



In this elegant bathroom, easy-to-maintain porcelain tiles provide the look of beautiful veined marble but are less prone to staining.

# TAILOR-MADE SOLUTION

A high-rise bathroom renovation required a mix of clever space planning and practical magic

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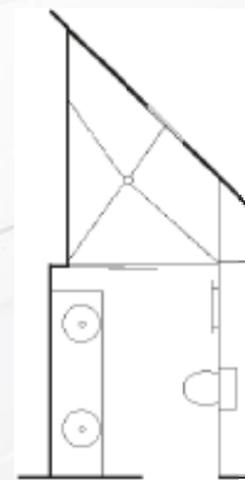
After their youngest child moved out of home, the owners of this Sydney apartment did two things: booked a long overseas trip and called Hellen Pappas of H Interior Design to refurbish their bathrooms. Their existing ensuite and guest bathroom were dark and tired so the brief was for something lighter and brighter. So far, so standard, but Hellen's clients also had some quite specific needs arising out of the fact that one of them is in a wheelchair.

First up was the layout. An existing over-bath shower was removed and replaced with a long vanity with double under-counter basins and push-latch drawers. Extra space, including an external window, was stolen from an adjoining laundry, which was relocated to the guest bathroom. The angled area became the shower, complete with a flush-mounted ceiling shower and hand shower. A sliding glass screen separates the wet area from the rest of the room.

"Renovating a bathroom in an apartment can be tricky," says Hellen. "Removing fittings and fixtures and changing plumbing locations can sometimes mean you need to access the apartment



The angled shower is equipped with both a flexible shower on a rail and a flush-mounted overhead shower.



1. Entry
2. Vanity
3. Shower
4. Towel rack
5. Toilet



The sliding glass door is easy to manoeuvre. It's a clever solution that provides simple access for the owner, while also protecting the rest of the space from splashes.

### key to success

"The large-format tiles and fresh white palette give the bathrooms a sophisticated, comfortable and spacious feel" **HELLEN PAPPAS, DESIGNER**

below and remove part of a ceiling, but we managed to avoid that problem by making as few plumbing changes as possible."

Next came the mix of materials. With the 'light and bright' brief in mind, Hellen chose polyurethane joinery in Dulux Natural White, topped by a Stone Italiana 'Cartapietra' quartz benchtop in Super White. She had envisaged natural stone, and while her clients loved the look, they were worried about maintaining the surface so Hellen proposed porcelain tiles from Surface Gallery, which resemble marble. "The 'Marble Concept' tile in Calacatta is a brilliant bright white and features slight irregularities typical of natural marble," she says. "I chose a large-format tile at 450mm x 900mm to make the rooms feel larger." The tiles are rectified, so grout lines are minimal for a seamless result.

The guest bathroom was treated to the same materials palette, with the washing machine and dryer hidden behind cupboard doors below bench height. "Another issue in apartment renovations is access," says Hellen. "We had to make sure all the joinery and mirrors could fit into the lift. The size of the mirror in the guest bathroom was actually determined by the size of the lift!"

The process went smoothly, with the clients calling in via Skype from overseas when needed. "They were amazed when they got back home," says Hellen, "and we were so pleased to be able to give them a beautiful and practical bathroom, purpose-built for them." **10**  
To see more of Hellen's work, visit [hinteriordesign.com.au](http://hinteriordesign.com.au). Find the builders for the project at [orishonprojects.com.au](http://orishonprojects.com.au) and [bearthebuilder.com](http://bearthebuilder.com). Joinery by MSA Prestige Woodcraft, [msapwc.com.au](http://msapwc.com.au).

### get the look

Sleek chrome finishes and stone textures create a luxe, modern feel.



'Basic' marble **tray**, \$149.95, Marble Basics, [marblebasics.com.au](http://marblebasics.com.au).



'City Stik' **shelf**, \$186, single **towel rail**, \$172, Brodware, [brodware.com](http://brodware.com).



**Basket**, \$155, Imprint House, [imprinthouse.net](http://imprinthouse.net).



Grohe 'Euphoria' **shower on rail**, \$385, Cass Brothers, [cassbrothers.com.au](http://cassbrothers.com.au).



'City Stik' **basin mixer**, \$459, Brodware, as before.

'Marble Concept' porcelain **tile**, \$109/sqm, Surface Gallery, [surfacegallery.com.au](http://surfacegallery.com.au).

