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HOMES

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IN CONVERSATION WITH ARCHITECTS
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Outer Glow

The frontage of your house is often the first view that greets you and your guests, which makes it important to get the lighting in these areas right

While most people put a great deal of thought into their interior lighting schemes, outdoor lighting often becomes an afterthought. Yet, well-chosen outdoor lights can really highlight the architecture of your home and create a positive first impression.

The use and placement of your outdoor lighting should be strategic—it should highlight the facade of your residence, the surrounding gardens, or interesting structural elements. Think about the type, height, and density of the trees, shrubs and flowers in your garden, as well as the outlines and textures of your exterior walls. Consider the kind of ambience you want to create, the aspects of the landscape and building you want to highlight, then choose products that accentuate these features.

Kennedy Tan, managing director of lighting purveyor Flair Illume says it's important to consider aesthetics, function and performance when choosing architectural outdoor lighting. "Bollard lamps with good light distribution work well for footpaths surrounded by shrubs. You might also add a small spike-mounted spotlight within the shrubs to accentuate the greenery in the garden," says Tan. "To draw attention to interesting walls, a sleek outdoor linear wall grazer or light projector with a specific light angle are both useful." He also suggests using uplighters or downlighters to emphasise the textures and colours of materials such as brick, stone, wood or steel.



GRECIAN GLOW

Designed by Spanish multidisciplinary practice Sputnik Estudio, the Santorini lamps by Maset draw cues to the lanterns of fishing boats, and the fairy lights of the coastal eateries on the Greek island. The lamp's shade comes in white, grey and mustard, and can be used in a variety of configurations to provide direct or indirect light. The lamp can be used individually, strung like a garland or arranged in a cluster. The collection also includes wall and ceiling lamps.

BY MICHELE KOH MOROLLO IMAGES COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE BRANDS



"INDIRECT WARM LIGHT IS IDEAL FOR RELAXED RESORT-LIKE LANDSCAPES. GARDENS SHOULD NOT BE OVER-LIT—USE LIGHTING STRATEGICALLY TO HIGHLIGHT TREES OR SCULPTURES"

When selecting outdoor lighting, opt for LED or bulbs with the appropriate colour temperatures for a natural, soothing glow. "The correct colour temperature helps to accentuate the different objects, surfaces or structures in the best way. Colour temperatures of between 2700K to 3000K are ideal for residential landscaping use, as they create a soft and comfortable ambient mood," says Tan.

Nancy Chen, director of Windfall Asia, says that you need to consider the type of mood or scene you desire, and also be sure that the product you choose is durable enough to withstand rain, heat or humidity.

"Indirect warm light is ideal for relaxed resort-like landscapes. Gardens should not be over-lit—use lighting strategically to highlight trees or sculptures," says Chen.

Start your search for the perfect lamps for your home with these lighting products that will help transform your outdoor areas.



LIGHT THE WAY

Spanish industrial designer Josep Lluís Xuclà's Tube outdoor light, which he created for B.lux, is a Bollard-style outdoor beacon lamp with either one or two rotating LED heads. A good choice for pathway illumination, the lamps are available in two heights, and come in finishing options of satin khaki, satin white and Corten steel. An additional spike is also available for easy installation in the garden.



FLAMES OF WHITE

Jean-Marie Massaud has designed the Overscale Flames for B&B Italia—they're large white oil candles created with high-density Baydur polyurethane resin, set in a metallic frame that's painted in matte white. The organic shape of the "flame" takes on an abstract, sculptural character when placed in the garden or on the patio, and works particularly well with Asian-themed landscape concepts.



SCULPTURAL ANCHOR

Designed by Italian designer Carlo Colombo for Penta, and ideal for pool side lighting, the Bag Outdoor is shaped like a giant standard table lamp with a bold, wide base. Available in glossy white and black thermo-plastic, the lamp is protected from water in all directions, and creates scenic effects as it illuminates the pool deck or a garden path. The sculptural form of this collection works particularly well in homes with a futuristic or art-themed concepts.



RESERVOIR OF LIGHT

Loon, created by German designer Sebastian Herkner for Dedon, brings the sophisticated aesthetics of indoor lighting to the outdoors. The lamp combines a teak tripod pedestal with a sculptural LED lamp to create a balloon-like reservoir of light. The cordless lamp, which is held in place by the pedestal, appears to float above ground like a lantern. It comes with a remote control and dimmer function, and can be easily removed for charging.



LUMINOUS RING

A collaborative project by Catalan industrial designer Miguel Milá and his son Gonzalo, the Amigo (for lighting brand Santa & Cole) consists of a central opaque disc with a translucent housing that helps disperse light outwards. The innovative design, which can be used on both walls and ceilings, emits a soft, even glow that's comfortable on the eyes. The airtight interior housing protects the electrical components, and also prevents insects from nesting in the lamp.



MINIMALIST FEAT

A series of floor and table lamps by Kettal, the Mia collection features metal frames fitted with etched glass heads, protected by polypropylene lampshades. Designed by Swiss industrial designer Michel Charlot, the lamps exude a soft lantern-like glow. Mia's minimalist form beautifully complements candles or gas lamps in garden lounges. A battery-powered version is also available.



VINTAGE AIR

The perfect companion for a picnic in the park or a barbeque on the terrace, Take Jack by Windfall is a portable crystal lantern with a leather strap. It can be used as a permanent lighting fixture at the front of gates or along fences, or as a mobile light source for evening walks and outdoor celebrations. Inspired by vintage European gas lamps, Take Jack brings a touch of historical romance to a modern and elegant design.



CHANGING COPPER

Danish architect Henning Larsen, who designed the Copenhagen Opera House, created the elegant HL410 wall lamp for Lightyears. Made with galvanised steel, an upper shade of untreated copper and a lower shade of clear acrylic, the lamp provides downward and diffused lighting. Over time, the untreated copper shade darkens to a verdigris patina, so the lamp takes on a beautiful, vintage appeal as it ages.



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MODERN VANITIES

Look to these inspiring bathroom vanity ideas to create a stylish space that caters to your needs

For most of us, the bathroom vanity is one of the first places we head to before starting our day. Today, vanities have come a long way from the utilitarian pedestal sink and faucet—they've become elegantly designed mini-areas within the bathroom.

Your vanity shouldn't just look good; it should also be practical in catering to your lifestyle and daily needs. Good lighting, for instance, is one of the key features you can't overlook.

"When designing a vanity space, avoid downlights as these cast uneven shadows on the mirror," says Nikki Hunt, principal of

Design Intervention. "Even light from both sides will illuminate the face evenly for better grooming and makeup application."

Jennifer Murray, design director of The Mill Group, agrees. According to her, ceiling lights are not the best choice for bathrooms, as they can create shadows on your face. "Mirrors and lighting should work closely together, with lights placed slightly above the mirror," says Murray. She recommends placing sconces on each side of the mirror, to make the vanity ideal for shaving or putting on makeup. A dimmer switch can also be installed for a softer, more relaxed mood. As follows below, take a look at the bathroom vanity products that will fit your lifestyle.



FOR SINGLES: SLEEK AND NEAT

Stylish, fuss-free aesthetics work well in compact bathrooms, and are ideal for pieds-à-terre or petite apartments in the city. When designing the en-suite bathroom, consider extending the decor scheme from your bedroom to the bathroom to create a sense of visual continuity. This works particularly well for small flats or studio apartments, says Hunt.

One way you can follow her lead is by replicating the warmth of wood joinery from your bedroom in the bathroom with the DeKauri collection. Designed by German architect Daniel Germani in collaboration with Cosentino, this enclosed vanity cupboard was inspired by the traditional Italian credenza. Crafted from 50,000-year-old Kauri wood, it also features a sleek washbasin made with Cosentino's Dekton range of hard-wearing, ultra-compact surfaces—this conceals the sink and storage to create a streamlined form that fits seamlessly in any modern bathroom.

Murray recommends using floating or freestanding vanities, as well as vertical vanities that can help singles make the most of limited bathroom space. "Vertical vanities can be paired with tall mirrors so your bathroom doesn't feel too cramped," she says. Such products include Kartell by Laufen's Sonar washbasin or washbasin bowl, both of which feature a pure, minimalist form. Hansgrohe's range of freestanding or sink-mounted faucets help to complete this neat and elegant look. To further reduce clutter, opt for the sleek bathroom accessories from Grohe's Essentials Cube range for towels and toiletry organisation.

1. The Metropol basin mixers from Hansgrohe
2. Shallows vases by Kazunaga Sakashita for Industry+
3. The Dekauri collection by Daniel Germani
4. The Essentials Cube bathroom accessories from Grohe
5. The Sonar washbasin from Kartell by Laufen

“WHEN DESIGNING A VANITY SPACE, AVOID DOWNLIGHTS AS THESE CAST UNEVEN SHADOWS ON THE MIRROR. EVEN LIGHT FROM BOTH SIDES WILL ILLUMINATE THE FACE EVENLY FOR BETTER GROOMING AND MAKEUP APPLICATION”



LEFT TO RIGHT

- 1. Harmony bathroom console by Visionnaire
- 2. Inia Wading Pool wash basin collection from Kohler
- 3. Damask vanity counters from Kohler
- 4. Ops 2 mirror by Porada
- 5. Bathroom rug from Ferm Living
- 6. The Luv bathroom collection from Duravit
- 7. Lis washbasin from Laufen
- 8. Stratum mirror from Roca

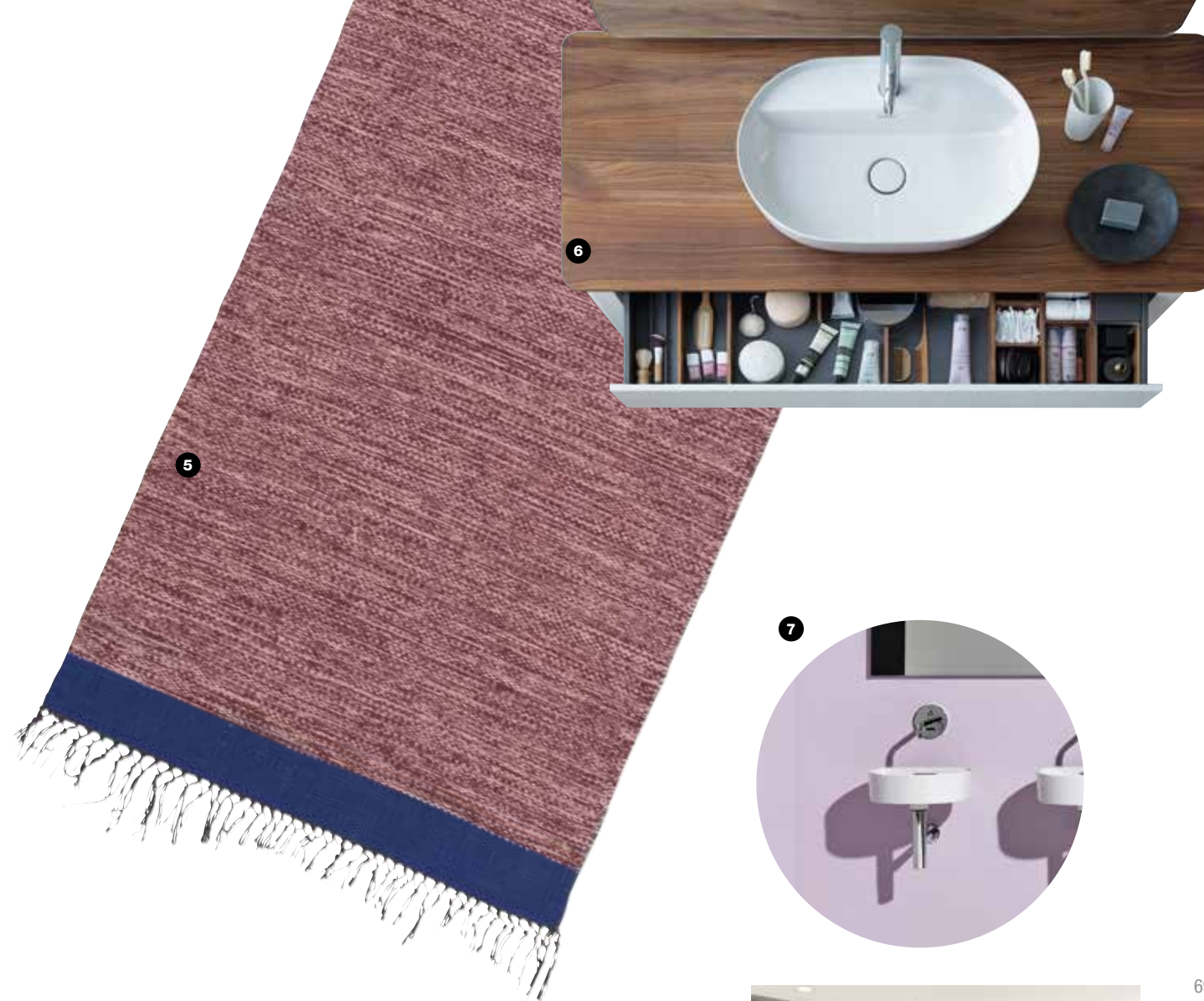


FOR COUPLES:
STYLISH PAIRINGS

For couples who share a bathroom, double-basin vanities are a good option, as they give you the personal space that you need. Some suitable designs include the Inia Wading Pool shallow vessel washbasin, the under-mount Whist basin, and the Damask vanity, all from Kohler.

Hunt says there are no rules stating that twin vanities need to be identical. “In expansive master bathrooms, the vanities can be customised to address the individual needs of both the husband and the wife,” she says. Women who want a glamorous spin to their grooming space might consider the Harmony bathroom console by Visionnaire. Fully clad in marble, with grey marbled detail and brushed steel inlays and a gold-plated metallic profile, the Harmony brings evokes the sensuality of the Art Deco era.

To create an illusion of space in the bathroom, provide a dressing mirror and demarcate his and hers zones—you can place a full-length mirror like the asymmetrical Ops 2 by Porada between the two separate vanities. To create storage for toiletries, Murray suggests positioning the sink to one side of the console. This gives you more room for shaving equipment, make-up kits or decorative objects, such as a vintage gold tray for jewellery and creams, or a marble jar for bath salts.



FOR FAMILIES:

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL STYLE

When planning a shared vanity area for your family, good circulation and ample storage should be your top priorities. “Position your vanity in a spot that is accessible, so that swinging doors won’t obstruct movement and everyone can move with ease,” says Murray. She also recommends that the vanity be located in an easy-to-clean area. “The size of the vanity should be relative to the size of the bathroom, while also balancing out the storage needs of the homeowner,” she adds.

Duravit’s Nordic-inspired Luv series of consoles, furniture and basins, offer highly versatile designs for smart storage and improved functionality. If you have enough room, you can create separate vanity areas so everyone has their own personal space. Take, for instance, Laufen’s Lis wall-hung installation system, which can be attached to the walls at different heights to accommodate to every member of the clan.

A good choice for smart mirror lighting is Roca’s Stratum, a mirror that features an integrated fluorescent tube. “Small luxury

details can take simple bathroom concepts to a new level, so include interesting accessories to add splashes of colour,” says Murray. Introduce such lively details with items like a vibrant laundry basket and toiletry holders, or a Scandi-chic mat around your vanity. 🏠



COSENTINO
34/35 Duxton Road
Tel: 6713 9543
cosentino.com

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63 Tras Street
Tel: 6238 6354
duravit.com

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16 Tai Seng Street
#01-00/A
Tel: 6749 2422
fermliving.com
lifestorey.com

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1 Scotts Road
#01-04/05 Shaw Centre
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grohe.sg

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69 Mohamed Sultan Road
Tel: 6884 5060
hansgrohe.com.sg

INDUSTRY+
1A Tyrwhitt Road
industryplus.com.sg

KOHLER
52/56 Peck Seah Street
Tel: 6224 0039
kohler.com.sg

LAUFEN & ROCA
CAREERA BATHROOM
12 Tai Seng Link
#08-01
Tel: 6261 6133
laufen.com
roca.sg
carerabathroom.com

PORADA & VISIONNAIRE
MARQUIS QSQUARE
16 Tai Seng Street
Level 1
Tel: 6383 0119
porada.it
visionnaire-home.com
marquis.com.sg