

REAL READERS' HOMES

THE owners

A retired couple and their three rescue cats reside in this delightful detached six-bedroom house, located in the Ashdown Forest. Their home boasts a large garden, part of which is woodland – and in fact the entire property backs on to the neighbouring forest, which offers stunning scenic views.

A Pura Vida mixer tap by Hansgrohe is situated above the bath. Its sleek, sinuous design is perfectly suited to match the bath's curvaceous shape and assimilate within the overall serene scheme.

The large Zeus bath from Ashton & Bentley boasts a gravitas worthy of its name. The capacious oval bowl shape is crafted from pure white stone resin – it's aesthetically reminiscent of oriental schemes, and therefore evokes a tone of relaxation, Zen and harmony.

A Radiance rainfall shower from Hansgrohe tones with the chrome brassware throughout the bathroom. Its rainfall jets offer a rejuvenating and luxurious showering experience.

STYLE SANCTUARY

Stylish and sophisticated – and bathed in plenty of natural light – this elegant scheme balances oriental influences with classic feminine lines.

THE designer

“In a case where you might be looking at converting a spare room into a bathroom, an essential practical consideration is the potential service routes – particularly the soil waste pipe. During the design/layout stage, consider these waste and service routes within the plan and ideally incorporate stud walls to ensure they can be discreetly hidden, rather than detract from the beauty of your bathroom scheme.”

Louise Home, head of design, The Brighton Bathroom Company



“I love having a dressing room – it’s a real luxury. Also, the large walk-in shower, with a view to the garden, is really wonderful.”

Homeowner

The walk-through dressing room is a luxurious entrance to the ensuite; from floor to ceiling, every detail oozes sophistication. The bespoke integrated wardrobes, fitted drawers and dressing table area are finished in a soft Brassica purple and feature square Art-Deco-inspired chrome-finish handles, to match the chromed brassware used throughout the bathroom.

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apaciousness is key when considering your bathroom design. Fortunately, due to this couple’s children having ‘flown the nest’, they were able to knock through into an unused room, parallel to their bedroom. This enabled the creation of a capacious bathroom in the formerly spare room, while the existing en-suite space was transformed into a luxurious walk-through dressing room. The ultra-elegant dressing room looks directly onto the large freestanding bath, creating a focal point that visually draws the eye through the dressing room and straight into a calming and sensual spa experience.

The couple were keen for the design to be “modern and light, but with some traditional features and a touch of glamour.” The predominantly neutral scheme, contemporary bath and brassware ensure the look is modern, while the Shaker-style furniture succeeds in adding a traditional touch, and the mirrors and complementary lighting ooze glamour. The couple turned to Louise Home, at The Brighton Bathroom Company, to undertake this demanding project. The company’s end-to-end service allowed the homeowners to have their dream design, layout and style scheme, with a perfectly personalised aesthetic

What look were you going for?

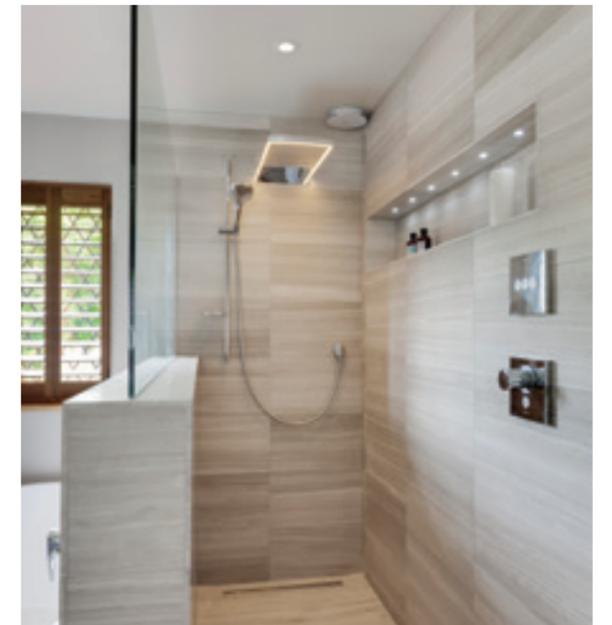
Louise: “I wanted a real feeling of luxury throughout the rooms and definitely needed both rooms to ‘flow’ from the dressing room into the bathroom with ease. I was inspired by the peace and tranquillity of the surrounding woodland, and wanted to bring that feeling into the new dressing room and en-suite.”

What were the practical considerations?

Louise: “We had to move the en-suite facilities from their existing location into the room next door, and so services had to be extended into a room that previously had none. Luckily there was another bathroom on the other side of the room so we were able to feed some services and outlets through from that side.”

Were there existing features you had to work around?

Louise: “The house had bespoke oak doors and architrave throughout, so I decided to save the



existing architrave from the bedroom door – which we were closing off – and re-use it for the new sliding door that connects the dressing room to the new en-suite. To match the architrave we had a new solid oak sliding door commissioned.”

What is in the bathroom and why were these pieces chosen?

Louise: “My client really wanted a large bath that she could relax and luxuriate in. I used a large freestanding mineral stone bath and placed it by the window, which allows a scenic view whilst bathing.

Above: The stud wall, which separates the bath and shower zone, is equally aesthetically and practically useful. It discreetly hides essential feeds and wastes for the shower, while the near side of the wall boasts a handy recess – ensuring the bather may have all their toiletries and essentials close to hand, enhancing the relaxing atmosphere.

The material is soft and warm, and this bath boasts an elegantly understated design. I placed the shower area next to this, separated by a half-height stud wall. The wall houses the pipework for the bath filler and allowed the perfect space to create a recess for convenient storage of bath products (or wine glass)!”

“The shower area was another priority – I created a large walk-in area, again using stud walls for feeds and a recess for convenient storage and lighting feature. I added a large, luxury rainfall shower head with a multitude of functions including an LED lighting feature, which again adds to the scheme.”

Were there any bespoke pieces?

Louise: “Yes. I designed the dressing room furniture and the bathroom vanity furniture to work together, and the same furniture makers crafted the whole collection. The wardrobes were fitted wall to wall, and consist of lots of mirrors to reflect the views from the window and inject light, space and a touch of glam. On the opposite wall there is an alignment of fitted drawers, which includes a dressing table area and stool, which I had upholstered in a glamorous silver-coloured velvet.”

Tell us about the lighting scheme.

Louise: “I integrated a lot of layers of light in these rooms to enable the lighting to be adjustable to different times of day or mood. Firstly, there are LED downlights in both rooms, controlled via a dimmer switch. LED feature lights sit in the wall recesses by the bath, shower recess and above the toilet. Three elegant wall lights frame the vanity mirrors above the basins, and three of the same lights are used in the dressing area. We also worked with a bespoke shutter company, which fitted beautiful wooden shutters on to each window. They are adjustable, to control the amount of light they let into the room.”

How does the bathroom work for the owners now?

The clients are really happy with their new dressing room and bathroom, and I’m happy to know they enjoy using the space every day. They have had lots of comments from admiring visitors too!

Above: Designed by Louise herself and created by bespoke furniture makers Bard & Blackwood, the room’s vanity adds the desired traditional touch to the scheme. Its Shaker style doors are crafted from solid timber and finished in a delicate Brassica lilac hue by Farrow & Ball. The internal drawer boxes and shelving are crafted from natural oak, for superior quality and an elegant appearance.



THE details

Bathroom design by Louise Home, head of design at The Brighton Bathroom Company, including bespoke dressing room furniture, wardrobes and bathroom vanity unit; crafted by Bard & Blackwood furniture makes, and finished in Brassica purple. thebrightonbathroomcompany.co.uk

Ashton & Bentley Zeus freestanding bath ashtonandbentley.co.uk

Hansgrohe Pura Vida bath and basin mixer taps in chrome finish, Radiance rainfall shower in chrome finish hansgrohe.co.uk

Duravit ‘Me’ by Starck toilet duravit.co.uk

Impey Aqua Dec Linea shower tray impeyshowers.co.uk

Domus Silk Georgette travertine wall cladding in Honed Natural finish domustiles.co.uk

Boydens Wood White porcelain flooring boydentiles.co.uk

Bisque Quill radiators in chrome finish bisque.co.uk