

room mates

The home's most functional spaces are partnering up to create consistency and flow

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THE KITCHEN is a classic extrovert; the bathroom, more subdued, but these rooms are more like siblings than strangers. Even when positioned at opposite ends of the house, they deserve some common ground: complementary materials, palettes, hardware or joinery. Here, discover our foolproof ways to make your kitchen and bathroom work together. >



Cool copper

On-trend copper finishes provide a visual link between this kitchen and bathroom; visit Australian Metals for a show-stopping splashback.

Plan and design your kitchen
and bathroom *simultaneously* to
create harmonious spaces



PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE) NICKY RYAN



Colour match

Walls painted in varying strengths of Dulux Spanish Olive present a united front.

The benchmark

Forge a connection between your kitchen and bathroom with similar slimline benchtops.

DEFINE YOUR STYLE

Before you delve into the design of your kitchen and bathroom, do away with any preconceptions of how a practical space should look. Think about the era of your home and your personal taste; choose design elements that reflect these features in your living spaces, but also in the kitchen and bathroom. In a traditional home, this might mean reintroducing skirting boards, architraves and cornices, and installing tiles to the dado line in both spaces. In a contemporary home, it could be as simple as choosing plain fittings with clean lines and a sense of timelessness.

If working with a blank slate at the beginning of a major renovation, interior designer Karen Akers likes to uphold a consistent style through all the cabinetry door fronts in a home – the kitchen and bathroom included. Meanwhile, she says, existing spaces can be brought into line by painting the walls a colour found in the rest of the home – try Resene's hardy Kitchen & Bathroom range of paints. >

Timber is a beautiful *unifying* feature, lending itself to both the kitchen and bathroom



OVERCOME DIFFERENCES

Kitchens and bathrooms are demanding spaces with varying needs. The former needs to hold up to food spills and grease, the latter to copious amounts of water and steam. It pays to ensure the materials you choose for one space will work in the other.

A bright, white mosaic tile might really lift a dark bathroom and supply light for grooming, but in an airy kitchen it may add too much glare. Choose a darker tile, in the same shape, which will provide a nod to the bathroom's style without looking too stark.

A natural timber floor is a beautiful way to create flow between an open-plan kitchen and the surrounding dining and living spaces, but in most bathrooms – bar the exceptionally well ventilated – timber floors won't hold up to years of heavy moisture. For a consistent aesthetic, try the Par-ker range of timber-look tiles, available from Earp Bros. Alternatively, go for an understated large-format porcelain tile in a natural tone and introduce timber with cabinetry or a beautiful wooden stool. Flooring off-cuts can even be used to create stunning open shelves. >



In good shape

This sturdy island bench visually mimics the bathroom vanity.

*In the
frame*

Match window
and mirror
frames to tie
two spaces
together.





On the tiles

This wall of classic subway tiles is replicated in the kitchen splashback.



At once *practical* and *decorative*, a splashback is a prime opportunity to link the two rooms



Double doors

Echo pared-back panelling for cohesive cabinetry.

UNIFY WITH PERSONALITY

As the most functional spaces in the house experience a return to architectural detailing, there are more opportunities than ever to build connections between the kitchen and bathroom. "Modern living is about simplicity – but this no longer means being devoid of detail," says interior designer Karen Akers. She lists Shaker-profile doors and subway tiles as some of her favourite tools for linking the kitchen and bathroom. "These elements are putting character back into spaces that may have been previously stripped of personality," says Karen.

Sydney interior designer Greg Natale likes the odd flight of fancy, recommending concrete Moroccan-style tiles to add detail and ambience to both kitchens and bathrooms; try the range at Teranova Tiles & Stone. Simple tiles can work equally well, but may require another layer of interest, such as stand-out lighting. A cluster of pendant lights over one side of an island bench or vanity brings practical illumination as well as loads of charm. >

kitchens & bathrooms



PLAY WITH CONTRAST

Aim to create complementary moods rather than copycat spaces. "Tying together the kitchen and bathroom doesn't mean doing the same thing," says designer Greg Natale. "Contrast can set up a dynamic dialogue between rooms that you wouldn't necessarily get by simply repeating the same finishes."

Light walls and darker cabinetry in a kitchen can create an energetic dynamic that will set up the space as the social hub of the home. In a bathroom, the reverse (light cabinetry and darker walls) is more subdued – setting the mood for a long, hot bath.



Viva veneer

Make timber the feature in one space, and a trim in the other.

Fine lines

Sleek handle-free cabinetry is an easy fit for both zones.



Hold on tight

Black drawer pulls unite these all-white rooms.



BUILD COMMON GROUND

Identify the common links between kitchens and bathrooms and build on those innate similarities. The elements we handle in these rooms every day, such as tapware and drawer pulls, may be small, but they create textural and visual links between the rooms.

Greg Natale suggests enhancing this connection by going beyond the usual chrome. "Black, gold and bronze are all sophisticated choices," he says. Brodware carries tapware in a huge range of materials and finishes, and Mother of Pearl & Sons has gorgeous hardware, sure to bring a glamorous edge to each zone. 