

Reflective quality

A dull dining room underwent a design metamorphosis to emerge as a fabulous contemporary master bathroom with a dash of Art Deco glamour

Report: Alison Nicholls

Left: A mirror panel over the bath reflects the mirrors above the facing basins, bouncing light around the room and helping the space to appear larger. The curve of the large BC Designs tub adds elegance and glamour **Above:** Sunlight illuminates the space from both sides as the back-painted glass doors allow light to permeate through their opaque panels from bedroom to bathroom

Famed for its vibrant summer carnival and being the setting for the film of same name, Notting Hill is a chic and stylish location boasting some of London's most handsome period properties. One such example is this delightful Victorian terrace owned by Paul and Eleanor Harvey. With its lofty ceilings and beautiful bay windows, it provided an ideal backdrop for interior designer Carolyn Trevor of Trevor Lahiff Architects to work her magic.

Paul and Eleanor entrusted Carolyn with the designs for their entire home, having seen and admired the work she had carried out on a friend's property. The couple sought a minimal look for their own place but one that would not be at odds with the age of the house. And with the first floor earmarked as the location of the master bedroom, the couple envisaged the ultimate retreat by adding a luxurious ensuite bathroom. "The lady who had owned the property previously was an artist and had the ground floor as a studio, so upstairs the first floor was being used as a sort of sitting room and dining room," recalls Carolyn.



However, as a bathroom had not formerly existed in this location all the plumbing had to be installed. The door that led from the landing was then sealed off and another doorway created allowing access solely via the bedroom. "We chose sliding screen doors to open up the space because the sun shines through from the bedroom in the morning," explains Carolyn. The doorway sits facing the large bay window in the bedroom and, by framing the doors in stainless steel and using back-painted glass, Carolyn has harnessed the abundant natural light, ensuring the bathroom remains bright and airy.

Carolyn's design is focussed around a simple symmetrical layout where the shower and WC are situated in two adjacent 'boxes' positioned behind a central wall, against which the minimal modern bath sits with a door on either side of the bath leading to each area. "This way you've got the shower and the WC separate from the main space, which gives you a bit of privacy and it also looks a lot smarter," Carolyn elaborates. "We came up with a couple of designs but the clients liked this one the best. We use this layout a lot as it works really well." ▶

Previously, a chimneystack had run up through the building meaning many rooms, including this one, featured a chimneybreast, but Paul and Eleanor had this entirely removed during their renovations – a major undertaking involving a great deal of structural reinforcement. Here in the ensuite, this change means the room now has a simple, uninterrupted square footprint.

Opposite the bath, a ‘his and hers’ area has twin basins recessed between two full-height cupboards, which provides ample shelving and hanging space to keep all the usual bathroom paraphernalia hidden from view behind simple glass doors. Elegant panelled mirrors wrap themselves around the basin area where the double basins are under-mounted in a fabulous marble surround.

Carolyn has employed these design devices to enhance the sense of space. “With the bath where it is, the room is actually only about three metres wide so we put mirrors on both sides to make it feel bigger and also to add some glamour,” she reveals. The all-white colour scheme and use of reflective surfaces



give the room a sparkling quality yet it avoids feeling clinical as luxurious, opulent materials have been used.

Paul and Eleanor wanted to use white stone throughout, so in addition to the marble basin area, the floor and walls are clad in an exquisite Greek Thassos marble. This, combined with the bright stainless-steel framing in Carolyn’s design and the elegant squared styling of the Axor Cittero brassware, lends the room an Art Deco air, yet still maintains a chic, contemporary look. Meanwhile, with only a narrow area next to the window able to accommodate a heated towel rail, Carolyn had a bespoke slim-line design made to fit. The window itself is finished off with a simple Roman blind in shimmering silver linen for a hint of additional opulence.

Carolyn has succeeded brilliantly in creating a minimal, contemporary bathing space for her clients. It’s perfectly suited to modern living, and with subtle tweaks and nuances in the design she has also managed to grace it with a glamorous essence of a more decadent age.

[KBB]

Left: The bathroom doorway, which is glass framed in stainless steel, slides back and opens up to take in the magnificent bay window that faces it from the bedroom beyond **Right:** Full-height cupboards with panelled glass doors provide valuable storage on either side of the recessed marble basin area that provides ‘his and hers’ vanities encased in mirror, and which is boxed out on either end to create an infinity feel





The Axor Cittero taps with their squared edges and polished chrome finish epitomise the scheme, which successfully combines contemporary style with Art Deco elegance

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DESIGNER

Carolyn Trevor for Trevor Lahiff Architects
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www.carolyntrevor.co.uk)

BATHROOM

Bath BC Designs (01206 827100
or www.bcdesigns.co.uk)
Basins Sink 57, Alternative Plans (020 7243
9747 or www.alternative-plans.co.uk)
Shower enclosure Bespoke design,

Trevor Lahiff Architects, as before
Taps and shower controls Axor
Cittero, Hansgrohe (0870 770 1972
or www.hansgrohe.co.uk)
WC Starck 1, Duravit
(0845 500 7787 or www.duravit.co.uk)
Heated towel rail Bathrooms International
(020 7838 7788 or www.bathroomsint.com)
Walls, floor and sink surround Polished
Thassos marble. For similar try Stonell
(0800 083 2283 or www.stonell.com)
Blinds Silver linen by Abbott & Boyd
(020 7351 9985 or
www.abbottandboyd.co.uk)

COSTS

A similar bathroom would
cost around £40,000

