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FEATURE **AMELIA THORPE** PHOTOGRAPHS **DARREN CHUNG**

Helen and David Judson have created a spacious bathroom which cleverly blends the best of characterful, and contemporary styling

COVER IMAGE (PREVIOUS PAGE) BY MAIN MAINSTREAM IMAGES



The twin sinks add a sense of symmetry to the room and cleverly conceal useful storage space

Knowing that your bathroom needs renewing is one thing but deciding how to do it is quite another, as Helen and David Judson discovered when it came to renovating the bathroom in their Victorian terraced home in south London. 'Since we moved in five years ago, we have been gradually working our way through the house, adding an extension and putting in a new kitchen,' explains Helen. 'But when we finally got around to the bathroom, we just couldn't decide what to do.'

Helen and David both say they have strong views about the design of their home, so why was the bathroom causing such a problem? 'It was difficult to see how to make the most of such a fantastic, large space as the room was so poorly laid out,' says Helen. 'The shower cubicle jutted right

out into the centre of the room and the position of the two windows, hot water cylinder and pipework didn't make it any easier to come up with a new plan.'

Browsing through a magazine, Helen came across an advertisement for specialist bathroom design and installation company Flow. She phoned designer Lara Francis after spotting a bathroom she particularly liked on Flow's website. 'We got on well with Lara immediately,' says Helen. 'She understood the layout issues and came up with some very clever ways of making the most of the space.'

'The obvious solution was to put the bath opposite the fireplace and the shower against the far wall,' explains Lara. 'But, by switching those two elements around, the design is more unusual and makes room for



A tiled wall conceals the shower pipework. It also allows for a cut-away section that creates a shelf for shower gels



A recess has been cut into the outside wall and tiled in Buxy mosaics to provide a well positioned spot for bath-side toiletries

Helen's favourite items

- My large, freestanding Clearwater bath. It's so luxurious! Available from Flow, 020 7733 7373; flowlondon.co.uk
- The Victorian-look fireplace was a great find. It's in keeping with the period feel of the house and adds character. One day, we might get it to work – it would add even more atmosphere to the room on a cold night. Available from Victorian Fireplaces, 0161 429 9042; victorianfires.co.uk
- The globe lights next to the basins, along with the bespoke mirrored cabinets, make a fantastic feature of the area. Artelinea pendant light globes, available from Flow, see above.



The colour and traditional style of this Rex radiator, sits comfortably alongside the period fireplace in Helen's bathroom



Simple, elegant valves for the bath add to the contemporary good looks, which are complemented by classical touches

a very large wet room-style shower area. A shower wall conceals the shower fittings and creates space for a neat and handily positioned recess to store gels and shampoos and creates the streamlined and unfussy look that the couple had in mind. The whole room is tanked to ensure that it is waterproof, while underfloor heating ensures maximum comfort.

Mixing old and new

The look is contemporary and stylish, while period details add a classical twist in keeping with the age of the property. Sleek chrome fittings, a freestanding bath and double square-shaped basins create the modern, clean-lined backdrop; an antique mirror and reproduction antique-style fireplace add touches of period character. Streamlined

To make a focus of the chimney breast in the bathroom, the couple added a reproduction antique fireplace



cupboards conceal the hot water cylinder and provide plenty of storage capacity for towels and toiletries, and are painted in a neutral colour to blend into the wall behind.

Although the colour scheme is simple, wooden details in the room add warmth and richness to the design. Dark macassar veneered basin units, a simple wooden chair and stripped window frames are complemented with chocolate brown Buxy mosaic tiles, used to highlight the recesses in the shower and bathing areas.

Helen and David both lead busy lives and a speedy shower is their preference. But now their new bathroom is complete, Helen says she's tempted to take a bath more often, because the room is so relaxing and inviting. 'The new layout works so well. It's fabulous to have so much space.'

Where to buy

All sanitaryware, taps and shower fittings, radiators, furniture, lighting and decorative accessories are available from Flow, the bathroom design company who oversaw Helen and David's bathroom refurbishment. 020 7733 7373; flowlondon.co.uk

Sirrah floor and mosaic tiles, available from Capitol Ceramics. 020 7736 7468; capitolceramics.co.uk

Buxy Newstone Stick mosaic tiles, available from Surface. 020 7819 2300; surfacetiles.com

Antique mirror, at Braemar Antiques. 020 7924 5628; braemar-antiques.com