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Soak it up: bathroom trends

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Once the smallest and most overlooked room in our house, the bathroom is having a moment in the spotlight – with homeowners wanting to make their space a focal point in their house. Update yours by taking note of some of the latest trends on the horizon.

Vintage appeal

In terms of colour, a monochrome palette is making a comeback, giving a nod to Art Deco masterpieces of old.



The Alexis tile from Bert & May

Harriet Roberts, co-founder of tile experts **Bert & May** (020 3673 4264; www.bertandmay.com), lends her expertise: “Monochrome – black, grey and white lend gravitas to any floor, and can often be the most striking as they let the pattern speak for itself. In Mediterranean countries where the light is brighter, the colours tend to be brighter.”

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Complementing this look is also a return to a 1930s' simplicity - combine period fixtures and fittings, utilitarian accessories, minimalist details and chunky wooden accents for a modern take on the industrial style. If your bathroom is big enough, the ultimate endorsement of this trend is the addition of a fireplace.



Owner of fireplace specialist **Renaissance London** (020 7251 8844; www.renaissancelondon.com) and expert in architectural salvage Owen Pacey reveals the growing trend: "I think a fireplace brings drama and glamour to a room. I love seeing fireplaces in every room and I'm seeing a returning trend of installing a fireplace in kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms. Fireplaces are the design focus for many rooms and people are seeing their power and potential."

"It also makes sense to invest in a working fireplace this winter as you can ignite your property's value by up to 5%, add an aesthetic glow of a real fire and save on heating bills too," he adds. "With up to 20 per cent more people choosing a real fire over the past couple of years, there's a definite trend towards investing in beautiful fireplaces."