



# BATHROOM SUPREMO ROBERTO PALOMBA

Talks exclusively to us on his ethos for stunning bathroom design.



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From Birmingham's KBB show to Eurocucina in Milan, Roberto Palomba is a familiar face in the design world and even has the Red Dot award to his name.

Working alongside his wife, Ludovica, the couple have been since 1994, sharing a home and studio in Italy.

### How does high design fit into today's bathrooms?

I think that the first rule is there are no rules. We need to stop seeing bathrooms as utility rooms but as important features of our lives. We must each think about our different needs and what we want from it. In my point of view, it's where the water is, so we can all go back to our origins.

### How do you approach designing a bathroom?

I think about it in the same way as when we design for architecture, interiors or photo shoots. It's really important you understand what the people want in order to help them live in a better way. When life is better, you'll find that it's also so much easier.

### What advice do you have for homeowners looking to redesign their bathroom?

Find an expert who can help with the technical side and keep it simple. You'll want to show your individuality so think about what you like. The main difference between a bathroom and a living room is that you cannot change it like you can change flowers,

fabrics and furniture. Most people keep their bathrooms for 10 years. They say 'I can't do it again for another decade!'

### What's your bathroom like?

I share it with my wife and teenage daughter. They are currently redesigning it so I don't know what I'm going to find next. Women are the best at planning family bathrooms because they have a good idea of what works.

### How did your collaboration with Laufen come about?

They saw my designs and called me to the office, telling me to design something wonderful!

### Any future trend predictions?

There are things we have been

investigating over the last few years. We now understand the environment, saving water, for example, which is something that has been neglected in the past. Now's the time to think about what we are doing.

### Which colours and textures do you enjoy working with?

Clear colours, not necessarily white. The natural feel in bathrooms is so essential. I tend to mix organic materials with bits of glass. If you keep the walls plain, you can play with other shades.

### Do you have celebrity clients?

I've worked with many footballers and actors, and I often see my products in movies. Oceans 13 features a basin from Laufen. For

me, it's all about designing for the people, not just famous faces.

### Does life in Milan inspire you?

I travel so much that I cannot say I live in Milan. I'm never there long! It's a magnet for fashion, design and architecture, so you have the chance to be inspired all the time. My favourite place is South Africa. I was born in Sardinia, but Cape Town is my home.

### How would you describe your place in Italy?

Simple and useful. It's a blend of business and pleasure. My studio is upstairs and it's all glass, so you can see it from downstairs. We don't separate our lives into home and work. My job is also my hobby.

INTERVIEW ANNA WIGNALL

Left to right Roberto with his design partner and wife, who together form Ludovica+Roberto Palomba. Their first bathroom project for Laufen saw the launch of the self-titled Palomba Collection featuring eye-catching bathtubs, basins and furniture. The latest additions to the range include the Lb3 wall-hung vanity unit, freestanding bath and matching twin basins.