

Kbbreview Industry Awards 2007

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

FINALIST: Max Eaglen

Background

“From Russia`s first billionaire to premiership football clubs, from politics to poisoning, super rich Russians are leaving their mark on almost every aspect of London life.” None more so than the property market.

A study by Knight Frank estimates Russian`s now own over £2.2 billion worth of property in London and the Home counties.

Why London ? The answer is not solely the cities main selling points. Generous tax breaks for super-rich UK citizens with the combination of better safety and freedom coupled with the uncertainty of the outcome of the 2008 Elections in Russia, make London a very attractive option.

Russian`s enthusiasm for a foothold in London`s housing stock is matched by their passion for design. This is fuelled at home with Moscow now a blossoming, creative city. Boutique bars, restaurants and shops equal that of other cities, and renowned design showcase 100% design has now exhibited in Moscow.

From this new wave of Russian investors, Platform design group were commissioned to provide a forward thinking redesign for an apartment off the Kings Road in Chelsea. The Russian clients wanted a design to reflect their lifestyle and provide a base for their daughter whilst studying in the City.

Brief

- The challenge for Platform was to marry an anonymous traditional mansion flat with the clients love for luxury and modernity.
- The apartment was rather dark and the bathroom in particular, badly planned.
- The client wanted underfloor heating
- Rain sky shower
- Hydronsonic bath
- Plenty of storage space for cosmetics
- The client had already decided on a bath and shower, it was our job to integrate them into the compact, awkward space.

Solution

From the outset it was clear that the space was not going to work in its existing layout. In order to accommodate the client`s desire for a rain shower, which uses a significant amount of water, we would need to build in a large storage tank which would necessitate moving the door and a wall and reinforcing the walls and floors to take the loading of limestone cladding to walls and floors.

The upside of this was that it gave us a perfect space for the shower and a vertical surface to put the heated towel rail.

We wanted to design a contemporary, tranquil space that was clean and crisp (clutter wouldn't work in such a relatively small space) whilst feeling very luxurious. We didn't have the space to play too much with materials or over fussy detailing so instead we concentrated on beautiful fittings and slick detailing.

The main source of natural the light in the bathroom is through two rather ugly sash windows looking out onto the back of another building so it was decided to clad this wall in timber and provide two hinged panels with frosted glass portholes, which allow the light in without the need for the windows themselves being visible.

The basin is carved from a single piece of Limestone and the taps by Dornbracht are finished in platinum. A stainless steel band gives consistent positioning for flush buttons & faucets and mirrors conceal storage for cosmetics.

Because the room is a narrow L shape and the bath disappears around the corner all of the taps and shower head could not be placed against the wall as it was too awkward to lean across such a large bath. Instead, we relocated the taps and shower head adjacent to the bath so that they could be accessed whilst standing next to the bath and adjusted whilst in it. The Hydrosonic Whirlpool bath by Teuco is remote controlled and lighting is via a multistate Lutron system.

Final Cost

Approx £30,000 ex VAT

