

Ponsonby BATHROOM *by Jessop Architects*

Photography by Jamie Cobel





Part of a complete renovation of a double-bay villa in Auckland, this top-floor bathroom is a new addition, and forms one third of the owners' new master suite – the other two elements being a walk-through wardrobe and the bedroom. The suite occupies the full length of the house, with the bathroom facing the street, above the front door, and the bedroom at the back, overlooking the garden. “This linear layout offers a very practical solution to how to accommodate a large, parents’ retreat into a tight roof space,” says architect Darren Jessop. Although the space is narrow, the architect was able to fit a large walk-in shower along one wall and a generous vanity, with his and hers sinks, along the other. The toilet is situated at the end of the room, under the window.

“To give the impression of space, we put a full-width mirror along one wall,” says Jessop. “We also hung the vanity off the wall, which helps make the floor area seem larger.” Nothing has gone to waste in this bathroom. To further maximise the available space, the heated mirrors feature push-catches, which reveal hidden cupboards that extend back into the roof cavity. Light was also an important factor. Because available light was restricted to a small window at the end of the room, Jessop installed a large skylight above the shower, which allows natural daylight to stream in. A discreet LED strip light runs the full width of the vanity, providing task lighting in the morning and evening. 

01



03



02



04



Material Selector

01
Vero wall-mounted washbasin by Duravit
\$1794
metrix.co.nz

02
Seda White Gloss 10x30 subway tiles
from \$26.09/m² plus GST
tiles.co.nz

03
Custom mirrored cabinetry
\$POA
woodstar.co.nz

04
Custom shower enclosure
\$POA
omega-construction.co.nz

Practice
Jessop Architects
Level 1, 4 Brown Street, Ponsonby,
Auckland 1011
(09) 360 7110
jessoparchitects.co.nz

Practice profile
Jessop Architects is an award-winning, Auckland-based practice with a commitment to excellence. The design process tends to be a fun collaboration between

our inhouse architects and the client. Our architecture can be considered modern pacific rim, with classic lines resulting in timeless structures.

Project team
Darren Jessop, Vance Bentley,
Leigh van Duyn

Builder
Dave Williams, Omega
Construction

Consultants
Engineer: Don Davidson
Engineers
Products
Cabinetry: Custom oak veneer,
stained and with satin finish
**Bath, tapware, toilet and
shower fittings and taps:** Metrix
Basins: Vero wall-mounted
washbasin from Metrix
Tiling: Tile Space
Lighting: Inlite
Windows and doors: Westpine

Window and door hardware:
Halliday + Baillie
Skylight: Velux

Time schedule
Design & Planning: 6 months
Construction: 10 months

Project areas:
Site size: 416m²
Project size: 169m²

Working with AN ARCHITECT



Architect Darren Jessop



The owners of this villa were faced with the problem of needing to meet the demands of a growing family. The question was: find a new house or renovate the existing one? A love for the home they had and the neighbourhood made the decision an easy one.

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Could you tell us a little about your family and your background?

We are an active family of five, comprising myself, my husband and our three children – a daughter, aged nine, and two sons, aged seven and four. We are always busy with weekend activities, having lots of the children's friends over to play and having other families over. We

share a love of beautiful architecture, clean simple lines and spaces that work really well.

Why did you decide to engage an architect?

We both felt that the home we live in had more to offer than was here already. We did look at moving out as our family grew, but we both love the area we live in and love our house. We engaged an architect to help us maximise the space we had, and also to make sure that all the spaces worked well for our needs and that everything was in proportion for the house and for our family.

How did you discover Jessop Architects?

My husband knew of Darren Jessop. We both loved his work, turning traditional villa homes into modern spaces, while keeping a sense



and feel of the original features of the house.

How did you prepare for your first meeting with the architect? Had you done some research into what you were looking for?

Yes, we spent a lot of time looking at similar homes to ours, and had quite a clear picture of what we needed space wise. We wanted a master bedroom and bathroom upstairs, so it was a matter of how we made that work, if there was space, and where the stairs would go. Darren came to our home and had a look, then did some drawings showing how he thought we could make it work, and we went from there.

Is the finished bathroom what you were looking for?

Yes, we absolutely adore the bathroom we have! It's our own private sanctuary. We chose all the fittings and tiles ourselves. It has a lovely light interior thanks to the skylight. We couldn't be happier with the space and bathroom. Great storage was a must-have on the list and I think we've managed to achieve that really well.

What advice would you give someone who is thinking of using an architect?

It's important to really think about what sort of style bathroom you want and how this fits with your home and other spaces. Also, really do your research about how your architect's fee structure works and make sure you have good open communication, because ultimately they are creating a space in your home, so it needs to be something you love.