

Kbbreview Industry Awards 2007

CATEGORY: Young Designer for Bathrooms - age 25 and under

FINALIST: Kerr Drummond

Paul & Veronica's brief was to create a luxurious bathroom with walk-in shower that they could use together at the same time. They wanted the room to be more of a relaxing retreat rather than just a functional bathroom. I was given the freedom to combine an existing bathroom and small guest bedroom in order to create this large luxurious space.

There had to be sufficient storage in the new bathroom to hide the junk that they had previously been keeping in the small guest bedroom. The bath had to be big enough for two and timeless modern designs and materials were to be specified.

At first glance an overall budget of £40k seems like a huge amount of money to be playing with, however from the very first site visit we realised straight away that a large chunk of this amount would have to be spent on the labour side of the project. The house itself is over 300 years old and after a site survey was performed it was established that the room essentially needed to be rebuilt. The floor joists were rotten and needed replacing, none of the walls were even close to being straight or upright and they were clad in the 18th century "equivalent" to plaster board.

In order to make the most of the space and include enough storage I opted to design some fitted furniture units that would be handmade to suit the space. This was therefore the most expensive item specified and probably the most important as I knew that if anything was left out on display the whole relaxing feel of the room would be compromised. The fact that the furniture was to be bespoke meant that I could conceal the wall-mounted boiler so that it was not an eyesore.

Even though I had established that the installation would take up a large amount of the budget, there was still enough money in the project for me to specify more bespoke products, thus making the room unique. As well as handmade furniture I designed a bespoke walk-in wet area shower. I dropped a section of the ceiling down in a previously sloping area; this allowed me to specify a ceiling mounted rainshower head and install a minimalist 2-piece opti-white shower screen, shuffle-glazed, from floor-to-ceiling. Rather than having standard slate wall tiles in the shower area I used random sized slabs of slate as a feature panel, with a couple of the floor tiles (of a contrasting finish) mixed in to tie the floor and walls together. The same slate was used in slab form as a countertop for the double basin area, again bespoke.

The bath had to be big enough for two but the client wasn't interested in a whirlpool model so I specified the Bette Starlet Oval 1950x950mm, this again allowed me to add a unique bespoke touch in a handmade curved wood bath panel, which would compliment the storage.

LED floor lights were installed between the bath and the shower screen; in the evening these illuminate the screen creating a very soothing sensuous atmosphere for the bather(s). Other luxuries included underfloor heating; a mirror cabinet with integrated radio and dual-fuel towel radiators.

The total amount spent on products was £22.5k inc. VAT, which allowed £15k for installation plus a little extra for additional works that always crop-up with properties of this age, e.g. floor levelling etc.

