



Hotel-style bathing at home

Michelle and Pieter Jager, founders of Dutch interior design studio Even Eleven, wanted a bathroom with a five-star vibe. Their secret? Big ideas and little details...

WORDS ROOS VAN DER RIJST

When the time came to decorate the family bathroom in their own home in Bussum, a small town near Amsterdam, Michelle and Pieter Jager, founders of maximalist interior design studio Even Eleven, could be relied on to bring experimentation and colour. Creating a space that has a hotel feel, though, is about curation as much as it's about confidence. 'As interior designers, we always like to make one statement around which we build the rest of the look. One eye-catcher that stimulates the senses and gives the entire room character,' says Michelle. 'In this bathroom, that's the Moroccan tiles. The exciting colour combination, the pattern, the craftsmanship: they create the space.' Once that pivotal decision was made, all the rest of the decorative decisions fell in line.

The choice of the tiles inspired the soft orange paint for the walls, and 'Loggia' by Farrow & Ball was selected, after considerable deliberation. 'One orange is not the same as the other,' says Pieter, speaking from personal experience. After that, the couple searched for light switches in the same hue, then added candles and vases that complemented the scheme. 'It is the accessories that complete the room,' says Michelle. 'Like the orange side table from Serax. It's not intended to be functional, although we sometimes sit on it when the children are in the bath.' And all of the kids (there are three, aged between one and six) like to take baths together. This, adds Michelle, meant that a large bath was 'a must!' They chose the 'BetteLux Oval' by Bette, which measures 190cm by 90cm. To visually reduce its footprint in the space, the designers selected the built-in version and set it into a slab of natural stone; the same marble as the floor tiles. Other elements of the design are custom-made, like the vanity unit with its twin basins - 'we designed it with two drawers, but made it look like nine smaller drawers. This gives the furniture a more charming and less colossal appearance,' explains Michelle.

Even Eleven's ethos is 'expect the unexpected', so it's no surprise that there are some quirky touches. There are lights on either side of the vintage mirror for example, both from Atelier Areti, but one is a wall lamp and the other a pendant. The lack of symmetry 'makes the scene a little bit more playful', explains Michelle. Materials have been mixed up, too. The Hotbath taps, selected in a gunmetal finish, are, she adds, 'a perfect counterpart to the shiny gold of the lights'. 'Everything we find important is in this bathroom,' concludes Pieter. 'Customisation, a traditional feel, colour and beautiful details. It's visually stimulating, yet it radiates warmth and tranquillity. The ideal place to relax after a long day.' eveneleven.nl

PICTURES: WILLEMJIN DE LEEUW



'As interior designers, we always like to make one statement around which we build the rest of the space'