

Light touch

Sleek, modern elements combine with a natural, down-to-earth ambience

It's often desirable for a bathroom remodel to reflect a total change of aesthetic from the previous space. Where the existing interior is tired and dark, a fresh, light ambience is the logical response.

This project is a case in point, with designer Paul Hutchison transforming an uninviting, black-tiled bathroom into a comfortable, airy and contemporary retreat.

"To create a more opulent feel, we chose polished porcelain floor tiles for the floors and cross-cut travertine and stone tiles on the walls," says Hutchison. "The subtle, earthy tones of the tiles give the sense of a connection with nature. This is accentuated by a column of variegated stonework above the vanity, which is repeated as a backing for inset shelves beside the bath and in the shower area."

Juxtaposing the natural look of the stone are sculptural basins and a large spa bath that echoes their angular forms. The tub is housed in a 60mm-deep bath hob.

"We selected frameless glass for the shower stall to continue the modern aesthetic – this also contributes to the sense of space," the interior designer says.

The owners had requested plenty of storage and counter space. To achieve this, Hutchison introduced a long his and hers vanity running along one wall as far as the shower.

The floating vanity enhances the spacious, airy feel while providing ample under-counter storage. A mitred CaesarStone bench continues the substantial look of the tub surround, which is finished in the same material.

"This bathroom's clean look is partly due to the symmetry of the tilework – a stainless steel strip drain in the shower keeps the tiles uniform throughout," says Hutchison.

➔ See more images of this bathroom online at [Trendsideas.com/go/26895](https://www.trendsideas.com/go/26895)



Above: The reverse blind above the tub admits natural light without compromising the owners' privacy. Every nook and cranny in the bathroom is put to good use. Custom storage niches at the end of the tub were designed to keep toilet rolls tidy and out of sight.

Designer: Paul Hutchison HIA, KBDI, NKBA, Kitchen Bathroom Design Studios (Melbourne, Vic)

Builder: Bubbles Bathrooms

Vanity: Custom designed vinyl wrap by Bubbles Bathrooms

Bath: Hoesch Foster double ended

Basins: White Stone Om by Reece

Shower: Custom designed, frameless blade glass

Toilet: Pozzi-Ginori Easy; in-wall system and Sigma white glass pushplate by Geberit

Shower and basin tapware: Paco Jaanson Love Me

Tile flooring: Porcelain polished Camozza

Wall tiles: Polished noce in cross-cut travertine

Accessories: Tranquility square heated towel ladder from Waltec

Story by Charles Moxham
Photography by Paul West

Right: Warm stonework, clean lines and an emphasis on space give this bathroom a welcoming feel. Large vanity drawers and recessed storage behind the hinged mirrors mean there is a place for everything. The vertical stone feature column and a towel ladder draw the eye up through the room, further enhancing its volume.