

KBB REVIEW INDUSTRY AWARDS 2009



CATEGORY

DESIGNER AWARD FOR BATHROOMS – PROJECT COST UP TO £15,000

NAME: GEMMA HEWICK, RIPPLES NEWBURY

The Client

Kate Pols had recently downsized and moved to a grade II listed cottage steeped in history and period features. Due to moving from a larger property she was used to having several bathrooms and with the new property only having a single family bathroom, she came to Ripples Newbury for inspiration and guidance on creating a second bathroom.

After a visit to the property and several discussions with Kate we agreed that the smallest bedroom, situated on the first floor at the front of the house, would be more than suitable.

Client's Brief

Kate had earmarked several contemporary items in the showroom on a previous visit and was confident in going for a modern looking bathroom.

Initially the client wanted to create a shower room but was hesitant as she regularly has guests who prefer to bathe. So the challenge was to fit a 4 piece bathroom suite into a 3m x 2m room which also had many wooden beams to consider. With the added item of the bath the client was happy for me to specify whichever products I felt were appropriate for the room; giving me a certain level of freedom with the design.

Client's Budget

The client's agreed budget was £15,000 including the installation costs. As this was a bedroom conversion I did feel this was going to be a struggle as a large portion of the budget was going to go towards the installation, leaving very little budget for products. Thankfully, an inspection by an installation team revealed that many services, including a waste point, were easily accessed.

The final cost of the project, including installation, was £14,704.00

The Final Design

- The positioning of a contemporary freestanding bath underneath the window allows the user to take in a fabulous view of the countryside while bathing. In addition, the use of a freestanding bath avoided the need to fix to the beamed walls, retaining their period features. The bath itself creates a stunning feature and the use of an arched floor mounted bath filler helps to maintain its impact.
- Due to the positioning of the new bathroom, the extension to the soil stack had to extend into the room slightly. In order to accommodate it, I decided to box it into one corner, which also allowed me to create a further design feature by installing a wall mounted WC in the same corner. As well as being a good use of space, this also helped to keep installation costs down.
- As this bathroom was to be used primarily as a guest bathroom, there was no requirement for excessive storage. This assisted in fitting everything into the relatively small room while allowing me to keep the design simple, yet striking. For the washbasin I used an elegantly shaped wash bowl with an arched worktop mounted mixer similar to that used with the bath, all mounted on a floating gloss black shelf unit. To enhance this area I positioned three LED marker lights beneath the shelf. Switched independently to the ceiling mounted halogens, they provide a subtle lighting effect that assists in creating a relaxing retreat.
- Although the building has many period features, I felt that the simplicity of a wet tray system would help the bathroom to feel spacious and keep the sleek contemporary style flowing throughout. Installed in the shower was a ceiling mounted shower head, and separate hand shower, both operated by a concealed valve. The shower area was partitioned off by a 900mm deep glass screen
- To keep things cosy and well ventilated, I incorporated under-floor heating and a stainless steel towel-rail radiator.

Summary

When I initially embarked on this project my main concern was how I was going to maintain the budget and still provide the client with a bathroom that Kate would be proud to show off to guests. I feel the finished article shows this and that the blend of old and new can work together to create a stunning result. A bathroom design I am truly proud of.

