

KITCHEN BATHROOM BEDROOM

THE ESSENTIAL KITCHEN BATHROOM BEDROOM MAGAZINE THE UK'S NO.1 £3.75

OPEN HOUSE INVITE

WE TAKE YOU INSIDE THE MOST STUNNING HOMES



BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT

TOP BRITISH KITCHEN DESIGNERS TALK TO US ON FUTURE TRENDS
 FLYING THE FLAG FOR LUXURY BATHROOMS
 SIR TERENCE CONRAN SELECTS TEN ICONIC DESIGNS



Open-Plan Kitchens • Bedroom Views • Cool Appliances • Win! Luxury Showe

BALANCING ACT

A mixture of original features and chic modern touches work perfectly in this bathroom.

PHOTOS DARREN CHUNG WORDS TRACEY WILLIAMS



This chic en suite boasts a glistening walk in shower, an original freestanding roll top bathtub and a bold feature wall that exudes a timeless glamour.





‘The paper was the original inspiration for the room’s muted colour scheme.’

Luxuriously appointed over five floors, Helena Penryth’s terraced house in London’s prestigious Kensington area still oozed plenty of Victorian character. Even the spacious en suite to the master bedroom still boasted the original bath tub, complete with its unusually designed taps. Sadly, with more recent fashions and fittings introduced by the previous owners, the room looked cluttered and fussy as the beauty of the original features had become lost in the melee.

Despite the challenge of wonky walls, a sloping floor and a need to keep within listed planning regulations, Helena was adamant that she wanted a more streamlined and modern but elegant look. It would have to work with the age of the house – although her ideas of replacing the tub with a modern bath were quickly eschewed by designer Lara Francis. ‘It was such a beautifully striking piece, complete with its original unusually six-spoked taps, that it would have been a real shame to get rid of it,’ reasons Lara, design director at Lara Francis Design. Thankfully she managed to persuade Helena that keeping the tub was essential as it would maintain some of the room’s original character, not only adding a subtle feel of opulence amidst a more overall contemporary design, but also creating a fabulous focal point within her carefully →

Above With its Art Deco flavour, the dramatic Lotus Papers wallpaper was perfect to bridge the gap between the existing Victorian features and contemporary design.

Right Accessories in natural materials such as wood and stone continue the organic theme.

Opposite The wallpaper panel fills what was originally a chimney breast and provides the perfect backdrop to highlight the vintage tub. The alcoves either side have been built into, to create essential storage. The chandelier was already in place when Helena moved in and with its graceful styling was perfectly suited to the new scheme.

BATHROOM PROFILE

With the authentic Victorian roll top tub taking centre stage, this chic en suite bathroom, filled with rich, period-sensitive organic hues, takes its lead from the dramatic wallpaper that provides a stunning backdrop to the original vintage bath. The contemporary walk-in shower is walled with twinkling mosaic tiles that sparkle and shine, balancing the presence of the original bathtub. The juxtaposition of modern materials with a more vintage design, come together to create a unique look that is sure to stand the test of time. The blend of time periods, the muted colour palette and accents of character overlap seamlessly and suits Helena’s personal tastes perfectly.

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larafrancisdesign.com.

Bathroom prices start from £20,000.







‘Contemporary Italian-inspired cabinetry offers ample good-looking storage, as do the discreet built-in cupboards.’

rearranged bathroom.

Redesigning the space was Lara's first consideration. 'The bathroom needed to work for Helena. Only she uses the bathroom so we could easily dispense with the twin basins and create one simple piece that would look fabulous in its own right but would be discreet enough to not fight with the traditional elements of the room which we were keeping.'

she explains. The bath has been repositioned from one side of the room to the other to make the best use of the room's dimensions and free up space for the generously proportioned Corian basin which nestles into the bespoke vanity unit. Inspired by contemporary Italian design, the handleless cabinetry offers ample good-looking storage, as do the discreet built-in cupboards which Lara cleverly designed to

make use of what were formerly alcoves either side of the centrepiece bathtub.

The new layout also manages to accommodate a generous walk-in shower. Decorated with beautiful iridescent mosaic tiles which shimmer and change colour as they catch the light, the predominant but varying tones of bronze and taupe are perfect for the natural and organic feel that Helena was ➤



Inspired by a simple and elegant Italian look, the basin and cabinetry fit the space perfectly. The late 19th century Venetian style mirror adds a flourish of vintage glamour to its more, sleek surroundings.



Decorated with iridescent mosaic tiles which shimmer and change colour.

keen to create. Twinkling colours of pearlescent blues, pinks, greens and purples glisten to add to the room and give it a touch of pizzazz although it wasn't the eye-catching tiles that were the starting point for the scheme. The dramatic Lotus Papers wallpaper from Farrow & Ball has been used as a fabulous backdrop to the bath and was the original inspiration for the muted colour scheme which would decorate the redesigned space.

Taking inspiration from the paper, Lara suggested continuing the colours not only onto the walls and floor, but also the bath exterior and the vanity unit, creating an elegant and cohesive look. 'It's so important to look at each project with fresh eyes – taking note of the proportions of the room and the original features,' continues Lara. 'But it's equally important to take inspiration from the client – create something unique and personal to them. Helena is a modern woman living in a traditional environment so it was all about translating that and producing an elegant and sophisticated look just for her.'

The once out-dated, green and clutter filled room has been transformed and is now a relaxing haven of simple hues and elegant styling. A carefully thought out balance has been achieved here, as timeless and traditional Victoriana pieces sits seamlessly with the very best of modern design. ■

Above The wall behind the shower has been built out to hide an original door which couldn't be removed due to planning constraints. Lara made the most of using the depth of the false wall by creating an alcove to store shower accessories.

Right Sumptuous iridescent mosaic tiles create quite an eye-catching feature.

STOCKISTS INFORMATION

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Daryl low profile shower tray, £324; Majestic Standard Portofino shower cubicle, £1,831; Zucchetti pan and thermostat, £570; Crosswater Contour shower head, £208; Crosswater designer hand shower, £101; Citterio M basin mixer tap, £361; Starck 3 wall mounted wc, £198, at Duravit; D-rail 75x50cm towel warmer, £872; D-rail 120x50cm towel warmer, £1,055, all at West One Bathrooms; Sicis Iridium mosaic tiles, £185 per sq. m, at Surface Tiles; Bespoke Corian washbasin, EPOA, at Solidity; Bespoke vanity unit, EPOA, at Cube; Broni round wall lights, £74 each, at Mr Light; Walls in Skimming Stone Modern emulsion, £33 per 2.5L; Cupboards in Skimming Stone Estate eggshell, £44 per 2.5L; Ceiling in Pointing Modern emulsion, £33 per 2.5L; Floor in Elephant's Breath paint, £49 per 2.5L; Bath external in London Clay Estate eggshell, £44 per 2.5L; Lotus Papers wallpaper, £82 per roll, at Farrow & Ball; Antique mirror, EPOA, at On Reflection Mirrors Ltd; Blinds in Ketti Silk Pewter fabric, £60 per m, at Zoffany; Similar chair, Gilt Antique French Salon chair, £520, at Homes Direct 365; Bath bridge, £60; Cassis bath towels, £10 each, both at Peter Jones.

*All prices are approximate. For stockists, see page 160.

