

DREAM BATHROOM

Tony Larsson uses built-in furniture and fresh white to create a luxurious spa bathroom



DESCRIBE THE ORIGINAL SPACE

This 1930s house had been a care home previously and consequently had been carved up into a series of small rooms. My client asked for three tiny rooms to be knocked into one to create a large bathroom, complete with dressing area as part of the main suite.

WHAT WAS YOUR DESIGN BRIEF?

I was asked to create a luxurious retreat, somewhere to relax after a busy day, and the owners wanted simple, clean lines with no fussy frills. They asked for it to be in keeping with the rest of the house, which is mostly white, and at the top of their wish list was a free-standing Aveo bath.

HOW DID YOU PLAN THE LAYOUT?

The bath is the most eye-catching feature, so that had to take centre stage. It has also been positioned to take advantage of views of the secluded garden, while space all around the bath creates a luxuriously roomy feel. The generous size of this room allowed for a spa zone at one end, comprising a sauna on one side and a walk-in shower opposite, fitted with a drenching Hansgrohe Raindance shower head plus a separate handset which allows for showering without getting wet hair. I created a separate cubicle for the loo for privacy, with the built-in vanity and large wash basin in front.

HOW DID YOU CREATE THE SCHEME?

The simple white-painted look was the starting point, and it instantly makes the

room feel fresh. The Newport ash vanity cabinet, tongue-and-groove wall panelling and built-in shelves are all painted white, and black granite counter tops were installed around the vanity for definition. Floor tiles in Carrara marble subtly combine the black and the white for a unified look.

WHAT WERE THE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS?

The key to a tidy bathroom is to have plenty of storage. The vanity unit can hold a surprising amount and we included razor sockets for electric toothbrushes to keep the counters clutter-free. Pillars either side of the central shelving unit conceal the pipework, with plumbing for the under-floor heating running under the plinth at the base. Getting this aspect of the design right was time-consuming but worthwhile for ensuring a streamlined finish.

HOW DID YOU LIGHT THE SPACE?

Good lighting is important to add warmth to a room, especially in a white scheme which can look clinical. In addition to ceiling spots, we used Flos Romeo Babe KW Clear wall lamps above the mirror, which are contemporary but suit the room, while a crystal chandelier adds just the right amount of glamour and sparkle.

WHAT MAKES THIS ROOM A SUCCESS?

Although it is a large room, it has a lot in it so doesn't look cavernous. The white backdrop and mirrors enhance the feeling of space, and linear cabinetry adds to the room's simple, open look. White suggests tranquillity as well, which is perfect for a luxurious spa-like bathroom. ■

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FACT FILE

DESIGNER Tony Larsson at Lidhults/Sola Kitchens, 020 3004 0898, solakitchens.com.

BUDGET Bathrooms start at £15,000.

SOURCES Bath, basin and taps: Villeroy & Boch, 020 8871 4028, villeroy-boch.com/uk. **Basin, vanity unit, granite counter top and shower floor, shower fittings and enclosure and bespoke sauna:** all Sola Kitchens (as above). **Similar chandelier:** try Gustavian, 020 7724 6444, gustavian.com. **Wall lights:** Heal's, 0870 024 0780, heals.co.uk. **Tiles:** for similar Carrara marble try Mandarin Stone, 01600 715444, mandarinstone.com.