



Luxury and wellness

This penthouse ensuite renovation transforms a poorly designed space into a bathroom rich in function and aesthetic presence

The word penthouse conjures a picture of the very best of everything. However, prior to this top-floor unit's ensuite renovation, the room had looked reasonably average. Designer Kim Duffin undertook the bathroom's comprehensive rethink.

"The existing space had been enclosed and housed a tub, single vanity, a small shower and a toilet – all lacking a sense of luxury," Duffin says. "In its place, the owners wanted a modern ensuite that reflected their wellness lifestyle."

The new design was to incorporate a steam and shower room that would allow the user to look out to the master bedroom and city views.

"An early obstacle was the need to relocate the services from fixed drainage points."

Duffin says the ensuite's existing window sill led a design stroke that served several uses – including addressing the services.

"We introduced a half wall reaching up to the sill's height and continued this around to the vanity wall and on into the new glass combined shower and steam shower enclosure, positioned where the bath had been."

Under the window, the wall conceals the toilet cistern and suspends the black toilet pan. Then, on the adjacent wall, it hides the relocated

Above: This comprehensively reinvented master ensuite in a penthouse apartment features a black toilet suite, black sinks and dark grey plain and patterned tiles. The bathroom, by designer Kim Duffin, balances luxury and wellness.

Following pages: A built-out half wall – finished in custom patterned tile – conceals services for the toilet, vanities, and shower, provides a utility ledge, and reflects the LED lighting under the cabinetry above.



Bathroom designer: Kim Duffin, Sublime Architectural Interiors
Floor: Timber plank-look floor tile, Nuances Rovere, by FAP Ceramics from Metro Tiles
Wall tiles: Custom ceramic wall tiles, plain – Zero Charcoal, and patterned, Geo Charcoal by Southern Cross Ceramics, from Metro Tiles
Niche splashback: Toughened glass from Glass Backsplash Company
Vanity: Lamiwood finished in 2-pac polyurethane from Platinum Polyurethane
Vanity benchtop: Ravine/Sepia Oak from Polytec
Basin: Above Counter Basin in Matte Black by Studio Bagno from Reece
Basin tapware: Bliss Basin Mixer by Mizu from Reece
Cabinet doors: Vinyl-backed mirrors from Logan Glass
Cabinetry hardware: Tandembox Intivo softclose drawer system by Blum from Lincoln Sentry
Steam shower: Effegibi Aqua SteamComplete 45 from Rogerseller Brett Campbell
Shower glass: Toughened glass from Euroglass
Showerhead: Vivid Twin Shower, matt black, by Phoenix Bathware from Reece
Shower mixer: Bliss Shower Mixer, chrome, by Mizu from Reece
Steam room seat: Stainless steel brackets and wood seat
Toilet: Nicole wall-hung pan and seat in Matt Black by Studio Bagno from Reece
Flush plate: Sigma 50, matt black with chrome buttons, by Geberit from Reece
Cistern: Geberit from Reece
Toilet roll holder: Chrome by Phoenix Bathware from Reece

Story by Charles Moxham
Photography by Steve Ryan

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Top right: The built-out half wall is continued into the shower-steam cubicle. The utility niche is backed with charcoal-coloured glass and lit with low energy LEDs for visual impact.

Right: A cut-out in the wall dividing the master bedroom and master ensuite opens up views from inside the steam cubicle out across the bedroom to the cityscape beyond.



“When installing a steam shower, the ceiling pipework that serves the vanity and shower.”
 The top of the wall provides a utility ledge for the vanities and for soaps and shampoos in the steam-shower enclosure.
 The space between the ledge and mirrored wall cabinets above, forms a niche. Charcoal glass lines this, accentuated by diffused LED lighting. The mirrors add to the sense of space.
 Duffin cut out a section of the wall between the bathroom and the rest of the suite – creating a glass corner that looks across the bedroom to the city views beyond and brings in added light.

inside the enclosed space needs to be raked at a specific angle so condensation runs off into the drain without dripping on the user – again this was tricky in the tight apartment environment.”
 The combined matt black fixtures, charcoal wall and hexagon feature tiles and LED-lit niche create a sense of luxury. The predominant grey-black tones are complemented by the warmth of the vanity and wood-look tile floors.
 “We chose the custom wall tiles and the pattern to be added to those on the half wall – then the plain and patterned tiles were fired together, for a perfect colour match,” says Duffin.

Above: The cutout wall section lets light flow from the combined master bedroom and dressing room into the reinvented master ensuite. The designer says the proportions of glass and thickness of the cubicle walls – together with the angle of the ceiling – were all design factors to consider for the master bathroom.



This reinvented main bathroom is finished in a similar colour palette and materials to the master ensuite, with the exception that the sink and toilet in this space are white instead of black.



Contrasting an over-all grey-black palette, a veneer vanity top and wood-look floor tiles provide low-upkeep surfaces in this bathroom by designer Kim Duffin.



The steam unit in the corner provides a clue as to this glass shower cubicle's dual role – all part of a pampering wellness feel in this luxury penthouse ensuite by designer Kim Duffin.



Wood veneer meets wood-look floor tiles in this bathroom makeover.



A built-out half wall concealing services and creating a utility shelf is continued into the shower in this bathroom makeover.



Original surfaces are in smooth tile while a built-out wall is finished in a patterned tile in the same tone in this bathroom renovation.



LED lights shining on charcoal glass splashback tiles add another eye-catching feature in this bathroom makeover.