

## Sweet spot

*This petite powder room  
is a surprise hidden  
under the stairs.*

STORY *Carli Philips*  
STYLING *Claire Delmar*  
PHOTOGRAPHY *Anson Smart*

### POWDER ROOM *design notes*

**WALLS** American Oak veneer with Carrara marble bullnose detail, Granite & Marble Works.

**FLOOR TILES** Alhambra mosaics, Di Lorenzo.

**JOINERY & LEDGE** Esmeralda marble, Granite & Marble Works.

**SPLASHBACK** Zellige tiles in Aqua Marine, Di Lorenzo.

**TAPWARE** Manhattan wall set in Brushed Nordic Brass, Brodware.

**MIRROR** Maison Sarah Lavoine organic-shaped rattan mirror, Smallable.

*The reimagining of* this powder room by designers Arent&Pyke was part of a larger renovation to a historic sandstone home in Sydney's north. Tucked under a staircase yet conveniently located adjacent to the formal living and bar area, the powder room was ideally positioned but was lacklustre and unloved. At just 1.77m x 1.12m, it was small and poky, but by increasing the ceiling height and pushing the vanity depth into the existing niche, the structure felt more open and spacious. The overall concept was for a "classic space with a contemporary edge", says Sarah-Jane Pyke, director and design principal at Arent&Pyke. The design scheme began with mosaic flooring, which then built up to a stone skirting, timber wall panelling and a stone bullnose running horizontally at the top. Vertical bullnoses were cleverly introduced to conceal the structural joints. "Every visit to the powder room allows for more of its layered finishes and details to reveal themselves," says Sarah-Jane. "We wanted to create a special moment for guests and our clients to enjoy. It's a hidden gem."

**Arent&Pyke, [arentpyke.com](http://arentpyke.com)**

**What was the brief for this space?** To design a jewel-like space for our clients to enjoy. A layered and inviting powder room hidden beneath their existing heritage stairs.

**How did you arrive at the colour and materials palette?** We drew on the rich layered palette we used throughout the home to inform this room. We wanted to craft a classic space with a contemporary edge.

**Were there any challenges along the way?** Working with an existing confined space was the main one.