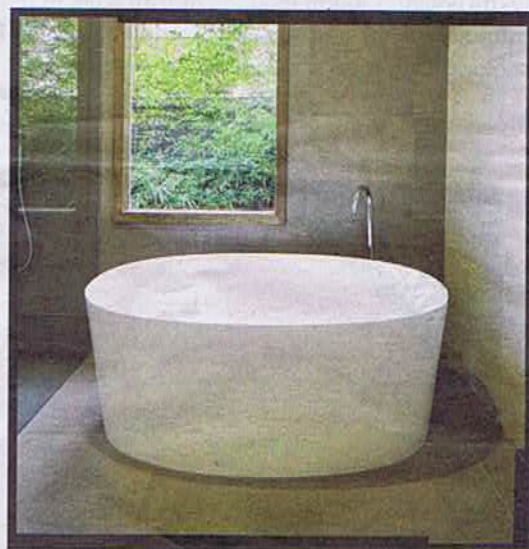


room makeover



IMAGES SUPPLIED BY BUBBLES BATHROOMS



bright ideas

- * Darker tiles were used on the wall behind the bath to provide contrast with the white bath and add depth to the room.
- * The original window looked bulky and out of place. To complement the sleek lines of the room's redesign, Bubbles Bathrooms removed and restyled the window to show off the private garden space.
- * The freestanding bath creates an immediate impact when people walk into the room – it's more like a work of art than a utilitarian piece.
- * Dual showerheads make it easy for a carer to aid the family's son with showering. Used here are the Tondo wall-mounted shower column mixer and showerhead, by Parisi (parisi.com.au).
- * The bath taps, on the wall at one end of the bath, have been strategically positioned so the carer has ready access and control.
- * The Edison-style task light by the vanity adds a funky flourish to the room.

WORDS SUSAN MULDOWNNEY

Adapting to change was a key requirement for the bathroom in this Hawthorn East family home. One of the children has a disability and the room had to accommodate his current and potential needs.

"The physiotherapist recommendations about his needs, both now and in the future, have been included in the design," explains Owen Barnes, the principal designer of Bubbles Bathrooms (bubblesbathrooms.com.au), which renovated the space.

The bathroom cleverly mixes functionality with beauty. "The clients were clear they didn't want the bathroom to look like a disability bathroom," says Owen, explaining the room is also used by the rest of the family, as well as guests.

The sleek vanity, in Wild Rice Caesarstone (caesarstone.com.au), was built at a height to accommodate possible future wheelchair use, and has a practical timber bench on one side for sitting or placing clothes. Reinforcements were built behind the shower walls so rails and a suspended shower seat can be added later if needed.

The Victoria + Albert bath, made from QuarryCast moulded stone (vandabaths.com), is the focal point. The freestanding design, both stunning and practical, makes it easy for a carer to move around while helping at bath time.

"The design of the bathroom works aesthetically and, importantly, it meets the needs of everyone in the home," Owen says. ■