**For all media groups**

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**These are the bathroom trends for 2019**

**Frankfurt/Bonn – (vds)** How are we going to use our bathrooms in the future? It is not only interior designers and trend researchers who ponder this question, it is also us. No wonder, since showering habits and bathing rituals rank among the most personal matters in life. Accordingly, bathroom design is becoming more and more individualized.

What the currents are that furnishing concepts are drawing guidance from in this connection was shown in March at the “ISH 2019”, the world’s leading trade fair for water, heating, and air conditioning. In addition, it made clear that in today’s wellness oases modern comforts and high-tech continue to be linked with traditional values and proven beneficial effects of water. This, in any case, is the conclusion drawn by the Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS).

**Colour explosions**

According to the sector’s Bonn-headquartered umbrella organization, people are experimenting more than ever, and a positive attitude towards the future and an abundance of colours characterize the interior. The showcased products feature smart combinations of feel-good factor and technology. The positive furnishing style comprises patterned tiles and sometimes gaudy decorations. Dynamic yellows, warm pinks, lively coral oranges as well as greens and blues in every natural shade available are certain to have all eyes on them and create a good mood, not only on walls but also on furniture, fittings and accessories.

**For feel-good philosophers**

Besides, natural stone and wood have become an integral part of the modern bathroom world. They combine with innovative water applications to form appealing compositions that turn the bathroom into a haven of well-being. Since people would like to spend more time in the bathroom, the equipment has to be chosen in a way that staying there may even have therapeutic effects. For modern bathrooms are doing an excellent job when it comes to fostering one’s winding down, philosophizing with oneself, and relieving stress.

**Top in black**

Conspicuously dark colours are a salient trend now; a phenomenon already known from kitchen design. Will black supersede the white bathrooms that have had impeccable approval ratings for many years? One thing is certain: The dark materials convey an impression of elegance and high quality, and they go well with other colours. The trend is not limited to tiles or furniture surfaces. Not only fittings but also shower trays, vanities and baths present themselves in avant-garde black or anthracite, sometimes juxtaposed with contrasting white. This has also been determined by the VDS.

**Fine finishing chic**

Very exquisite dashes of colour that complement the dramatic black look are shiny or matte surfaces with every conceivable finish, be it for the fittings or the waste-channel cover in the level-access shower. More than ever, anyone who values things extraordinary and classy can look forward to brushed and polished metal hues such as rose- or red gold, brass, copper, gold look or platinum. But such a “dark” style collection is also characterized by a touch of nonchalance. Black steel tubes are indispensable: This season they are carrying furniture washstands and baths, framing mirrors, and lending shower partitions a visible profile, with exquisite, vibrant colours from the red spectrum rounding off the ambience. But the inconspicuous managed to get a foot in the bathroom door too – naturalness leads the field, and with it soft sand hues or timeless shades of cognac.

**The right light**

Light and dark bathroom worlds alike love and need sophisticated lighting concepts, for instance with indirect light sources to set cosy accents. Sufficient daylight is equally important for skincare at the washstand. For this, the further development of the mirror cabinet as a light source for any time of day and every emotional state has laid the foundation over the past years. By means of mobile dimmers that can be placed anywhere, apps or even gestures, smart lighting in the entire bathroom can be adjusted as desired, also while you are soaking in the tub. And light ribbons on furniture are no exception in this point.

**A free view**

Those who are interested in the design trends in furniture will encounter carcasses in harmonious, organic shapes with soft edges and rounded corners. In addition, the suppliers are also focussing on round silhouettes, not least because they add a certain pep to the ambience while providing the room with a feeling of harmony at the same time. What is new on the trend radar, according to VDS Managing Director Jens J. Wischmann, is transparent pieces of furniture in all sorts of styles. While it is true that the clear look does not tolerate any untidiness, there is a good chance that it will stay for good thanks to its “coolness”. To match the currently hip Industrial Style you will also find many straight lines. There is nothing excessive or superfluous, yet you can sense cosiness.

**Magic all around**

The Germans are generally willing to splash out more for bathroom amenities. In search of relaxation and well-being, people don’t shy away from spending money or from luxury. However, according to Wischmann, it is always about spoiling oneself with one’s health in mind, and practicing mindfulness. The round bath is a must; as an eye-catcher but also as an essential comfort criterion and for diving in without corners and edges. Sensual delight is also in favour with the showers. Ceiling showers, which have you lost in reverie and standing in the rain you wish would never stop, have become an essential bathroom element. Sometimes they enchant you with light and perfume, and they look like a moon. Moreover, water jets out of the walls at any point – most recently even from a practical shelf.

**Less is more**

Fittings created by designers never cease to attract attention, despite or perhaps because of their minimalist design. The starting point here is a universal look that is supposed to be long-lived on a functional as well as on an aesthetic level. In order to achieve this, the creative minds prescribe ‘slimming cures’ and reduce bulk and dimensions wherever they can. Innovative technology even facilitates the installation of thermostat, shut-off valve and hose connection in a single small module. The operation of such a shower fitting is easy and intuitive. At the front, you control the water quantity, and at the back, you set the temperature. Which leaves plenty of space on the wall at your free disposal.

**Still waters**

Similarly, slim silhouettes are in demand for (shower) toilets, primarily in order to remove their dominance in the room. Thanks to a sophisticated fastening technique, all outside screws disappear from view. On the inside, the focus is on rimless pan design, asymmetry, and a spiral waterflow, which provides a particularly thorough rinsing and is also low-noise. Moreover, there are models that can be readjusted by up to 4 cm (1.58”) after installation. This means that, if needed, the WC can be installed in a higher position at a later date.

**Unlimited pleasure**

Generally, attributes such as flexibility, in combination with comfort and safety, are playing an increasingly decisive role in bathroom design. What’s more is the ardent desire to be able to take care of oneself and move around independently even in the presence of limited physical abilities. This is what the VDS refers to, among other things, as the initiator of the ‘Aktion Barrierefreies Bad’ (ABB) [barrier-free bathroom campaign]. For instance, level-access showers tend to be installed more and more often also by younger property owners and even tenants. Accordingly, the current shower trays and areas can be used in renovations and new installations without limits. There is a virtually inexhaustible range of shapes and – and this is where everything comes full circle – surface colours and decors in tile-, natural-stone-, and wood finish. No question: Kneippism in a beautifully designed bathroom is simply more fun. And, as is known, fun is a major factor in well-being.

For more information and inspirations around the bathroom trends for 2019 please go to the Internet and check the VDS online guides [www.gutesbad.de](http://www.gutesbad.de) and [www.aktion-barrierefreies-bad.de](http://www.aktion-barrierefreies-bad.de).

**Captions**

In the bathroom, understatement is becoming a thing of the past: colour explosion is the motto – in red or green or blue. In vibrant colours, at any rate. What is also new on the trend radar, according to the Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS), is transparent pieces of furniture in all sorts of styles. A clear look for a clear view. Combining the two will provide you with a “hotspot”.

**Photo:** Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS) ©burgbad
 Image 4744

Remarkable: Together with raffia, plastic-coated glass and indirect lighting, the minimalist fitting in dynamic yellow creates an antipole to the sober concrete washstand. This is how accents are placed in today’s bathroom. Extravagant.

**Photo:** Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS) ©Dornbracht
 Image 4745

Happy hour: These furniture grip rails attract attention with dimmable lighting – an effect that lends a cosy atmosphere not only to the cabinets but to the entire room. Black mirror frames and shower partition profiles serve as the perfect backdrop for vibrant wall colours from the red spectrum. Fresh.

**Photo:** Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS) ©Villeroy und Boch Image 4746

What a contrast: Pleasing carcasses in harmonious, organic shapes with soft edges and rounded corners are among the designers’ favourites. Two-tone design is king with washstands and baths. Dark anthracite is countered with plenty of white. Blond wood and sand-coloured cabinets are the prefect complement. Fancy.

**Photo:** Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS) ©Duravit
 Image 4747

A style collection in “dark”: According to the Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS), there is a salient trend towards a darker bathroom design. Black sanitary elements are combined with exquisite metal hues. For instance, this floor-level shower features a shiny-gold waste channel cover. The walls are cognac-coloured. Been there, done that? Yes, but not so beautiful by far.

**Photo:** Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS) ©Kaldewei
 Image 4748

Filigree: “Thinness” is a current trend that focuses on slim silhouettes. In view of the numerous washstands with thin-wall ceramics, fittings can’t defy a corresponding update. Classics are no exception to the rule. There is nothing excessive or superfluous, yet you can sense cosiness. Pleasant.

**Photo:** Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS) ©Kludi
 Image 4749

Curves: This design emphasis was a real eye-catcher at the “ISH 2019”. Suppliers are focussing on the circle because it adds a certain pep to the ambience while providing the room with a feeling of harmony at the same time. In this context, the bath is indispensable. Perfect for winding down, philosophizing with oneself – and all this without corners and edges.

**Photo:** Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS) © Bette
 Image 4750

From above or rather from shoulder height to keep hair and head dry: the current shower designs think of everything. For this, water will even flow from a small shelf. Of course, a ceiling shower is part of the range. Of course, it is circular. And of course, it dispenses that rain you wish would never end.

**Photo:** Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS) ©Hansgrohe
 Image 4751

“SlimLine”: Slimming cures are also for shower fittings. Bulk and dimensions are reduced wherever possible. In the end, a small module is enough to host thermostat, shut-off valve and hose connection. At the front, you control the water quantity, and at the back, you set the temperature. Which leaves plenty of space on the wall at your free disposal. Ingenious.

**Photo:** Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS) ©Keuco
 Image 4752

Sophisticated: Slim silhouettes are the motto in toilet design – not least in order to remove their dominance in the room. Moreover, the look is not disturbed by even one tiny screw. But the new models flush visibly clean, and they are also low-noise. The lid can be removed for easy cleaning in one step. Readjusting after installation is possible too. Simply unbeatable.

**Photo:** Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS) ©Geberit
 Image 4753

Unlimited pleasure: Flexibility, in combination with comfort and safety, is playing an increasingly decisive role in bathroom design. What’s more is the desire to be able to take care of oneself and move around independently even in the presence of limited physical abilities. This results in more and more barrier-free bathrooms being realized. This was reported by the Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS).

**Photo:** Vereinigung Deutsche Sanitaerwirtschaft (VDS) ©Hewi
 Image 4754

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