



Twice as nice

Why two basins are the secret of marital harmony

A FEW country-house traditions appear to have fallen by the wayside in the past decade or so: raucous games of Ibble Dibble fueled by flaming Sambuca, for example, and corridor creeping in the early hours—or at least not on school nights. Another is sleeping separately from your spouse—long regarded as the height of sophistication, but often symptomatic of nothing more glamorous than a deviated septum.


There are signs, too, that separate bathrooms might also soon be a thing of the past. ‘Bathrooms are definitely becoming bigger, more communal spaces, often at the expense of bedrooms and dressing rooms,’ says James Lentaigne of Drummonds bathrooms.

More space creates possibilities such as upholstered furniture and capacious showers, including the

racy option of a pair of showerheads and a double enclosure (although most are probably specified more in hope than aspiration).

More discreet—but arguably more useful—is a pair of basins (known in the trade as a double vanity unit) for companionable side-by-side scrubbing, flossing and doing whatever it is that people do with cotton buds.

‘If space allows, a double vanity is now firmly at the top of wish lists,’ says Mr Lentaigne, whose recently launched Thames design in opulent veiny marble would lend a stately feel to any bathtime.

For a touch of Art Deco glamour, consider the extensive collection created by designer Justin Van Breda (also available at C.P. Hart). Neptune is another good source, with a number of designs, including the multi-drawer Chichester. Handy for all those cotton buds. 



Double vanity washstand by Christopher Peacock

On tap

Former advertising executive Timothy Corrigan, now one of the most fêted designers in the USA, has turned his hand to a chic new range of luxury bathroom fittings for THG that cost £2,528 from West One Bathrooms (0333 011 3333; www.westonebathrooms.com)

The COUNTRY LIFE edit: Double vanity units

C. P. Hart (020-7902 5250; www.cphart.co.uk)

Devon & Devon (020-7221 5137; www.devon-devon.com)

Drummonds (020-7376 4499;

www.drummonds-uk.com)

Justin Van Breda (020-7349 7089; www.j-v-b.com)

Neptune (01793 427300; www.neptune.com)

West One

Bathrooms

(0333 011 3333; www.westone-bathrooms.com)

Cristopher

Peacock

(020-7100 4423;

www.peacockhome.com)