

Making a splash

With innovative bath materials, horizontal showers and high-tech gadgets, *Katherine Price* takes a look at the best bathroom innovations

Pennyhill Park
Bagshot, Surrey

Pennyhill Park, winner of the Hotel of the Year – Independent at the 2016 Catey Awards, lays claim to some of the most innovative and luxurious bathrooms in the UK. From the horizontal shower from Dornbracht in its Acacia suite and the Yin Yang bath in the Snowdrop suite, to the eight-person Jacuzzi hot tub in the Twickenham suite, every bathroom at the five-red-AA-star, 123-bedroom hotel is a space to relax and luxuriate in. The Acacia and Silver Birch suite bathrooms were refurbished in 2013 by NH Interiors, at a total cost of £178,900. The Yin Yang tub offers two separate bathing areas with separate water, temperature and soundwave massage technology controls, while the horizontal shower involves guests lying on a raised, heated surface to experience a variety of water flows, temperatures and intensities.

Danny Pecorelli, managing director at Exclusive Hotels, says each bathroom has its own identity to suit different guests. “For us, bathrooms offer as much peace and relaxation as a good night’s sleep in one of our guestrooms, so we spend as much time creating bespoke bathrooms as we do on the room itself.”

Viña Vik
Millahue, Chile

The titanium bathroom in the Vik Suite of the 22-bedroom Viña Vik hotel features the £19,800 Vessel hammock bath from London’s SplinterWorks studio. Made of carbon fibre and with a continuously curved surface designed for comfort, the bath is suspended from the walls and strategically positioned for the best views of the surrounding valleys and vineyards. It also boasts a foam-insulated core to keep water hot for longer.

Eccleston Square Hotel
London SW1

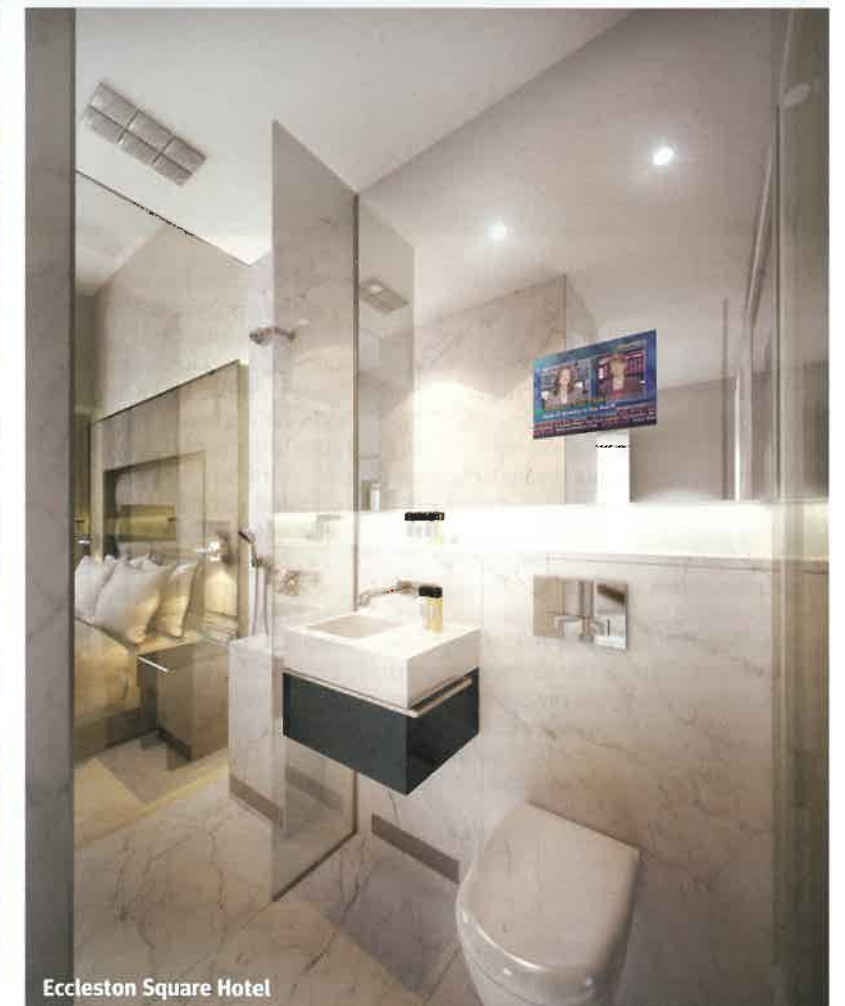
The cutting-edge, high-tech modernity of the 40-bedroom Eccleston Square Hotel does not stop at the bathrooms. As well as the luxury facilities – rainfall showers, heated flooring and Italian marbling – the real stand-out features are the bathroom walls and mirror-mounted television. Every bathroom wall and door is made of SmartGlass, which switches



Pennyhill Park (and below)



Viña Vik



Eccleston Square Hotel

◀ **Ashford Castle**

Cong, Ireland

Although it looks like wood, the bath in the Ash suite of Ireland's Ashford Castle is actually sandstone. The bath at the 82-bedroom Red Carnation Hotels property was commissioned and selected by architect Philippe Bonino who oversaw the €75m (£63.8m) renovation of the property, which reopened last year.



Ashford Castle

Foxhill Manor

Broadway, Worcestershire

The Oak suite at the eight-bedroom Foxhill Manor, recently named Boutique Hotel of the Year in the Hoteliers' Hotels Top 100 list, is the property's most in-demand option for honeymooners – probably because of the twin set of freestanding bath tubs standing in the bay window, with views across the rolling Cotswold hills. Manufactured by Victoria and Albert, the £1,800 Amalfi baths are made of finely ground volcanic limestone and resin, with high insulation properties and an extended backrest providing full head support.



Foxhill Manor

Pig at Combe hotel

Honiton, Devon

The Horsebox at the newly opened 27-bedroom Pig at Combe hotel near Honiton, Devon, is a prime example of making the most of a quirky space and retaining original features in a fun, stylish way. However, it is also an example of how to transform a room within the strict limitations of a Grade I-listed structure. Located on the ground floor of the stable yard and featuring the original stable partitions and paved flooring, the space also has a freestanding bath, walk-in monsoon shower and reinstated sinking troughs. The bathroom plumbing had



The Pig at Combe