

Kbbreview Industry Awards 2007

CATEGORY: Designer Award for Bathrooms - project cost over £15k

FINALIST: Jo Sampson

Brief

Blacksheep were commissioned by the owners of a large, detached private house in the Stanmore area of north London to completely redesign the existing dressing room and bathroom area of their house.

The brief was to reconfigure what had been a very traditional space to create a highly contemporary ensuite bathroom and walk-in wardrobe for the couple's master bedroom area. Storage potential was to be maximised; lighting was to be creative and with high, but not overwhelming, lux levels and space-planning was particularly important to make the most of the space, creating separated activity zones (whilst not being able to move beyond the existing floor area).

Cost

The project cost was £34,000 including installation

Final design and process

Blacksheep created a concealed walk-in wardrobe space to the immediate right of the entrance to the bathroom, separated out visually from the other areas, with the back of the wardrobe space forming a corridor wall, leading into the main space, with a recessed feature shelf mid-way down, lined with dark bronze etched glass and illuminated by a concealed strip light.

The wardrobe itself, bespoke-designed by Blacksheep, was divided into 'his and hers' sections. There is hanging space and mid-height drawers, as well as a shoe area and further shelving, all in oak veneer with sliding, full-height panel doors to conceal the drawers from view when entering the room.

The vanity unit is located behind the wardrobe area so that it is not visible on entry. Instead, a freestanding bath (the Kea bath by Rapsel) is the sculptural focus immediately on entry at the end of the space, located against the back wall of the bathroom, with extra light and views coming from the large bathroom window. A full-height heated 'Climber' towel rail by MHS Radiators is located at the head of the bath.

A conglomerate stone floor (450 x 450 mm tiles by Quarella) was used continuously all the way through all the zones of the bathroom and was also used for the wall area opposite the bath, where the vanity unit is housed.

'Getting all the lines perfect was very important in this bathroom' commented Jo Sampson. 'It is a very clean and geometric design, which maximises floorspace, so all alignments had to be absolutely spot-on.'

The shower area is set apart within a floor-to-ceiling glass cubicle (with an opaque central chin-

to-knee band). The shower itself is by Grohe with a Raindance shower head. The shower tray, by Kaldiwel, is set so that it is flush to the floor.

The toilet area is also set within a glass cubicle, with a wall-mounted toilet with four back panels, of which the two upper ones conceal storage space, whilst the two lower conceal the plumbing. Both these areas are immediately adjacent to the back wall of the wardrobe and are not visible on entry

The vanity unit, again bespoke-designed by Blacksheep, is comprised of a 2m-high panel offset from the wall tiles with recessed mirrored cabinets (concealing eg shaver sockets) and further storage also below the counter-mounted basins ('Giulia' by Nic Design). The basin mixer sets (as with the bath and shower sets, except for the showerhead itself) are Blok Light by Antonio Lupi. Concealed strip lighting below the unit gives the impression that the unit is floating. The counter itself, together with the splashback, is in dark bronze etched glass, echoing the inset wall on the back of the walk-in wardrobes.

