

VOGUE LIVING

ARABIA

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AN ODE TO MAXIMALISM

Arabia's flair for extreme interiors

The London home of HE Sheikh Mohamed bin Fahed Al Thani

**TRAVERTINE**

In this Los Angeles modernist villa, formerly home to celebrity photographer Tony Duran and most recently pop star Halsey, James Williams, CEO of furniture brand and design studio ATRA, and tech executive Jonno Burden opted for Italian travertine in their dream bathroom (left). "It has a light tone and its soft veining almost has an ombre effect," says Williams. "With our team from ATRA, we work with this material in bathrooms because the softness on the eye creates a spa-like experience. For example, [this] is the case in our recent Malibu project, the renowned Spanish mansion La Villa Contenta, where Beyoncé used to live." Versatile due to its variety of colors, travertine has been used since Roman times, adorning opulent houses and palaces, as well as monuments including the Colosseum and the Trevi Fountain over centuries. At a smaller scale in their own home, Williams and Burden wanted a continuation to the calm that the master suite, which is up in the trees, brings. Opting for travertine allowed them to use huge slabs but real variation at the same time. "It produces a seamless effect," says Williams.

Bringing the SPA HOME

From white oak to wallpaper and sophisticated lighting, these are the season's trends to dress your most intimate space

Words **KARINE MONIÉ**

*W*hile each person has her preferences and personal habits, everyone seeks a quiet refuge, a sanctuary for escaping everyday life in their bathroom, even if it's just for a moment. In the Middle East, bathing rituals are nothing new. For centuries, bathing was a public activity, with hammams playing an important role for

both hygiene and socializing. Today, bathing culture has become synonymous with more private moments experienced daily at home. Some of the world's best interior designers share their favorite luxury materials to create one-of-a-kind bathrooms, where time seems to stand still and the mind and body can rest.



LIGHTING

As explained by the team of Bandido, "Lighting products create different effects according to the materials used, the lighting specs and the positions of the lighting fixture." So finding the right piece can completely transform your bathroom.

Placing wall-mounted fixtures to flank a mirror or installing illuminated mirrors – such as the products from Villeroy & Boch – will ensure functionality, especially if you are used to applying makeup in your bathroom. For those who want to make a big impact, there is nothing like having a chandelier above the tub; the brand Lumens offers plenty of options. To create a soft ambience, strip lighting (left) is the way to go. But there are more choices. Color-changing LEDs are fun and versatile, allowing you to pick the tone that goes along with your mood depending on the time of day. "Consider the color rendering index (CRI) range you need in your light sources," advises the Bandido team. "It is the measurement of how colors look under a light source when compared with sunlight. Usually LED lighting offers a higher spectrum of CRI compared to fluorescent lamps."



FRESH FAUCETS

1 Grid by Kallista

Inspired by the De Stijl art movement in the Netherlands, this faucet features a 3D printed spout.

2 CYO by Dornbracht

This faucet by Sieger Design is available in six custom finishes made of natural stone.

3 Gooseneck by Kohler

Available in polished chrome and vibrant stainless, this touchless faucet with Insight technology has a factory-set 30-second maximum continual run cycle.





Cole & Son Ardmore Jabula Kalahari **LEFT** De Gournay hand painted, 'Amazonia' wallpaper **BELOW LEFT** Christian Lacroix pour Tohaa Design **BELOW RIGHT** Little Greene National Trust II wallpaper



WALLPAPER

Choosing a colorful, chic, floral, or geometric wallpaper to adorn one or more walls of your bathroom can be the perfect way to express your personality without going too bold in this very special and personal space. With renowned brands such as de Gournay, Cole & Son, Christian Lacroix, Little Greene, Pierre Frey, and Ralph Lauren Home – among others – the possibilities are endless. The key consideration: opting for a waterproof wallpaper so you can install it behind a tub or even in the shower.

Trompe-l'oeil murals or chinoiserie will create a wow factor; while a jungle pattern evokes the feeling of being in a tropical atmosphere. Use white for a peaceful haven, black for elegance with a masculine touch, and stripes to add energy and good vibes. Vinyl wallpapers are preferred as they work well in humid rooms and ventilation is recommended if you plan to use standard wallpapers.





WHITE OAK

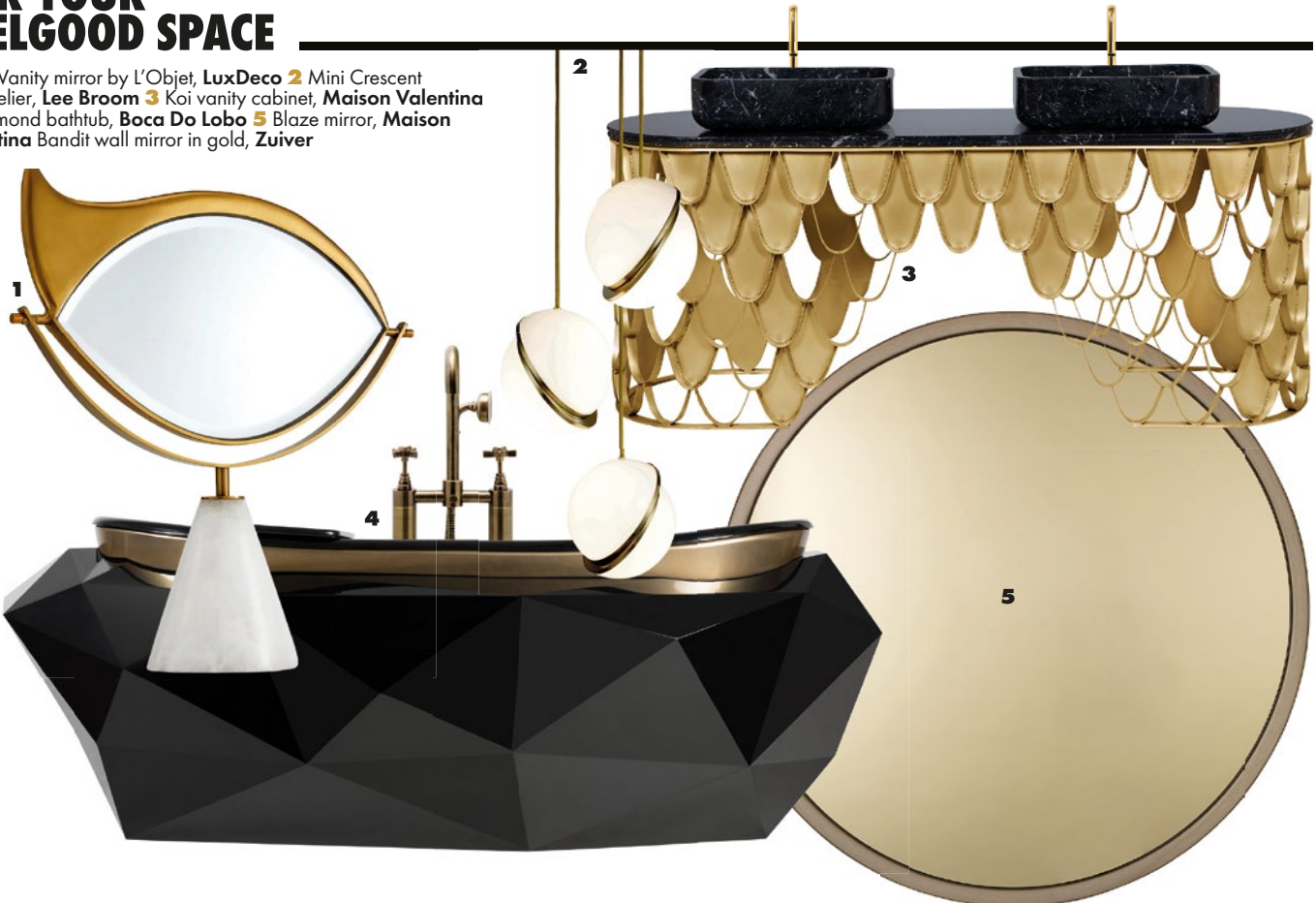
"We wanted the bathroom to extend into the homeowner's dressing room [left] effortlessly, visually," says interior designer Nicole Hogarty. "Incorporating hardwood flooring afforded us the opportunity to carry the same material throughout the primary suite."

Subtle yet surprising, this material creates a quiet foundation that allows the eye to travel to other focal points throughout the space. "For a moment, we did consider a tile floor," remembers Hogarty. "However, once we found our Caribbean Island slabs for the shower, vanity countertop, and stone plumbing wall behind the tub, it became clear the other elements should support the strength and energy of the stone slabs."

For the interior designer, a formal primary bathroom "should provide an escape from the world and serve as a space to unwind." With this in mind, hardwood flooring is the perfect starting point for a spa-like design. "We tend to use a lighter stain as it works well with most stones, furniture elements, paint colors, and artworks," says Hogarty.

FOR YOUR FEELGOOD SPACE

1 Lito Vanity mirror by L'Objet, **LuxDeco** **2** Mini Crescent chandelier, **Lee Broom** **3** Koi vanity cabinet, **Maison Valentina** **4** Diamond bathtub, **Boca Do Lobo** **5** Blaze mirror, **Maison Valentina** Bandit wall mirror in gold, **Zuiver**





TEAK

"Teak naturally lends itself to luxury experiences where you want to use natural materials that will come in contact with water, because of its unique water-resistant characteristics," says David Lucas, cofounder of interior design studio Lucas.

Utilized in yachts, soaking tubs, and exclusively outdoor furniture – among other uses – teak is one of the most expensive woods. "We love getting to use teak when creating a wellness area in a client's home that isn't only about bathing or hygiene, but also about relaxing and restoring the body," Lucas confesses. Bringing warmth and texture, teak helps to provide a sensory experience. "The material itself, beyond the visual beauty, has aromatic properties and is lovely to touch as well," adds Lucas.

Historically used for the ofuro, or Japanese soaking tub (left), teak is currently incorporated into some of the most lavish hotels around the world, including Nobu Ryokan Malibu and Aman Resorts. "It is such an intimate material as the body responds positively to being in contact with it," notes Lucas.