

Bathrooms

We look at trends and predictions for the near and not too distant future and of course the very latest products to help you design your ultimate bathroom space with ease.

Jaana Jättyri is the founder of Trendstop.com, a leading trend forecasting agency analysing trends for fashion, interior and lifestyle industry professionals. Their mobile app allows consumers to engage with professional trend forecasting for the first time.

Interior design is increasingly influenced by seasonal fashion trends with Cube Play and Carbon Factor the key trends to look out for in 2012. Cube Play introduces playful elements to sophisticated geometry and the Carbon Factor is a trend for the lover of minimalist lines and streamlined design.

Cube Play

Colour blocking has been an ongoing trend in fashion for some time, and it is set to continue in optimistic, ice cream inspired colours, as seen on the Spring/Summer 2012 catwalks. The cube play interior design trend is an easy way to introduce this everlasting trend into any home. Directional design duo Preen's Spring/Summer 2012 collection features checkerboard cubes in fresh pastels mixed with grey and black, while New York visionary Philip Lim presents clean block layering in Italian ice cream colours. These looks could be reflected in towels, tiles, or square soap dishes and toothbrush cups in the bathroom.

In interior design, colour blocking takes the form of cubes, such as seen in the chairs and sofas by Bonaldo, Established & Sons, Marc Thorpe for Moroso and Atelier van Lieshout for Lensvelt (right). These come in contemporary vintage inspired colours such as Dusk Apricot, Moss Olive and Golden Mustard, which were seen in the fashion collections of Fendi and Missoni for Autumn/Winter 2011-12 and continuing for Spring/Summer 2012 at Chloe, Matthew Williamson and Jonathan Saunders.



Atelier van Lieshout for Lensvelt.



The Mira Miniluxe with Diverter.

When stepping into the shower, large area block tiling behind your shower brings the bright style statement of Cube Play into your shower area. Any of the modern minimalist designs, such as the Mira Platinum or Coda Pro with Diverter, while the classically shaped Mira Realm with Diverter reflects the modern vintage feel of the Fendi collection.

The sleek Mira Flight Low shower tray can also be used to create a colour block statement on the floor, against smooth contrasting tiling. The low profile Flight Low comes in square, rectangular, pentangle and quadrant shapes to give you lots of options to 'cube play' with.

The Carbon Factor

As masculine grooming products take an increasing amount of space on the bathroom shelf, the natural progression is for the man to want the area where he grooms to reflect his style. The masculine, minimalist look of The Carbon Factor is for the man who prefers his environment as well-groomed as himself.

We see furniture design delve into the world of autosport and aerospace technology, pushing design to the extremities of its production capabilities. Gareth Pugh's Blade Runner inspired creations for Spring/Summer 2012 carry over into interiors in the designs by Established & Sons and the 25 range by Desalto, which features clean white tables with the tabletop and leg thickness of just 25mm on a 3.5 meter long table.

Interior designers have developed new techniques of using aluminium and carbon fibres to obtain sizes and dimensions never reached before, creating minimalist lines and streamlined designs with a sleek flush



Terence Woodgate John Barnard Surface Table for Established and Sons.

look. The reflective mirror-like quality of the material of the Surface Table by Established & Sons creates a wonderful effect close to optical illusion.

We will see this look translating into the bathroom of the style conscious male customer, who wants to do his grooming in an ultra stylish space, pared down environment sleek with monochromatic black, white and chrome surfaces. The 'Carbon Factor' man will love the big waterfall shower of the Mira Miniluxe with the ultra slim and glossy Flight



Ideal Standard Ireland reveals bathroom of the future which will keep us in tip top condition, entertain us and increase our social awareness.

The research by Ideal Standard highlights how the bathroom of the future could be radically different from the one we are used to today.

With a super hi-tech feel our washing habits and grooming rituals could be monitored to relay precisely our health, wellbeing and crucially our environmental impact. Following developments in nanotechnology the bathroom will be able to adapt to homeowner habits and demands – saving water, energy and time.

Energy Efficient

The survey of over 1,000 Irish homeowners revealed that whilst environmental impact is of great concern to the public, thinking about it during the morning spruce up is a no-no. But experts have divulged that future bathrooms will be using intuitive technology to automate energy and water usage in Irish homes. Displayed digitally on the mirror in real time, users will be able to see the cost of each bath, how many litres of water are wasted while brushing teeth and the number of loo flushes that day. This will dramatically affect product design and our attitude to water conservation.

Social networking on the... What!

24 per cent of us make phone calls in the bathroom! And 31 per cent surf the net! It seems we cannot or don't want to escape social networking. The survey exposed that the Irish are already bathroom communication addicts – but this is only set to rise! With specific screens or technology heightened mirrors we will be able to tune in to our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube sites – accessing emails and text messages as our sophisticated mirrors Bluetooth themselves to our mobiles, ipads and ipods.

The new entertainment hub...

Catch up on all the latest news in the morning with Plastronic shower curtains displaying the day's headlines, voice controlled flat screens displaying the morning papers will make reading a pleasure and wireless consoles will make international loo-based gaming a reality. With 44 per cent of us already reading in the bathroom the future of communication is strong.

Low shower tray for a sleek wet room look.

The modern man will also covet sleek contours and digital wireless technology, allowing the shower to be operated from different points of the room. Step into your perfect shower as the water is pressure adjusted and remotely heated to your desired temperature. An eco feature ensures you can keep an eye on your carbon footprint whilst revelling in The Carbon Factor.'

Furniture images courtesy of www.trendstop.com



The Great Escape...

We all need a break and an escape – in fact 82 per cent of Irish people use the bathroom for this very purpose. Experts are predicting that the bathroom of the future will offer magical ways to create a haven from the pressures of the outside world. Issue a simple command and the floor will offer the feeling of stepping onto warm beach sand, caressing pebbles or soothing soft grass! Sounds and smells will envelop us as sensory and haptic technology will create hallucinations beyond our wildest dreams!

Feelin' great... lookin' good!

With increases in obesity, diabetes and other lifestyle conditions on the rise our bathroom of the future will use health as a vital stepping stone to its development. Weight, BMI index and body fat percentage will all be accessible instantaneously; with hydration levels, vitamin deficiency and mood being measured, highlighted and solutions offered by our bathrooms. With Irish women spending an average of 175 minutes a month on their beauty rituals the bathroom will be designed to offer advice and solutions on how we look – suggesting outfits to a specific hair design or makeup colour! Also relaying messages from friends as to the outfit they are wearing to ensure no more embarrassing clashes. Self cleaning bathrooms – cause for celebration!

It's the most vile job on the chore list – clean the bathroom! The Irish public is screaming for the bathroom of the future to simply look after itself. With 57 per cent of people imploring the bathroom to unblock its own plugholes; nearly one in three wishing good riddance to mould and condensation; 33 per cent asking for self replacing toilet roles and 29 per cent not wanting to empty a bathroom bin again.

The report was commissioned by Ideal Standard and carried out by Future Poll, the research division of The Future Laboratory with local research by Empathy Research and Synovate.'