



BATHROOM TREND 03

Handmade

This trend celebrates the hand of the designer or architect and very much emphasises fine craftsmanship and the artisanal qualities of bespoke design. It also serves as a gentle reminder that the handmade isn't about presenting ostentatious or overly laboured outcomes of complicated skill and technique. Instead, it revels in thoughtfully considered simplicity and relishes the single treatment executed well.

Revealing the way an interior was created is at the core of this trend and that's why it often finds its most compelling expression in the adaptive reuse or renovation of a hotel because this type of project always comes with history. To peel back the layers and expose existing brick, paint and whatever else may be hidden is a satisfying process that gives rise to unexpected yet welcome outcomes. It's quite possibly

the most appealing aspect of this trend and in this respect, it shares sensibilities with the Japanese aesthetic of wabi-sabi. Highlighting the imperfections within various treatments, from timber-boarded concrete to rammed earth, is emphasised and therein lies this trend's beauty. The flaws are what give each project, whether large-scale hotel or small residence, its distinct design personality and make it truly unique.

From left. Santa Clara 1728 hotel, Lisbon, by Aires Mateus, photographer Juan Rodríguez; Los Terrenos, Monterrey, by Tatiana Bilbao, photographer Rory Gardner / OTTO / Raven & Snow.



BATHROOM TREND 04

Pattern

A few years ago, designers and architects were introducing pattern into the bathroom via a feature wall finished in wallpaper. It was an incredibly effective device for creating visual impact and, depending on the printed design, it made for an aesthetic ranging anywhere from stylishly sophisticated to outrageously extrovert. While wallpaper is still used in the bathroom, it's now often juxtaposed with different textures, colours and materials in wonderfully explosive schemes as refreshing as they are eclectic.

The trend undoubtedly began with terrazzo's recent comeback and it was only a matter of time before designers and architects were seeking out new marbles with distinct markings too. Certainly, strongly patterned materials were a key focus of this year's Euro Bagno event, which is held every two years in Milan,

and it also seems as though tiles are now available in more shapes, sizes and colours than has ever been the case before. Mixing finishes gives rise to highly tactile interiors, where everything, from curiously shaped tiles to smooth, polished surfaces begs to be touched. And every material's inherent properties are allowed to shine so there's a bespoke quality to each bathroom. Even those spaces reliant on colour, where decoration is used judiciously, feel as though they're one of a kind.

From left. Stripe Apartment, Moscow, by MOPS Studio, image courtesy MOPS Studio; Ester's Apartment 2.0, Berlin, by Ester Bruzkus Architekten, photographer Jens Bösenber.