

USING TEXTILES IN THE BATHROOM

IT'S NOT THE NORM BUT INCORPORATING FABRICS AND RUGS DEFINITELY DELIVERS A STUNNING AESTHETIC

BLINDS 'We use fabric as much as we can in bathrooms, because it stops them from being cold, hard and echoey,' says interior designer Emily Todhunter of Todhunter Earle. Simple floppy linen blinds are a favourite because they hang beautifully. 'They are basically sheer blinds that provide privacy while allowing light into the space,' she adds. They also pair well with plain linen window seats and cushions, which add to the gentle textural warmth of Emily's bathroom schemes.

CURTAINS 'I love making bathrooms feel like proper rooms and this can be achieved by adding full-length curtains, wallpaper, paintings or prints and, if space allows, an antique table or chair,' says interior designer Vanessa Macdonald of Melissa Wyndham. As long as the bathroom is well ventilated and spacious enough to allow the curtains to hang freely without being constantly splashed, then Vanessa opts for 'standard' fabrics. However, if you prefer, outdoor performance fabrics – which are available from many leading fabric houses – offer water-repellent and durable alternatives.

FABRIC WALLS AND CEILING Lucy Cunningham, founder and creative director of Lucy Cunningham Interiors, applied Corfu linen by Fanny Shorter to the walls and ceiling in a recent bathroom project. 'We decided on fabric rather than wallpaper, as it is unexpected in a bathroom and really gives a smaller space its own personality, as well as adding something wonderfully sumptuous and luxurious

to the room,' she explains. The fabric walling was achieved in the traditional way: slim battens were fastened to the wall, then wadding was attached, then the fabric was stretched over the battens.

UPHOLSTERED CHAIR 'I really like having a chair in a bathroom, if it can be squeezed in,' says interior designer Susie Atkinson. 'It could be, for example, an upright cane chair with a pretty cushion or, in a larger bathroom, an armchair can look fabulous and is useful to throw clothes on or to sit on while taking off shoes.' In a recent project, Susie had a taupe towelling loose cover made for an armchair. 'It can be removed easily for washing and was relatively cheap too,' she notes.

RUGS 'Aesthetics are just as important as practical elements when it comes to creating an inviting bathroom,' says interior designer Henriette von Stockhausen of VSP Interiors, who adds that she is wary of cold, hard finishes. 'I tend to avoid floor tiles, except in wet-room settings or in family bathrooms used by young children or teenagers where the floor might get drenched. In old houses that have their original floorboards, my preference is to keep these in place and lay an antique rug on top, which instantly makes the room feel warmer.' If you are concerned about water damage, you may prefer to opt for a performance rug made from polypropylene or recycled plastic, designed to be water-resistant, hardwearing and easy to clean, such as those by Unnatural Flooring and Weaver Green. 📧

SOURCEBOOK: CHIC TEXTILES

ANTHROPOLOGIE

For instant impact in your bathroom, the good old-fashioned shower curtain comes into its own. Find a colourful selection, from £48. anthropologie.com

MATILDA GOAD

The large cotton bath mat with linen frill, £50, is handwoven and designed to add comfort and style to the bathroom. matildagoad.com

JENNIFER MANNERS

Made from recycled plastic bottles, the mini scallop rug, £310, is moisture- and stain-resistant, yet surprisingly soft. jennifermanners.co.uk

VOLGA LINEN

Drawn thread linen, from £90m, is the choice of many a designer for beautiful bathroom café curtains and blinds, perfect for creating privacy. volgalinen.com

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS



Interior designer Lucy Cunningham used Fanny Shorter's Corfu fabric on the walls and ceiling in this scheme



Sheer blinds provide privacy while gently filtering light in this design by Todhunter Earle



This design by VSP Interiors includes a rug to add warmth to the original floorboards



Interior designer Melissa Wyndham loves using textiles to make a bathroom feel like 'proper room'