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DREAM BATHROOM

Using skilful planning and a subtle mix of materials, interior designer Melanie Rademacher has created a space that blends classic and contemporary



Can you describe the space?

Paul and Christina Alivar's home is a beautiful Edwardian town house and this bathroom was designed as an en-suite to the main bedroom. The window

overlooks a side street so the natural light levels aren't particularly bright, but the room does have lovely high ceilings and original cornices.

Where you given a design brief?

The couple were keen to tap into my personal preference for classic contemporary interiors, which essentially meant I was given free rein to plan the space as if it were my own, introducing the luxurious fittings and finishes that I love.

How did you establish the colour scheme?

I wanted to stay in the general range of white, taupe, grey and charcoal, which is a soft, sophisticated palette. I then looked for a stone with strong veining to introduce pattern and

interest. With its soft grey tones, Statuario marble fulfilled the brief and I selected the largest pieces possible to illustrate the full glory of its elegant vein pattern. The effect is especially dramatic in the walk-in shower.

How did you plan the layout?

The fittings were positioned to make the most of the view from the bedroom, which is separated from the bathroom by glazed doors. We tucked the WC out of the way and made the vanity unit the focal point. The second consideration involved creating a feeling of space, which is essential for relaxation; I suspended the vanity unit off the floor to produce a floating effect. Although the bath is double ended, cladding it in the same marble as the floor helps to prevent it from dominating the room.

What was your main challenge?

The Alivars wanted a lot of storage; it was really their only request. Fulfilling that need and

responding to the minimal natural light were my main priorities. I decided to address both issues by creating a wall of mirrored storage that accommodates a vast amount of toiletries and helps improve the room's poor light levels. The vanity, which also has lovely deep drawers for towels, was spray painted in the same pale colour as the walls, another great trick for making a room appear lighter.

What part do fabrics play in the scheme?

A stone-heavy bathroom can be noisy and sterile. Fabric swallows harsh echoes and softens the space. We hung a Roman blind then added a sheer Roman blind beneath, which provides a subtle touch of aubergine.

What is the key to this room's success?

The classic fittings, such as the taps from Lefroy Brooks' 1900 range, provide clean lines and a feeling of quality, while the colour combinations and elegant marble keep it subtle.

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FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON | PHOTOGRAPHS JAKE FITZJONES

FACT FILE

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SOURCES Basins, Kohler, 0844 571 0048, kohler.co.uk. **Bath**, Bette, 0844 800 0547, bette.co.uk. **Brassware**, Lefroy Brooks, 01992 708316, lefroybrooks.com. **Roman blind fabric**, Romo, 01623 756699, romo.com. **Sheer blind fabric**, Jab, 020 7348 6620, jab-uk.co.uk. **Heated towel rail**, Zehnder, 01276 605855, zehnder.co.uk. **WC** (not shown), Duravit, 0845 500 7787, duravit.co.uk. **Shower screen**, Glasstrends, 020 7223 4017, glasstrends.co.uk. **Marble fabrication**, Voytex Construction, 07725 464363, voytexconstruction.com. **Lighting**, Mena Interiors, as before. ■