

Kbbreview Industry Awards 2007

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

FINALIST: Bethan Lloyd

Client background

Debbie and Rob Jones are a professional couple living in a new three-storey house on a private road in a new housing estate which had typical new-build bathroom features. They wanted to turn a somewhat dark and dingy, uninspiring awkward –shaped bathroom into a bright, fun and funky room for their three-year-old-daughter.

The brief included:

- Bath with shower attachment
- No glass shower screen
- Simple wallhung sanitaryware
- Natural tiles – textured for slip resistance
- Storage for bathroom essentials
- Towel radiator for warmth and drying towels
- Features using lighting and mirrors
- Something different and unusual yet naturally very safe for a young child
- Budget of no more than £10,000

Final design

I found that the budget was more than adequate for the client's wish list and all products used were of a high quality. The glass mosaics used were probably quite expensive at £130 per sqm, however they were used sparingly in the design.

The design itself came about from trying to do something a little more unusual with limited space. I originally toyed with the idea of moving the door to make it an en suite to Nieve's bedroom instead of the access through the hall. However, when looking at this in more detail it made what was already an awkward room even more awkward due to the positioning of the door.

The bath chosen was about 15cm deeper than a normal bathtub and was a metre square, which seemed to work well in the space I was faced with. I moved the wc from the side wall to the back wall where there was more room - this is where the initial idea for the steps occurred as the pipe-work had to cross the room raising the floor in this area which made it easier. I continued the step theme on the one side of the bath as a design feature but also to make it easier for Nieve to get in and out of the bath and so Debbie and Rob could sit on the step while bathing Nieve.

The clients expressed an interest in natural tiles so I decided to use a porcelain tile with a natural look in varying shades of warm grey and complimented this with the pink glass mosaics to brighten up the colour scheme.

Mirrors were used to give the illusion of space and lights were used in alcoves at either end of the room to bounce light around the room, as it did not have any natural light. A towel radiator was

added but instead of the usual chrome I added a pink radiator to compliment the colour scheme. Storage was added in the form of a useful tall mirror cabinet, which had great reflective qualities, and at the same time useful for storing items out of reach of little hands. It was decided to paint the remainder of the surfaces pink, however as Nieve grows this could be toned down.

The final cost of the project, including installation, was £9,370

