

before & after

PERFECT MATCH

With a cohesive approach, a separate powder room and bathroom are combined to become a family-friendly space, while an ensuite gets a much-needed update

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Who lives here: Simone, an executive assistant in the fashion industry; her husband, Scott, a manager for WaterNSW; and their children, Aria, 8, and Felix, 4.

The project: A separate toilet and bathroom were combined to make this bathroom for Aria and Felix, while a tired ensuite was renovated to create a sleek space for Simone and Scott.

Timeline: The design took three weeks to sign off on, although the waiting period on custom pieces such as the bathtub was an extra three months. The build itself took nine weeks.

DELILAH GOLD LEAF WALL SCONCE, REGENCY DISTRIBUTION, REGENCYDISTRIBUTION.COM.AU.
WINSLOW LEVER TAPWARE, BRODWARE, BRODWARE.COM, ROSENHEIM BATH, PRODIGG, PRODIGG.COM.AU

DESIGN IT



THE PALETTE (from top) Chevron mosaic tiles, Classic Ceramics, classicceramics.com.au. Schumacher 'Kaleidoscope' fabric in Pearl, Orient House, orienthouse.com.au. 'Wash&Wear' low-sheen interior paint in Madigan, Dulux, dulux.com.au. Handmade ceramic tiles in Crackle Silver, Surface Gallery, surfacegallery.com.au. 'Winslow' robe hook, Brodware, brodware.com. Carrara marble (used for benchtops).

When it comes to client approvals, "I think I've died and gone to heaven" is a pretty good sign that you've nailed the brief. This was the positive feedback that Lauren Mahoney, the creative director and owner of Sydney design firm Decoroom, received when she presented her client, Simone, with the plans for the growing family's soon-to-be renovated bathroom and ensuite.

"The home that Simone and her husband Scott had purchased in Gymea [in Sydney's southern suburbs] was built in the 1990s and in need of an update," says Lauren. "I had worked with them on their previous home – but this is their 'forever home', which meant the design needed to work with their family now and remain functional for years to come."

With a brief for "classic opulence" that contained a "wow-factor", Lauren created spaces that are not only pleasing on an aesthetic level but are superbly functional.

DREAM IT.

Simone & Scott's wishlist

A space the kids could grow into. "The kids are small, so Simone really wanted something that would work for them now but also be suitable as they grew up," says Lauren. "She also wanted a bathroom that Aria and Felix would be able to use together, which is why we installed separate sinks and separate towel rails."

Loads of storage. "The original bathroom and ensuite had no storage," says Lauren. "So Simone really needed a huge amount of it, in both the kids' bathroom and the ensuite." The solution? Wall-to-wall mirrored cabinets in the ensuite, as well as mirrored cabinets and under-vanity cupboards and drawers in the kids' bathroom, fulfil the brief and guarantee a place for bathroom clutter.

A space to come home to. "Both Simone and Scott work really hard," says Lauren. "Theirs isn't a family that travels a lot, so this home really is their sanctuary. They wanted a space that they loved coming home to each day."

DESIGN IT.

"The kids still have baths, and this is a part of the day that Simone loves to share with them, so I ordered a beautiful custom bath from Prodigg," says Lauren (see previous page). "It had to be special and I asked them to customise the colour. They powder coated the outside to a beautiful grey-green and I ordered custom aged-brass feet."

Bearing in mind that the bathing years can be short, Lauren also installed a rumbled brass showerhead over the bath, which she matched to all of the tapware, joinery handles and towel rails.

She managed to design the space around existing plumbing – the bath's taps use the plumbing of the former toilet in the kids' bathroom. This minimised in-wall construction.

In the ensuite (opposite page), Lauren had to work around waste pipes, which she hid within the custom joinery by Ultimate Joinery (ultimatejoinery.com.au). "We cut the drawers around the pipes," she says. "Simone still has heaps of space in the drawers, and we managed to disguise the pipes within the beautiful joinery."

DO IT.

For the kids' bathroom, Lauren asked Andrew Stavrou of TPS Constructions (tpsconstructions.com.au) to knock out the wall joining the original toilet and bathroom, and fill in one of the doors.

To save time, money and unnecessary DA approvals, she kept the two windows, installing Roman blinds from cornice height to disguise the fact the windows were of slightly different heights. The blinds were manufactured in-house at Decoroom.

The wall tiles in both the main bathroom and the ensuite are handmade ceramics, while the floor tiles are polished Carrara marble in a chevron design. They were chosen to reflect the fact that Simone and Scott are a couple with a young family. "I wanted there to be a fun element in this design," says Lauren.

The green-grey colour throughout the bathroom and ensuite is a nod to the natural surroundings, as is the marble on both vanities. See more of Lauren's work at decoroom.com.au.

ARTWORK: (TOP LEFT) DUJERREY ALGAE III; DESIGNER BOYS; DESIGNERBOYSCOLLECTIONS.COM; PURA SANITARYWARE A9477; TOILET SUITE (OPPOSITE); ASTRA WALKER; ASTRAWALKER.COM.AU



“The space needed to be somewhere that the family loved to come home to at the end of a long day”

LAUREN MAHONEY, INTERIOR DESIGNER