

## Bathroom

### The brief

To cater to the bathroom demands of the modern family.

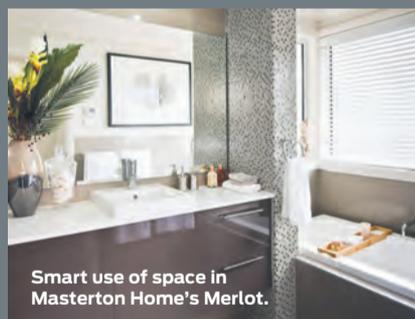


**ARCHITECT**  
**Adam Pressley** All Australian Architecture, [aaarchitect.com.au](http://aaarchitect.com.au)

**THE SOURCE**  
**LED floor lighting** Northern Lighting, [northernlighting.com.au](http://northernlighting.com.au)  
**Tumbled marble tiles** Marble Ceramic Corp, [marbleceramiccorp.com.au](http://marbleceramiccorp.com.au)  
**Wall-hung toilet** Caroma, [caroma.com.au](http://caroma.com.au)

**THE PAIN**  
 Three bathrooms means three times as much cleaning and maintenance

**THE GAIN**  
 Three separate, designated amenities will quell the inevitable arguments about whose turn it is to use the bathroom



Smart use of space in Masterton Home's Merlot.



Are you renovating? Tell us about it at [facebook.com/DHome](https://www.facebook.com/DHome)



Wall mounting allows for easy cleaning, says architect Adam Pressley.



A shower completes the ensuite but a main bathroom needs a tub.

# Making a clean start

Good planning comes out in the wash, writes Catherine Nikas-Boulos

The humble outhouse has come along way. Far from being exiled to the backyard, and then the most neglected room of the house, the loo is now feted as part of one of the most important rooms.

The cost of a bathroom makeover today can range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 depending on the size of the room and materials used. But what must astonish those who remember the simple shed in the yard is that new-age homes often have three bathrooms — at least.

All Australian Architecture principal Adam Pressley says “the rule of three” is defining the design of homes and renovations. “It’s a minimal functional arrangement to have an ensuite for the parents off the main bedroom, a main bathroom for the kids and a powder room for the guests that includes a toilet and basin and is easy to keep clean,” he says.

In a two-storey design, the main bathroom and ensuite would typically be upstairs, while the powder room would be downstairs, away from the entertaining rooms.

In a single-storey design that doesn’t allow three bathrooms, Adam suggests a toilet in the laundry (where plumbing exists). This is for the children to use in order to keep the main bathroom clean.

### Every house needs a bath

Adam says the changing dynamics of families has forced architects to rethink the value of the bathroom in the home. “Nowadays, we have families where both parents are working and getting ready in the morning, so things have to go like clockwork with people doing the same thing at the same time.”

The requirements of the bathrooms vary dramatically. The powder room is usually a toilet and vanity only; add a shower for the ensuite and for the main bathroom don’t even think about not including a bathtub.

“The main bathroom should also have a shower for convenience, but in my opinion every house should have at least one bath,” says Adam.

### Planning is the key

When planning a main bathroom, Adam says one big vanity is usually sufficient, though if you have daughters, you should probably make provision for two.

“Boys can probably share, but girls will want to take a bit longer doing their make-up,” he says. “You have to think about these kinds of things, even if your children are quite young now.”

Adam says owner-builders are usually quick to point out what they would do differently second time around, though the point is to get it right the first time.

“Planning is key,” he says. “Think about all sorts of things, like maintenance. Wall-mount everything if you can, from the vanity to the toilet and door stop. That way you can mop the whole floor in one easy swoop.”

As for materials, there’s a huge array of products on the market that will appeal to individual tastes, but one item that stands out for Adam is tumbled marble tiles on the bathroom floor. They are slip-resistant, making for a great shower floor — but bear in mind they need to be well-grouted and sealed to the point where water beads off it. [home catherine.nikas@news.com.au](mailto:catherine.nikas@news.com.au)

## Bathroom beauty

- 1 Night light** Try an LED floor-washing night light for those midnight visits to the bathroom. LED lights consume so little power that leaving them on all night is not a problem.
- 2 De-clutter** Keep your bathroom floor uncluttered and easy to clean. Most bathroom dust and dirt ends up on the floor. If you keep the floor completely clear it is easy to clean.
- 3 Storage tip** Use eye-level storage. Bathroom storage is most useful when at head height. A large shaving cabinet is much more use than under-basin cupboards.
- 4 Edge effect** Why put up with an uncomfortable bath edge? Select a bath with a low, flat edge, or try an under-slung bath with a stone top. Being able to sit on the edge of the bath is great for bathing children, cleaning, and getting in and out.
- 5 Roll up!** It’s too easy to run out of toilet paper, so put in a second holder. This way your guests won’t have to rummage through your cupboards looking for more.