," says Burns-McCrave. "Layering in the yellow paisley wallpaper met their request for colour." The Villa Nova wallpaper is a vibrant addition and balances out the hard surfaces. The dual joinery units received an overhaul too. "We had them finished in 2-pac polyurethane and put on new handles. Furniture softens a bathroom and makes it more inviting," she says. Key to this room's design is its symmetry. "When you have symmetry you feel more balanced and calm."

### *The result*

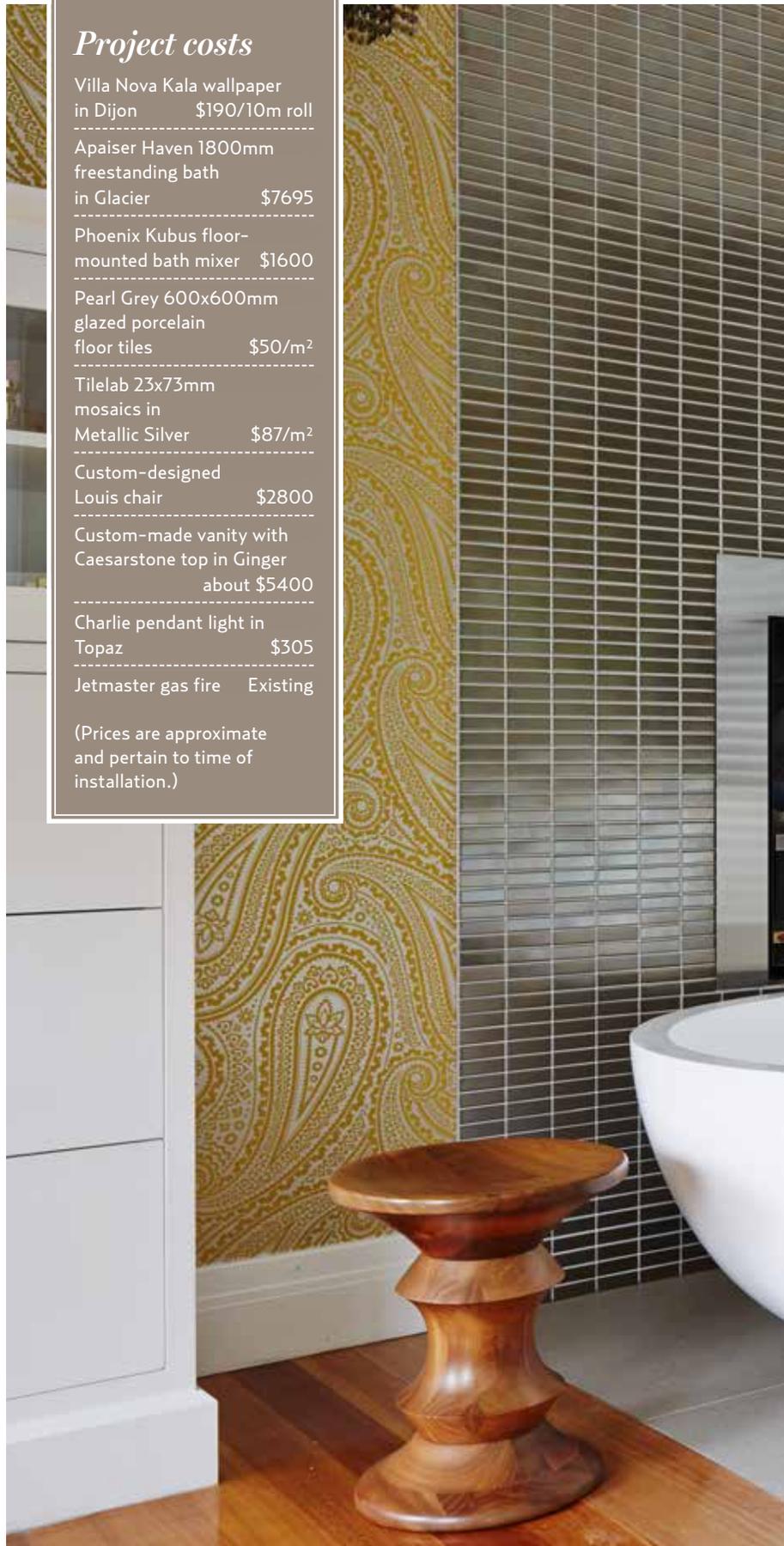
The room is luxurious without taking itself too seriously, says Burns-McCrave. The home is on acreage and it's possible for the owners to look out from the bath to see cattle grazing. "On a chilly evening it's also great with a glass of wine and the fire on." >

**Burns McCrave Design, Nunawading, Victoria; (03) 9894 0586 or [www.burnsmccrave.com.au](http://www.burnsmccrave.com.au).**

### *Project costs*

Villa Nova Kala wallpaper in Dijon	\$190/10m roll
Apaiser Haven 1800mm freestanding bath in Glacier	\$7695
Phoenix Kubus floor-mounted bath mixer	\$1600
Pearl Grey 600x600mm glazed porcelain floor tiles	\$50/m <sup>2</sup>
Tilelab 23x73mm mosaics in Metallic Silver	\$87/m <sup>2</sup>
Custom-designed Louis chair	\$2800
Custom-made vanity with Caesarstone top in Ginger	about \$5400
Charlie pendant light in Topaz	\$305
Jetmaster gas fire	Existing

(Prices are approximate and pertain to time of installation.)



Text by Sarah Pickett. Photograph by Sean Fennessy. Styling by Judy Østergaard. For Where to Buy, see page 283.



The use of furniture in this bathroom makes it more inviting, says Burns-McCrave. "It's all about getting some movement and organic lines into a space that is predominantly hard and linear. Just because it's a bathroom, it doesn't mean it can't be decorated and furnished like any other room."

### *How to heat the bathroom*

Installing a gas fire, as the owners of this ensuite have, is a lovely way to warm your bathroom. "Even when it's not in use it brings a suggestion of warmth," says Burns-McCrave. While soaking in a bath with flames flickering rates as an unparalleled luxury, it's hardly standard in a bathroom. Here are some other ways to keep things feeling toasty:

- ❖ If you have the budget, look to radiant under-floor heating, says Belinda Geels, bathroom marketing manager for Reece. "Because heat rises, underfloor heating is one of the most efficient ways to heat your bathroom and your whole home," she says. "Under-floor systems don't circulate dust particles in the air, so they are good for those with allergies and asthma." Choose between electric or hydronic systems. A premium whole-house hydronic system from Designer Heat costs about \$1000/m<sup>2</sup> (complete and installed). Warmtech sells electric bathroom under-floor heating kits, which costs from \$279 (and will heat about 1.5m<sup>2</sup>).
- ❖ As well as being functional, heated-towel rails can act as a design element, says Tim Dawson, national brand manager at Tradelink. "The latest releases look great and they're a good counter to open showers, which don't always keep warm air close to the body," he says. Eco-friendly models come with programmable digital timers.
- ❖ Overhead heat lamps have come a long way in recent years. Today the Australian-made IXL Tastic Neo sets the standard for both design and heat delivery. Its tungsten halogen heat lamps are set behind frosted toughened glass and aided by reflectors that disperse heat across the body instead of simply overhead. "A single heat lamp will warm an ensuite or smaller bathroom with a ceiling height of up to 2.4 metres," says Libby Strong, brand manager for IXL Tastic. ➤



The vanity is a Burns-McCrave design made by the builders on the project, Delroy Constructions.

### 3 OF A KIND: HEATED TOWEL RAILS



#### FROM LEFT

Linsol Siena six-bar heated towel rail, \$499, Harvey Norman; 1300 464 278 or [www.harveynorman.com.au](http://www.harveynorman.com.au). Corto 300x550mm heated towel rail, from \$396, Christiaan's; (07) 3357 7713 or [www.christiaans.com.au](http://www.christiaans.com.au). Hydrotherm Milan Quad Swivel heated towel rail, \$1150, Reece; 1800 032 566 or [www.reece.com.au](http://www.reece.com.au).