

BRIGHT STARTS

Early morning starts are infinitely more tolerable when you're surrounded by cheerful colour. Homeowners Catherine and Charles wholeheartedly subscribed to that design philosophy when they renovated the bathroom they share with their two sons in the Brisbane suburb of Brookfield.

"Our clients adore colour and pattern and, with two young boys, they wanted a bathroom that was fun and energising," says interior designer Christopher Gyzemyter of CG Design Studio.

The 18-square-metre space, situated at the top of the two-storey house, connects to both the master suite and hallway, so it doubles as an ensuite and family bathroom. Hexagonal encaustic tiles in breezy aquamarine line the floor and sections of the walls: they're the star of the show and play off the bathroom's pitched roofline. "We love how they add whimsy and personality to the space," says Christopher.

The bright tiles are balanced by a warm palette of Tasmanian oak, white joinery and concrete. "Unlike marble, concrete isn't precious - a toothpaste smear really isn't going to matter - plus it adds an industrial edge, which the owners like," says Christopher.

Of course, practical inclusions are a must in any family bathroom. This one includes a generous built-in cupboard for towels and toiletries, which extends to a bench seat where the parents can sit and dry kids off after a shower. A spacious new shower enclosure occupies the area where a step-up spa bath once occupied. "It's a lovely spot to shower, with views out the dormer window to the gum trees," says Christopher.

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Uplifting colour and practical inclusions make busy mornings a breeze for one Brisbane family.

STORY *Georgia Madden* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Mindi Cooke*

BATHROOM *design notes*

WALL TILES & FLOOR TILES Dandelion
Hex cement tiles in Cyan/White, Earp Bros.

CABINETRY Polytec in Polar White.
Tasmanian Oak veneer, Sharp Plywood.

BENCHTOPS & SPLASHBACK Concrete
Matte slab, WK Quantum Quartz.

BASIN Arc concrete basin in French Grey,
Accent Bathrooms.

TAPWARE Yokato wall set, Brodware.

HANDLES Carlisle pull in Brushed
Nickel, Lo & Co.

SHOWER Rain shower in Brushed
Platinum, Astra Walker.

LIGHTING Vistosi 'Lucciola' wall light
in Opal/Frosted finish, Lumen-8.

“It’s a lovely spot to shower,
with views out the dormer
window to the gum trees.”

Christopher Gyzemyter, interior designer



THE ALL-ROUNDER

A hardworking laundry is a must but this takes it to the next level, with space for sewing, crafting and kids' storage.

STORY *Georgia Madden* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Mindi Cooke*

“WE KNEW THAT WE WANTED SOMETHING DRAMATIC HERE AS CATHERINE LOVES COLOUR AND PATTERN.” *Christopher Gyzemyter, interior designer*



Laundry, sewing room, crafting space, mudroom - this utility room in the Brisbane suburb of Brookfield had a lot to pack in. “Catherine, one of the clients, is a doctor, and crafting and sewing is her way of winding down - the business of washing is almost secondary,” says Christopher Gyzemyter, the interior designer behind this delight.

As part of a major renovation to a 1980s two-storey brick home, which Catherine and husband Charles share with their two young sons, Christopher relocated the previously tiny laundry to an unused study and landing. The result is an enormous 25-square-metre, multitasking space. Opening up the ceiling added light and a sense of airiness, too.

On one side of the room is a working laundry with a pull-up drying rack. In the centre is a large bench that doubles as a folding and cutting table, while the other side houses a built-in desk for Catherine’s sewing machine and stacks of storage for her supplies, with a sliding hatch so she can chat to family in the living room. Floor clutter is kept at bay thanks to an upholstered bench seat with storage drawers below and wall hooks above, where the boys can pop their bags and shoes on the way in from school.

Leafy, patterned wallpaper on the upper sections of the walls adds a touch of fun and picks up on the garden views. “We knew that we wanted something dramatic here as Catherine loves colour and pattern,” says Christopher. “We experimented with a few wallpapers before settling on this one, which we love for its playful and charming feel.”
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LAUNDRY *design notes*

WALL TILES Devon Superwhite Matt 75x300mm ceramic tiles, Earp Bros.

FLOOR TILES Roden Perla 450x900mm porcelain tiles in Natural, Earp Bros.

CABINETRY & BENCHTOPS Polytec in Polar White. Tasmanian oak veneer around drawer faces and rattan doors. Solid timber veneer to sewing desk, bench seat and table in centre. Woven rattan overhead cupboard infills, House Of Rattan. Nassau outdoor fabric in Willow for benchseat upholstery, Westbury Textiles.

SINK Franke ‘Deluxe’ 45-litre sink, Winning Appliances.

TAPWARE Yokato tapware in Organic Brass, Brodware.

HANDLES Luna brass door pulls, Lo & Co.

APPLIANCES Miele.

WALLPAPER Mind The Gap ‘Green Sanctuary’ wallpaper, Natty And Polly.

PAINT Dulux Whitsunday Island.

ACCESSORIES Hooks, Ray Grahams. Other accessories, Minnis & Samson.

A FINE VIEW

Natural tones and sweeping curves add a luxe boho feel to a bijou vanity area in a family home.

STORY *Georgia Madden* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Hannah Puechmarin*

It's easy to overlook the smaller parts of your home, but if they're on full view from other rooms, they deserve some decorative attention. This little guest vanity area in a contemporary home in the Brisbane suburb of Kedron is a great example.

"It's located off the open-plan kitchen and living area and opens onto a hallway, so it was imperative to deliver a space that didn't feel like a bathroom," says interior designer Julia Stojanovic of CG Design Studio. "It was originally a plain design with standard two-pack cabinetry and we wanted to add personality and make it light and inviting."

Two of the existing painted walls and the tiled floor were retained. The starting point for the new design was an arched rattan mirror set against linen-look wallpaper. "The client likes earthy materials and a boho-chic feel, so it fitted the bill perfectly, plus it creates a spectacular focal point as you travel down the hall," says Julia.

She paired it with a solid American oak vanity, topped with Zellige-style tiles to match the splashback. A tap in brushed nickel and a marble basin add a luxe edge. "We kept the vanity off the floor to make the area feel more open and maximise floor space, but it also makes the vanity look like a piece of custom furniture," says Julia.

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POWDER ROOM *design notes*

CABINETRY American oak cabinetry, Farmers Doors.

BENCHTOP & SPLASHBACK Nazari Zellige-style tiles, Earp Bros.

BASIN Senorita Grigio honed marble basin, Marble Basin Hub.

TAPWARE Milani basin hob mixer set in Brushed Nickel, ABI Interiors.

HANDLES Rattan and aged brass handles, Anthropologie.

MIRROR Gabriella mirror, Sarah Ellison.

LIGHTING Aiden 1 pendant light, Beacon Lighting.

WALLPAPER Casamance 'Shinok' vinyl wallpaper, Zepel Fabrics.

Joyful touch

The mundane is made magical in a tiny laundry, thanks to playful use of colour and pattern.

STORY *Georgia Madden* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Hannah Puechmarin*

If any room in the home can benefit from a touch of fun it's the laundry. And, tucked behind a concealed, timber-battered door in the entrance corridor of a townhouse in the Brisbane suburb of Hawthorne, this five-square-metre laundry gives homeowner Helen every reason to smile.

"Laundries are usually boring and, being internalised, this one was quite dark," says interior designer Christopher Gyzemyt of CG Design Studio. "We wanted to lift the space and make it joyful. Helen loves peacock tones, so we used turquoise tiles on the wall, laid in a fun herringbone pattern that really bring it to life."

The rest of the space is light and usable, with white joinery and concrete-look porcelain floor tiles. "The large 900x900mm format creates a more seamless floor and they're used throughout," says Christopher.

There's a decent stretch of benchtops for folding clothes, and the washer and dryer are stacked to save room and create space for a mix of open and closed storage. "With a small space, a mix of storage works best - it can get quite cramped if there are endless doors to open," he says.

The result is a laundry that ticks every box. "It's compact yet well-appointed and services all of Helen's washing and storage needs," says Christopher.

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LAUNDRY *design notes*

WALL TILES Tavella 75x150mm subway tiles in Krakle Verdone, Amber Tiles.

FLOOR TILES Context 900x900mm porcelain tiles in Square, Tile Solutions.

CABINETRY Polytec in Classic White, with shadowline in Navurban veneer in Balmoral, New Age Veneers.

DOOR Solid European oak door stained in Feast Watson Black Japan Stain, designed by Mark Davis Furniture.

BENCHTOP Caesarstone in Cloudburst Concrete.

SINK Bow single bowl undermount sink, Franke.

TAPWARE Essence single lever tap, Grohe.

APPLIANCES Siemens.

ACCESSORIES Towels and other accessories, client's own.

Box of surprises

A tiny powder room is made great with a wild and whimsical wallpaper and luxe brass and marble touches.

STORY *Georgia Madden* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Hannah Puechmarin*

The element of surprise is a wonderfully effective design tool, and this tiny powder room in a townhouse in the Brisbane suburb of Hawthorne is a perfect example.

The 180x90-centimetre room is hidden behind a secret door in a dark, timber-lined hallway, giving no hint from the outside of the delights that lie within.

“My client, Helen, loves to entertain and often hosts guests from interstate,” says interior designer Christopher Gyzemyer. “She wanted it to be like a jewel box, where guests would be greeted by a wow moment.”

The whimsical Fornasetti fish-print wallpaper certainly does that. “Helen loves jewel tones and turquoise, so it was a natural choice,” says Christopher, who chose a deep brass bench and brushed-gold tapware. “It’s brave to do a brass bench, but Helen loves it and has used it in the kitchen, too.”

A carved marble basin and smoky-grey mirror complete the look. “With its deep sides, the basin makes you feel like you’re not in a bathroom but in some fabulous New York bar,” says Christopher.

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POWDER ROOM *design notes*

WALLPAPER Fornasetti ‘Acquario Fish’ wallpaper in Viridian Green, Cole & Son.

VANITY Brass bench, Minnis & Samson.

BASIN Nero Marquina marble basin, Marble Basin Hub.

TAPWARE Pinch wall-mounted basin set in Brushed Gold, Rogerseller.

TOWEL RAIL Rogerseller.