

# **Kbbreview Industry Awards 2007**

## **CATEGORY: Contract Designer Award for Bathrooms**

### **FINALIST: Helen Fewster**

#### **Development**

No.1 Gunwharf Quays is the final stage of Berkeley Homes' Gunwharf Quays development. Rising to nearly 100 metres and comprising 29 stories affording spectacular panoramic views over Portsmouth, the harbour and the ocean, No.1 Gunwharf Quays will be the tallest residential skyscraper on the South Coast of England. The tower will accommodate 139 studios, one two and three bedroom apartments and penthouses.

The design of No.1 Gunwharf Quays is modeled on a large funnel that the architects say will represent steam while the nearby Spinnaker represents the sail. Berkeley Homes has worked closely with leading architectural and integrated design firm Scott Brownrigg to create a memorable landmark building.

To fulfill our role within this development we developed a three tiered internal specification for all of the apartments within the tower. This involved designing all aspects of the interior from the front door of the apartment to the kitchens and bathrooms.

#### **Brief**

We were briefed to provide an innovative interior for a discerning client. The development is set in the heart of Portsmouth but it was felt that a large proportion of the purchasers would come from the London market looking for a second home on the coast. Therefore it was important to entice this market with an exciting and design led spec. It was also emphasized that within Berkeley this was perceived as a flagship site and therefore needed to represent the Berkeley group within the house builder market.

The brief for the bathroom was to create a bespoke designer feel that incorporated neat storage solutions and resulted in a luxurious contemporary haven.

#### **Design**

It was agreed that there would be no 'low' spec, all the levels of spec were to provide a cohesive designed look. The starting point was to look for a thread that could be carried throughout the specification. We decided on a simple horizontal line that was a derivative of the horizon line on the ocean and could be seen as a trend emerging in many new materials available to us.

Whilst working on the kitchens we sourced an interesting white textured door with a horizontal groove on the surface. We liaised with the manufacturer to request whether we could use the same door finish in the bathrooms. We were keen to have a link between these two areas as the kitchen and bathrooms are the two key areas where you can create the most impact within the interior. By coordinating these finishes we established the basics for creating the cohesive design requested in the brief.

We designed the bathroom environment from scratch, repositioning the sanitary ware and designing the bespoke storage into the space. The white grooved veneer was used as a bath panel in the bathrooms and as door and drawer fronts on all the storage. The storage itself was built in and designed to fit exactly between the boxing and ceiling to create a flawless finish. We designed the

basin to be surface mounted with a drawer underneath. Normally this area is wasted as the space beneath the basin is taken up with the bottle trap of the basin but we designed the drawer to have a small compartment section set into the front to allow for small storage items such as toothbrush and paste etc. The basin area is recessed back with mirror cladding running up the back wall and a down light set directly above to create a shrine like feel. For the brass ware we selected, what we believe has already become a design classic, the ribbon style tap from Dorn Bracht. This is a beautiful piece and is the centerpiece to the design.

The horizontal line is represented again within the tile design and tiling format. We used a large format oblong tile with an understated linear pattern in the finish. The tile is a deep rich chocolate which contrasts wonderfully with the crisp white of the cabinets and sanitary ware. It also provides a welcome warmth and moodiness to the space which provides a level of sultriness required for the haven we were trying to imbue. The floor tile coordinated with the wall but with a more stippled design and in a 60 x 60 sq format. The larger the tile the more open the space, as we had selected a dark colour we were keen to keep the space feeling as open as possible.

The overall effect is a warm and sumptuous bathroom that has a simple yet luxurious feel. All the storage is hidden so the practical element has been met without affecting the aesthetic.

