

LUXURY

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

40+

INSPIRING
DESIGNS

THE ULTIMATE
STATEMENT BASINS



Jad
Jagger
designs in
Mumbai

TOP DRAWER
the finest cutlery

COLOUR PLAY
the best & brightest
kitchen gear

The joys of
alfresco bathing

UM
Universal
Magazines

No.11
AUS \$9.95*
NZ \$12.30
(both incl GST)

www.completehome.com.au

11

ISSN 1447 - 9672
771447 967003

Gentlemanly Calm

Bold and dazzling textures infuse this elegant kitchen and bathroom, not only for appearance, but functionality too

Words by Danielle Townsend



"When designing this glam bathroom for a gentleman, we had to be careful not to make it feminine," says interior designer Amgad Kamel of AK Interiors. "And every design feature had to have a purpose. The client was after function, not just appearance."

Although Amgad worked on the whole apartment in Sydney's northwest, as a general concept for the client, his main

focus was transforming the very dated bathroom and kitchen. When it came to the bathroom, the brief from the owner was for a glam bathroom that, while practical, also exuded a hotel-like spa feel.

The previous bathroom was very old and rundown and a far cry from what you might find in the finest international hotels. "We had to gut it completely," says Amgad.

"We only kept the stained-glass window."

The raised free-standing bath is a dominant design feature of the warm space and takes advantage of one of Sydney's most iconic views. "We raised it up on a timber platform so that the client can enjoy the harbour views from the bath," says Amgad. "The mirrored walls behind the bath add extra depth to the space and also reflect other features within the bathroom. They also frame the beautiful old stained-glass windows, which we kept on purpose."

Travertine floor tiles in warm beige add warmth, thanks to their colour, and work very well with the elevated timber platform. The travertine also adds a natural look to the floor.

One of the bathroom's most striking features is the opulent-looking circular

gold mosaics incorporated as a feature for the shower wall and which give the space a stylish detail. Hand-held showers, as well as a rain showerhead, are surrounded by these feature mosaics and frameless glass doors.

The choice of lighting was also an important aspect of the design. Wall and pendant lights create alternative moods to the room and help add a glamorous touch. The feature wall lights, all in hand-blown yellow glass, and the mirrored walls on either side of the window create a very special ambience. The pendant lights above the glossy black stone basins, in black and a pearl shade, work well with the basins.

A spectacular framed mirror was added above the basins for a gorgeous





touch of luxury. The vanity units, with Caesarstone top, were custom-designed to accommodate a storage area and dark Macassar veneer was used on all cabinet joinery to perfectly blend with the basins.

A heated towel warmer and underfloor heating were utilised to ward off the winter chills and provide essential comfort. "The best invention for bathrooms, in my opinion, is a heated towel warmer. No one should have a bathroom without a heated towel warmer!" says Amgad.

With a career in interior architecture and design that has spanned close to 20 years, it's a big call for an interior designer to declare a project as their favourite, but Amgad says this bathroom takes top honours in his books.

"This is my favourite bathroom I've ever designed — it's glam and stylish. I love the feature tiles and mosaics and the lighting is spectacular. Lots of feature elements were used in the design of this bathroom and they all work so well together."

Amgad also took the very basic, rundown 1960s kitchen in the same apartment and worked to the owner's brief for "a modern-looking kitchen

that still balances with the period of the building".

"The owner loves to cook and he wanted a kitchen that functions perfectly," says Amgad. Understandably, he wanted the latest commercial-style appliances to create his culinary masterpieces. Amgad also had to accommodate a dining table that seats eight within the space and make it a feature.

The owner asked that his new kitchen maximise the space and that, in a nod to the European style, a laundry be accommodated within a kitchen cabinet. Amgad also cleverly maximised storage by using the existing high ceiling.

Opting for a clean-lined design with light-colour finishes, Amgad incorporated a Caesarstone Snow White benchtop for its durability and strength. Semi-gloss polyurethane Dulux Vivid White cabinetry and panels matches the walls, which are painted in the same shade. "This appears to blend in rather than create a contrast, which, to a degree, makes the space appear larger," says Amgad. Handles weren't used so that the definite look of the cabinet wasn't taken away. As sufficient lighting was also on the wish list, LED downlights were





incorporated and, in cool light, they reflect the colour of the finishes.

The island bench with wine-and-drinks fridge ensures that there's always a well-chilled drink on hand when friends or family drop by. Two other high-end features that are a talking point in the space are the custom-designed-and-built stainless-steel exhaust above the rangehood and the dramatic mirrored splashback. This reflects the external views and cleverly makes the space much larger.

Recycled timber flooring was chosen for its durability and, visually, it works well with the sandstone walls of the kitchen's entry.

The space now achieves a successful balance between the new kitchen and the old feature sandstone walls. "The new kitchen is a successful design as it emerges balanced with the older features in the apartment and it does not dominate the space," says Amgad.

He believes that good design involves surrendering to your intuition, thinking beyond the basics and breaking rules.

"What I do is about creative intelligence," says Amgad. "You have to be open to taking design risks and breaking rules, but without forgetting that function, scale and harmony form the basis of a timeless interior. A space needs to serve us — there is a purpose and use for everything. Everything has to be calculated perfectly." **LKB**



Project particulars

The kitchen and bathroom were designed by Amgad Kamel of **AK INTERIORS** Suite 6, 272 Pacific Highway, Crows Nest NSW 2065 **PHONE** (02) 9629 7815 **EMAIL** amgad@akinteriors.com.au **WEBSITE** www.akinteriors.com.au **KITCHEN: CABINETRY AND PANELS** Semi-gloss polyurethane finish in Dulux Vivid White **INTERNAL HARDWARE** Häfele **BENCHTOP** Caesarstone Snow White **SPLASHBACK** Mirrored **WALL** Dulux Vivid White **LIGHTING** LED downlights **FLOORING** Recycled timber **BATHROOM: BATH** Raised free-standing **SHOWER** Handheld and rain shower **BASIN** Black stone **VANITY** Custom-designed, Caesarstone top, Macassar veneer on all cabinet joinery **LIGHTS** Feature wall lights all in hand-blown yellow glass, pendant lights above basins in black and pearl colour **FLOORING** Travertine tiles in warm beige **HEATING** Heated towel warmer and underfloor heating **MIRROR** Framed mirror above basin **ZEITGEIST PHOTOGRAPHY**