

PRESS RELEASE

Guest of honour

Jasmin Kraneveldt from leading tile, sanitaryware and flooring supplier, Bathroom Bizarre, offers an overview on the importance of guest toilets, and how to make sure your powder room is bang on trend.

19 May 2015, Johannesburg: The guest toilet or powder room is a room that consists of a basin, toilet, various bathroom accessories and some storage space. It is designed to accommodate the needs of visitors to your home, and as such, it is usually located near to the entrance or living areas. It is often one of the most overlooked spaces in the home, says Jasmin Kraneveldt, from leading sanitaryware, tile and flooring retailer, Bathroom Bizarre: “Many people tend to neglect their guest toilet, which I believe is a big mistake, because when you think about it, it’s a space that is used often by visiting guests and should be designed to leave a good impression.”

Small talk

“Guest toilets are usually compact spaces as far as bathrooms go,” says Jasmin, which is why splurging on this space is something that can be easily achieved. When decorating a bigger bathroom, just due to the sheer amount of space, incorporating an abundance of high-end bathroom fittings may seem over indulgent. However, in a small powder room, splurging on fittings is worthwhile – since the space is so compact, every little detail will make a noticeable impact and help contribute to the overall style of the room. Simply put, guest toilets are a great place to be extravagant, as their small size makes it a more affordable endeavour.

Space saver

As space in guest toilets is often limited, it’s important that you choose components that maximise the space or make it look bigger than it actually is. “There are many ways to visually maximise space in your guest toilet, from using wall-hung floating toilets and sinks for example, through to adding a large or even a floor-to-ceiling mirror on one of the walls,” suggests Jasmin. Another practical way of creating the illusion of extra space, is to include a small bathroom vanity that will offer integrated basin, countertop and storage facilities, such as Bathroom Bizarre’s Antique French White Floor Unit for example. Units such as these can really enhance the style of your guest toilet, while providing ample storage that can help reduce clutter.

Every last detail

Because you can’t fit much into a powder room, well-chosen decorative touches can really make or break the space. “When decorating your guest toilet, you really want to avoid clutter, as it tends to make the room appear cramped and oppressive,” advises Jasmin. Instead, carefully select décor accessories, or if space is really at a premium, rather include a decorative wall covering as a design feature instead. “Creating a feature wall using decorative tiles for example, is a great way of achieving added visual interest and texture in the room as doesn’t take up any extra space. Today, there is an abundance of decorative tiles to choose from – they may cost a little extra, but remember, you won’t need a lot of them. Tiles such as Bathroom Bizarre’s Décor Mosaic Sound Iris Tiles for example, have a

neutral colour, but an interesting and unique pattern that is perfect for adding subtle visual and textural interest,” explains Jasmin.

Get with it

At the moment, there is a wide range of different trending bathroom styles, making it super easy to find a style that reflects your personal tastes and the architectural design of your home. According to Jasmin, the four most popular styles for the powder rooms in South Africa include:

- **Deco-glam:** The deco-glam look will create an elegant guest toilet that is full of high-impact drama and timeless style, notes Jasmin: “Reminiscent of the glamorous and decadent Art Deco-style popularised in the Roaring ‘20s, it’s the combination of elegance and drama that really makes this style stand out from the crowd.” To successfully achieve the Deco-glam style, aim for lots of black and white for dramatic contrast, underpinned with touches of metallic – silver, gold or bronze – for an added touch of glamour. “If you really want to make a statement, think about using the oh-so-trendy bevelled subway tiles for the guest toilet walls, in either black or white, such as the Bevel Nero or Bevel Blanco tiles from Bathroom Bizarre,” suggests Jasmin. Other accessories, such as silver ornaments or an elaborate mirror, such as Bathroom Bizarre’s Rosetta Mirror for example, provides a true Deco touch that will tie the whole space together.
- **Nature-inspired:** “Nature-inspired bathrooms are becoming more and more popular as they really bring a sense of Zen-like calm to a space, which is the perfect ambience for any guest toilet,” advises Jasmin. A key way to incorporate nature into your powder room is through your choice of materials – there are lots of genuine and faux nature-inspired materials that you can use, such as marble, granite, sandstone, timber and glass. Bear in mind that although the guest toilet is defined as a bathroom space, nobody will be bathing or showering, so laminate flooring is a great way of adding affordable timber undertones to the composition. “When trying to achieve a natural look, turn to Mother Nature for colour palette inspiration – you can use the tones found on a beach, or those found in a forest – the possibilities are endless,” adds Jasmin. Compact mirror units, such as Bathroom Bizarre’s Vintage American Sleeper Oak Mirror for example, have the perfect style and timber tones for this style, as well as the added advantage of providing added storage and display space.
- **Contemporary:** Modern bathrooms have been in fashion for quite some time, and it looks like this trend is here to stay. “Achieving a modern guest toilet is very easy, as the main thing to remember is the ‘less is more’ concept. As such, each installation needs to be carefully chosen on the basis of what will make the most impact – both visually and functionally. Floating cabinetry and toilets are a great addition to this style, as are frameless mirrors, streamlined lighting, and sculptural basins and faucets,” adds Jasmin. Towel rails are another way adding a slick modern feel to the bathroom – the Cubic 6 Straight Bar stainless steel heated towel rail from Bathroom Bizarre for example, adds luxury and clean geometric lines to the composition.
- **Provencal:** This popular trend finds its inspiration from the French countryside. “The Provencal look is both elegant and inviting, and because of its fusion of rustic and

timelessly elegant design, it can suit a wide variety of architectural styles. Another benefit of this style is that it offers a timeless elegance that never seems to go out of style,” explains Jasmin. Elaborate vintage mirrors, whitewashed timber and wrought iron accessories, such as Bathroom Bizarre’s Poseidon range of accessories for example, are key concepts to think about when trying to achieve this look. While accessories are kept to a minimum, a carefully selected light fixture or an intricately framed mirror will complement the Provencal style.

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Released on behalf of Bathroom Butler (www.bathroombizarre.co.za) by The Line (www.theline.co.za, ant@theline.co.za).