



**COOL BLONDE**

**Star feature** The pale-timbered, open-shelf vanity (above) crafted for a Melbourne house by Taylor Knights is quite simply a thing of beauty. One of three that furniture maker Nick McDonald of Made By Morgen constructed by hand from American oak, it features turned-timber towel rails and traditional nail-free mortise and tenon joints. “It’s been given a hard-wax finish that lends the timber a slightly white look and gives it some protection from the inevitable splashes of water,” says Nick.

**Why this design shines** Taylor Knights is an architecture and design firm that values craftsmanship very highly, and so founding director Peter Knights gave Nick an almost free hand in designing the vanity for this bathroom. The vertically laid white subway tiles, terrazzo flooring and all the other elements of the room were chosen so as not to compete with this unique piece. *Taylor Knights, Fitzroy, Victoria; taylorknights.com.au. Made by Morgen, Brunswick, Victoria; madebymorgen.com*

**DARK AND HANDSOME**

**Star feature** Decus Interiors specified gorgeously glossy marmorino polished plaster for the wall behind the vanity in this Sydney bathroom (opposite). It’s been masterfully applied by Sydney artisan plasterer Paul Valentine. “Plaster can transform a wall into a work of art,” he says. “Natural and artificial light will dance on it all day, creating a movement that’s breathtaking.”

**Why this design shines** It’s all about materials that work together perfectly: the patterning in the plaster picks up on the vanity’s boldly grained honed Grigio Scuro marble from Granite & Marble Works. Meanwhile, Brodware tapware in a bronze finish plays to the bathroom’s glamorous feel. Balancing out the darker elements is a satin-brass Original BTC ‘Walter’ light from Dunlin. Darker tones can work very successfully in smaller bathrooms – you just have to make sure the space gets enough light. *Decus Interiors, Woollahra, NSW; decus.com.au. Paul Valentine Surface Finishes, Sydney, NSW; paulvalentinesurfacefinishes.com*

PHOTOGRAPHY: DEREK SWALWELL (TAYLOR KNIGHTS), ANSON SMART (DECUS)

