

# The best in BATHROOMS

Aim for calm and relaxation when styling your bathroom is the advice from Rachael Polkinghorne of Polkadot Interiors, Keswick



Rachael Polkinghorne knows a thing or two about setting scenes, having worked in TV as a researcher, presenter and producer for many years before setting up her design company Polkadot Interiors, based in Keswick.

It all started after she renovated two cottages and when she sold them the purchasers wanted to buy all the fittings and furniture too, which gave her the confidence to work on other projects and start her own company.

"We specialise in creating beautiful spaces that work for you – for your lifestyle, your business and your budget, bringing you contemporary design and style with a professional, creative and understanding approach," says Rachael. "And we use local trades people and suppliers where possible."

When it comes to bathrooms Rachael hates clutter and goes for clean and simple lines, aiming for a functional and calm space in which you can relax.

"My own bathroom is really tiny so I've hung the sink and the toilet to give more floor space and gone for dark slate floor tiles to give an illusion of space," she says. "I've also hung a huge piece of mirror over half of one wall and had the wall lights drilled through the mirror into

the wall as I like the reflection they make.

"To save even more space the heated towel rail is over one end of the bath and the shower screen folds neatly away. I wanted a storage system too, but with all the black, white and grey going on the room was in danger of looking a bit utilitarian so I found an old pine shelving unit and added some baskets from IKEA into which I can shove all my bottles."

Rachael applies the same principles to her client's bathrooms, and describes a recent renovation where again she had the whole bathroom tiled, so that any splashes could easily be wiped up, but added a contemporary free standing bath: "It adds a bit of glamour, and you can lie back and look at the sky through the Velux."

So what are Rachael's top tips for bathrooms?

"If you tile from floor to ceiling like a wet room you can achieve a clean, practical, contemporary look. Then get everything you can up off the floor – wall-hung sinks and toilets give a greater feeling of space and make the room far easier to clean – and you should also create a lighting scheme that works in two ways, both functional for make-up application but also relaxing for bathing."

■ [www.polkadot-interiors.co.uk](http://www.polkadot-interiors.co.uk) ■

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A bathroom Rachael designed. "You can lie back and look at the sky"

