

GRAND PLANS

Kate Walker works a wonderful magic with her interiors, combining clever planning and premium finishes.

STORY *Carli Philips*

BATHROOM *brilliance*

Kate Walker chose to maintain this bathroom, which was part of the original home in Point Leo, Victoria. It had rarely been used, and Kate says the design is “as relevant today as it was when the home was built. Sure, the taps and tiles could be updated, but it still works and looks beautiful.” Saving money in this space allowed “more money to throw at the kitchen, ensuite and living spaces”, Kate says, meaning better finishes and premium design features in these areas. See the ensuite on page 92.

Photography: Armelle Habib.

BATHROOM *design notes*

VANITY & BATH

Specified by Bower
Architecture & Interiors

WALLS & FLOORING

Honed and vein-cut Italian
silver travertine, KWD & Co.

TOWEL

Missoni



Photography: Armelle Habib.

Interior designer Kate Walker of KWD, based in Victoria's Mt Martha, doesn't renovate rooms just for the sake of it. If part of a home is in good condition, she encourages clients to leave it as is and focus on what needs attention. The flow-on effect of this is not only money saved but money better spent elsewhere, such as on premium finishes and appliances.

In the bathrooms, laundries and mudrooms she creates, Kate shows how good looks and clever design can work hand in hand. A devotee of custom cabinetry, Kate loves to maximise style and storage with joinery that's brimming with practical hooks, drawers, cupboards and shelves. In laundries, she often allows enough space for two washing machines – making life easier for busy families – while her bathrooms increasingly feature double vanities and showers for extra convenience. And in the mudrooms featured on these pages, she offers a nod to farmhouse style, with all its utilitarian features, but executes each space with a thoroughly modern aesthetic.

How would you describe your design aesthetic? At KWD we work with a wide variety of budgets and aesthetics. We're not known for one particular style – we are focused on understanding our client's vision and designing their dream home, and taking it to a level that is beyond what they ever imagined.

Bathrooms, powder rooms, laundries and mudrooms were once an afterthought in Australian residential design. How has that changed? There has been a pronounced shift. The cost of building has increased significantly, and the focus on these rooms has been more on designing larger and more luxurious spaces. These rooms are no longer hidden away. Historically, the laundry and bathroom were outbuildings – so secondary that they weren't even attached to the main house. Now these rooms are very much part of the 'house proper' and it's not uncommon for powder rooms, bathrooms, laundries and mudrooms to be easily visible. More money is being spent on these spaces and they are being designed to elevate the whole feeling of the home, with finishes to rival that of the kitchen.

What are some of the luxuries you include in these rooms? In a laundry, a drying cupboard is a must for looking after delicate fabrics and managing clothing in the cooler months. In a mudroom, having a drop zone for each person is essential, be it a locker, hamper or shoe drawer. It creates a sense of harmony and organisation that makes the household flow smoothly. The powder room can be the most flamboyant space in the home. It's generally the smallest room and can definitely pack a punch. Luxury for a bathroom is definitely space. Having double showers and vanities is very hotel-esque, so designing large bathrooms with a clever use of space is the most effective way to create a sense of luxury.

Do you enjoy designing these more intimate and utilitarian spaces? These are my favourite rooms to design. You can create beautiful, intelligent rooms with clever space planning and joinery design. There's nothing quite like getting ready in the morning in a lovely bathroom that's been thoughtfully designed and where there's a special place for everything you need.

What is top of your clients' lists of must-haves for these rooms?



"We focus on understanding our client's vision and designing their dream home to a level beyond what they ever imagined." Kate Walker

We are seeing more people need two washing machines in the laundry. For busy families, being able to do two quick loads of washing in the morning is high on the agenda. We find our clients are always happy for us to use our design flair in powder rooms. And for bathrooms, double vanities and double showers are the most popular requests.

What are your key considerations when designing these spaces?

Bathroom: Space and light. **Powder room:** Incorporating favourite design elements from other areas. **Laundry:** It's important to deep dive into how the family operates. Do they wash clothes daily or weekly? For daily washing, two washing machines is ideal, and weekly washing requires hampers for dirty laundry. **Mudroom:** Each person needs their own zone so that an individual's items are easily found and stored.

Some of these rooms have to work hard in a small space. How do you maximise aesthetics and functionality? For small spaces, it all comes down to clever cabinetry – taking it up to the ceiling and making sure there's no wasted space. One of our design ideologies at the moment is creating a space called a 'utility room' that combines the laundry and the mudroom, and includes an island bench in the middle. It can become a second homework table, a clothes-sorting table, a present-wrapping table or a day study. I love this concept, and because this space is the heartbeat of the home, if it's running really well the rest of the house can be a relaxing sanctuary.

If your client wants to include one key luxury element in these rooms, what would you advise them to choose? Custom joinery design.

Is there a product or supplier you go back to again and again in your design work for these spaces? We love working with Winning Appliances to ensure that the laundry appliances work really effectively for the homeowners. And for tapware, while it's such a practical, functional element that is used multiple times a day, it can also be so beautiful and timeless, which is why we always go back to The English Tapware Company.

What is the best reaction you've had from a client to one of your finished rooms? "You have deciphered, designed and implemented what I didn't even know I wanted, and I only want it now that I have it." katewalkerdesign.com.au

BATHROOM
design notes

BATH Vero freestanding bath

BASIN S-Line S2O under-counter basin, Rogerseller

TAPWARE Brodware 'Manhattan' tapware in Rumbled Brass Organic, E&S

BENCHTOPS Carrara stone, KWD & Co.

BENCH SEATS Custom design by KWD, made by DMA Kitchens; cushions in Alhambra fabric in Estoril 04, Elliott Clarke

HARDWARE Henley cabinetry hardware in Acid Wash Brass, Hepburn Hardware

MIRROR Custom design by KWD, made by DMA Kitchens

LIGHTING Bryant sconce in antique brass with white glass shade, The Montauk Lighting Co.

CURTAINS Lynch's Window Fashions

CUSHIONS Lucy Montgomery

FLOORING Carrara tumbled marble tiles with giallo reale tiles (in stripes), KWD & Co.

ACCESSORIES Stylist's own

Photography: Armelle Habib.



BATHROOM
design notes

BATH Kado 'Lussi' bath, Reece

BASIN S-Line S20 under-counter basin, Rogerseller

TAPWARE Brodware 'Yocato' tapware and accessories in Aged Iron, E&S

BENCHTOP Bianco Carrara marble, KWD & Co.

JOINERY Custom cabinet in natural oak from Farmers Doors, designed by KWD, made by Padbury Woods

HARDWARE Sydney handles in Carbon Black and Halifax knobs in Carbon Black, all Hepburn Hardware

LIGHTING Hulton sconce in bronze with crystal backplate and glass shade, The Montauk Lighting Co.

CURTAINS Lynch's Window Fashions

FLOORING & WALLS Manhattan stone white tiles and Manhattan beige carpet (in adjoining room), all KWD & Co.



Photography: Armelle Habib.

“Designing large bathrooms with a clever use of space is the most effective way to create a sense of luxury.” Kate Walker



BATHROOM
design notes

BATH Kado 'Lussi'
freestanding bath, Reece

BASIN S-Line S20 under-
counter basin, Rogerseller

TAPWARE Brodware 'Yocato'
tapware and accessories in
Aged Iron, E&S

JOINERY Custom cabinets
designed by KWD

BENCHTOP Bianco Carrara
marble, KWD & Co.

HARDWARE Sydney handles
in Carbon Black and Halifax
knobs in Carbon Black, all
Hepburn Hardware

DOORS & WINDOWS
Natural oak from Farmers
Doors, made by Padbury
Woods

SHUTTERS Lynch's Window
Fashions

WALLS Norwich handmade
tiles in Olive, KWD & Co.

LIGHTING Hulton sconce in
bronze with crystal backplate
and glass shade, The Montauk
Lighting Co.

FLOORING Concrete Moss
and Concrete Grey tiles,
KWD & Co.

BATHROOM
design notes

BATH Vetralla 2 bath,
Victoria + Albert

TAPWARE Brodware 'City
Plus' tapware in Brushed
Nickel, E&S

JOINERY Custom cabinet,
designed by KWD

WALLS Renga mosaic tiles in
Aquamarine

TOWEL RAIL Hydrotherm
heated towel rail

FLOORING/BENCHTOP
Chateau marble, KWD & Co.



Photography: Armelle Habib.

“More money is being spent on these spaces and they are being designed to elevate the whole feeling of the home, with finishes to rival that of the kitchen.” Kate Walker

BATHROOM
design notes

JOINERY Custom design by KWD, topped with Portsea Grey limestone, KWD & Co.

BASINS Perrin & Rowe undermounted basins, The English Tapware Company

TAPWARE Perrin & Rowe 'Contemporary' wall set in Pewter, The English Tapware Company

WALLS Italian silver travertine vein cut, KWD & Co.

MIRRORS Custom design by KWD

LIGHTING Eclipse tall wall sconce, Articolo

FLOORING Italian silver travertine vein cut and Manhattan carpet in Pewter (in adjoining room), KWD & Co.



Photography: Armelle Habib.

“There’s nothing quite like getting ready in the morning in a beautiful bathroom that’s been thoughtfully designed and where there’s a special place for everything you need.” Kate Walker

BATHROOM
design notes

TAPWARE Perrin & Rowe
tapware in Pewter, The English
Tapware Company

WALLS Blue Jean subway
tiles, KWD & Co.

FLOORS Grey Terrazzo tiles,
Fibonacci

BATHROOM
design notes

JOINERY Custom design
by KWD, topped with Portsea
Grey limestone, KWD & Co.

BASINS Perrin & Rowe
undermounted basins, The
English Tapware Company

TAPWARE Perrin & Rowe
'Contemporary' wall set in
Pewter, The English Tapware
Company

MIRRORS Custom design
by KWD

WALLS Handmade subway
tiles in Camel, KWD & Co.

FLOORS Italian silver
travertine vein cut,
KWD & Co.

Photography, from left: Brent Lukey; Armelle Habib.

BATHROOM *design notes*

BASIN Calacatta basin,
KWD & Co.

TAPWARE Perrin & Rowe
'Contemporary' wall set in
Pewter, The English Tapware
Company

VANITY/MIRRORS Custom
designs by KWD

WALLS Altfield 'Grasscloth'
wallpaper, Milgate; Metallic
Gold handmade subway tiles,
KWD & Co.

LIGHTING Wall sconce,
Porcelain Bear



BATHROOM *design notes*

VANITY Custom design by
KWD, featuring Metallicus
quartzite from KWD & Co.

TAPWARE Brodware 'City
Plus' tapware in Weathered
Brass Organic, E&S

LIGHTING Kelly Wearstler
'Liaison' wall sconce, The
Montauk Lighting Co.

WALLPAPER Kravet

Photography: Armelle Habib.

"While tapware is such a functional element that is used multiple times a day, it can also be so beautiful and timeless." Kate Walker

BATHROOM
design notes

- BASIN** S-Line S20 undercounter basin, Rogerseller
- TAPWARE** Brodware 'Manhattan' tapware in Rumbled Brass Organic, E&S
- BENCHTOPS** Carrara stone benchtops, KWD & Co.
- JOINERY/MIRRORS** Custom designs by KWD, made by DMA Kitchens
- HARDWARE** Henley cabinetry hardware in Acid Wash Brass, Hepburn Hardware
- WALLS** Bianca Carrara tumbled cobblestones
- LIGHTING** Sarah Nedovic Gaunt table lamp; Bryant sconce in antique brass with white glass shade, The Montauk Lighting Co.
- FLOORING** Carrara and Pietra Grey tumbled marble tiles, KWD & Co.
- TOWELS** Nazire



Photography: Armelle Habib.

LAUNDRY
design notes

JOINERY Custom design
by KWD

BENCHTOP Atlantic Marble
honed benchtop, KWD & Co.

WALLS White Glass finger
mosaic tiles, KWD & Co.

HARDWARE MadeMeasure

APPLIANCES Miele

FLOORING Grey limestone,
KWD & Co.



LAUNDRY
design notes

BENCHTOP Macaubas
granite

TAPWARE Perrin & Rowe
tapware in Pewter, The English
Tapware Company

CABINETRY Albedor
Industries cabinetry in White
Grey Super Matt

FLOORING Terracotta tiles
(original to house)



Photography: Armelle Habib.

LAUNDRY
design notes

BENCHTOP Caesarstone

TAPWARE by builder

JOINERY Custom design
by KWD

WALLS White square matt
tiles, KWD & Co.

FLOORING Bridgeport
timber flooring, KWD & Co.



LAUNDRY
design notes

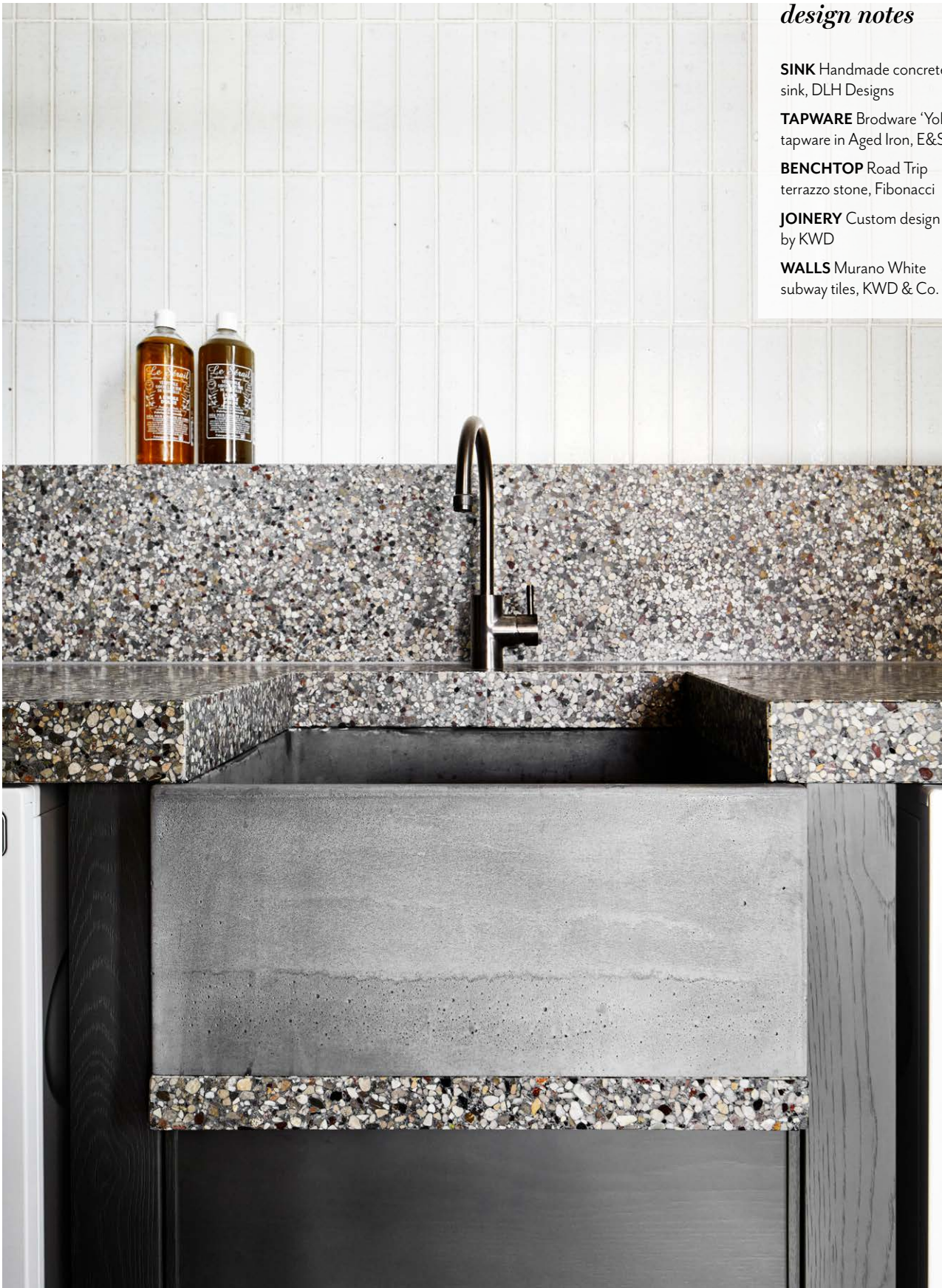
SINK Handmade concrete
sink, DLH Designs

TAPWARE Brodware 'Yokato'
tapware in Aged Iron, E&S

BENCHTOP Road Trip
terrazzo stone, Fibonacci

JOINERY Custom design
by KWD

WALLS Murano White
subway tiles, KWD & Co.



Photography: Armelle Habib.

“For small areas, it all comes down to clever cabinetry – taking it up to the ceiling and making sure there’s no wasted space.” Kate Walker

MUDROOM
design notes

SINK Franke 'Kubus' stainless steel sink, E&S

TAPWARE Brodware 'Yokato' tapware in Aged Iron, E&S

BENCHTOP Carrara Bianco marble, KWD & Co.

JOINERY Custom design by KWD, with Farmers Doors slimline Shaker-style doors in Black Ice

HARDWARE Domino handles

BENCH SEAT Warwick Josephine fabric in Jocelyn in (Tritan) Oatmeal

FLOORING Manhattan Slate in Black, KWD & Co.



Photography: Armelle Habib.

"In a mudroom, having a drop zone for each person is essential. It creates a sense of harmony and organisation that makes the household flow smoothly." Kate Walker

MUDROOM
design notes

JOINERY Custom design
by KWD

HARDWARE Domino
handles

RUG Lodge hand-loomed rug
in Vail Granite, KWD & Co.



MUDROOM
design notes

JOINERY Custom design
by KWD

HOOKS MadeMeasure

CUSHION Voyage
Decoration fabric in 'Arran
Birch' with leather border

FLOORING New Jersey
timber flooring, KWD & Co.

Photography: Armelle Habib.