

KBB REVIEW INDUSTRY AWARDS 2009



CATEGORY

DESIGNER AWARD FOR BATHROOMS - CONTRACTS AND HOUSEBUILDERS

NAME: MARK BITHREY, B3 DESIGNERS

What was the full brief from the client?

B3 Designers were asked to redesign the ladies toilets at Le Gavroche. They were to be in keeping with the overall design of the classic French restaurant, which is traditional, but to incorporate some feminine touches.

The challenge for this project was to refresh the space, but still to make it fit in with the rest of the restaurant.

The existing bathroom was carpeted, which matched the feel of the rest of the space but made cleaning and maintenance very difficult. The new space also had to include additional storage space for cloakroom overflow.

The client wanted a space that would last the test of time. What we have implemented is classical and clean making it a timeless design.

What was the overall budget, including installation, and how did you manage it?

The overall budget was £45,000 which enabled us to buy good quality materials and fittings, allowing us to consider even the smallest detail in the space. Although the budget was generous we still had to plan our spending and prioritise. The hand mirrors on the wall, for example, were sourced individually from markets and online auctioneers rather than heading to a specialist antique dealer.

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

The new WC is evocative of a boudoir, clean and classically elegant. Large gilt French gold mirrors line the walls, which have grey wooden panelling to the lower sections. For the flooring, porcelain tiles were cut to size to create a herringbone pattern. Traditional sanitary fittings were used, such as high-level cistern pull-chain toilets and a turn of the century styled

sink. The backsplash is made from carrera marble which extends to the floor and along the length of the wall.

The problem with having a free standing sink was that there were no flat surfaces to put handbags down. This was solved by adding marble shelves on either side of the sink and running under the mirror. Storage for the hand towels was created by setting pigeon holes into the wall. Traditional gilded wall sconces create a warm glow, off setting the blue-grey of the wall.

Spot lighting creates accents on individual features.

Previously the sinks were countersunk sinks with a marble top, which took up a lot of space. By changing this to a freestanding double basin unit, we freed up a lot of extra space, which enabled us to introduce a fitted wardrobe.

Antique hand mirrors were sourced to decorate the walls, and an antique French armchair chair was repaired and recovered with soft grey linen to give it new life. All of our work uses good quality materials and classic designs to ensure the financial and environmental cost of renovating is kept to a minimum.

