

Dark heart

A lack of natural light saw the designer of this Victorian powder room embrace the power of a moody scheme.

PHOTOGRAPHY *Armelle Habib*



THE BRIEF “My clients live on the Mornington Peninsula and are big entertainers,” says interior designer Kate Walker of KWD. “They wanted their powder room to capture the personality of the rest of the home.”

THE DESIGN APPROACH “A powder room might be a small space but it can pack a punch,” she says. “We chose navy, brass and Carrara marble and then added wainscoting [wall panelling] as a nod to the Victorian heritage of the home.” Kate and her team decided to work with the room’s lack of natural light by creating a glamorous, moody feel. The reflective quality of the navy and gold wallpaper works beautifully with the wall sconces to bounce light around the room and to add a touch of glamour and whimsy. “We underplayed the mirror; it’s frameless and modern so it acts as a counterpoint to the classic elements in the room.” The customised washstand from The English Tapware Company has a Carrara marble top. “You can see the wainscoting through the frame, which allowed us to keep the space visually light.”

THE RESULT There’s a lovely balance between the dark walls and the room’s high ceiling. “Used together, the space feels luxe and intimate,” says Kate. ▶

KWD; (03) 5974 1800 or katewalkerdesign.com.au.

THE DETAILS

Martyn Lawrence Bullard ‘Zerzura’ wallpaper, \$317/10m roll, Radford.

Wainscoting painted Resene Licorice.

Hawthorn Hill washstand with Carrara marble top, \$4160, Perrin & Rowe wall-mounted basin set in Satin Brass, \$774, and undermount basin, \$795, all The English Tapware Company.

Ralph Lauren wall sconces, \$1199 each, The Montauk Lighting Co.