

Kbbreview Industry Awards 2007

CATEGORY: Contract Designer Award for Bathrooms

FINALIST: Marie Prew

Describe the development and your role in it?

Mr & Mrs Penman purchased an en-suite from Acquazzone in 2006. During a chance meeting earlier this year, Mrs Penman (Linda) explained that she, her husband and daughter Laura were purchasing an old building to convert into a hotel in Ludlow. Linda asked if we would be interested in designing and supplying products for 15 en-suite & the main toilets. The designs and product specification currently proposed by another supplier, she felt, were very ordinary and would not match the luxurious image of the hotel.

A week later Linda and Laura came to the showroom with the plans. They explained that the overall cost of the hotel refurbishment was starting to spiral out of control. Although Linda was confident they would love my designs, she was worried the cost of products would rise further than the quotation already submitted. This specification included Jacuzzi feature baths, shower cabins & traditional pottery & taps.

En-suite 7, the most luxurious room in the hotel due to its size, location with-in the hotel and its beautiful views, would carry the highest room rate of £250 per night.

In the initial discussions about en-suite 7 I suggested creating an open plan bathroom. The response was subdued so my first design proposal was more conventional.

Changing the door position gave enough space along one length for a double ended bath and large shower. The WC cistern concealed in tiled boxing would provide a shelf for storage and leave enough space for a double washbasin and ladder radiator to the side.

My clients were happy with the design however just prior to placing the products on order, Linda telephoned me to say that she'd been considering my initial suggestion to make en-suite 7 open plan and asked if I would re-design the room.

Acquazzone has noticed a sharp trend away from shower cabins in favour of wetrooms. My clients were thrilled when I suggested including a wetroom however they did question the comparison in cost to a shower cabin, to which I explained would be less. In the new design I introduced a central stud wall with the shower area behind which could be accessed from either side. In front of this wall would be a huge double ended bath. The main floor area for the bathroom would be stepped up defining the bathroom space from the bedroom. The basin would be set to the side of the shower and the centre stud wall would create privacy for the WC positioned on the far side of the shower.

Linda and Laura were delighted with the new design and very excited about it being so different. The project manager and the architect however made a comment regarding privacy, specifically the WC and smells! Linda called me to discuss this point, and express her concern with regard to accessing the basin after using the toilet. If the shower had recently been used, the floor may be damp, and she was concerned that to avoid getting wet feet, the guest would need to come round in front of the bath, to get to the basin. With these concerns in mind I set to tweaking the design.

What was the full brief from the client?

The clients brief was simply, create stunning en-suite bathrooms with en-suite 7 being the most luxurious, while bearing the overall spend in mind, and if possible save them money!

Describe the final design and, in detail, the design process.

The other supplier's quotation had included Jacuzzi features on the baths, a large chunk of the overall cost. I questioned if clients had requested the Jacuzzi feature, they explained they had been recommended, and in fact Linda was concerned about maintenance issues. I advised that by dropping the Jacuzzi features and replacing with modern shaped, double ended baths & striking waterfall filler bath spouts, the guests would be just as delighted and the overall cost would be drastically reduced.

Setting a large mirror into tiles behind the bath adds glamour and the tiled ledge is perfect for a glass of champagne!! The 3 recess feature lights create the perfect atmosphere for a sumptuous bathing experience.

The tiles I selected throughout the hotel consisted of wall tiles in 4 colours, 4 floor tiles in varying shades & sizes, marble tiles in 6 colour ways and 3 sizes, pebble tiles in 2 colours & a mixture of luxury mosaics. The colour palette was then used by my clients to create 4 co-ordinating schemes for the bedrooms.

In en-suite 7 I used the beige tile on the walls set in a landscape format, mixed with marron marble in two sizes, 10x10cm as the main detail and 30x30cm around the inset mirror.

Using marble in a tile format was reasonable in price and instilled the feeling of opulence.

I moved the position of the showering area and put the toilet and basin together on the one side.

This would erase the concerns raised about the ease of access to the basin after using the toilet. If the issue regarding privacy appeared to be a problem with guests, the new design would allow for doors to be added at a later date, separating the basin and WC from the rest of the room.

To emphasise the shower area the floor was set down.

Pebble tiles in mixed shades on the floor of the wetarea blends all the colours of the room.

The 10x10cm marble being the same colour throughout are perfect for edges so no need for tile trim

The square wall fixed head creates a fantastic showering experience. The controls are off-set allowing the user the opportunity to adjust the shower before getting wet.

Selecting wall hung toilets and basins maximises the feeling of space and making cleaning simpler and less time consuming.

The concealed cistern and pipe work boxed and tiled looks sleek and provides a perfect shelf for guest's toiletries.

The marble 10x10cm finish of the look perfectly without being expensive.

