

# THE LAP OF LUXURY

Opulent marble and lustrous bronze, soft lighting and gleaming glass all work together to recreate the sophisticated feel of a relaxing hotel spa



**DESIGNER** Stacey Sibley, creative director, Alexander James Interior Design, 0118 932 0828, [aji.co.uk](http://aji.co.uk).

## Can you describe the property and this space?

The house is a substantial new-build in a Georgian style in Wentworth, Surrey. This bathroom is the master en suite, which is connected to the bedroom via a lavish dressing room. At 4x5m, it's quite large, with two generous sash windows that overlook the gardens.

## Did the owners give you a clear brief?

The clients, Julie and Damian Cavanagh, wanted us to help turn the bare structure into a home. They gave us fairly free rein, but also took an interest and knew their own minds. Their main aim was to recreate the luxury and ambience of a spa hotel, with a bathroom that encourages relaxation. This has become a frequent request among our clients, who enjoy a spa retreat but perhaps don't always have the time to get away.

## What was the inspiration behind the colour scheme?

We presented a few moodboards, all with high-quality materials and spa-style luxury at their heart, but this scheme won the day because it was the warmest in terms of colour and depth. Julie and Damian were wary that large bathrooms sometimes seem chilly, so they particularly appreciated the bronze-plated feature tiles, which have a rich, textural finish. The main surface material is a much lighter marble, but it is threaded with delicate, warm tones so the overall result is far from cold.

## How did you plan the layout?

The room is L-shaped, so it made sense to position the shower and WC in the shorter part, essentially squaring off the room, with a glamorous vanity unit in the other section. Enclosing the shower in glass helps to keep the water spray under control, while doing the same with the WC and bidet was really about creating clean lines and neatness. If privacy had been more of an issue, we could have used switchable glass with adjustable opacity.

## What makes the bath special?

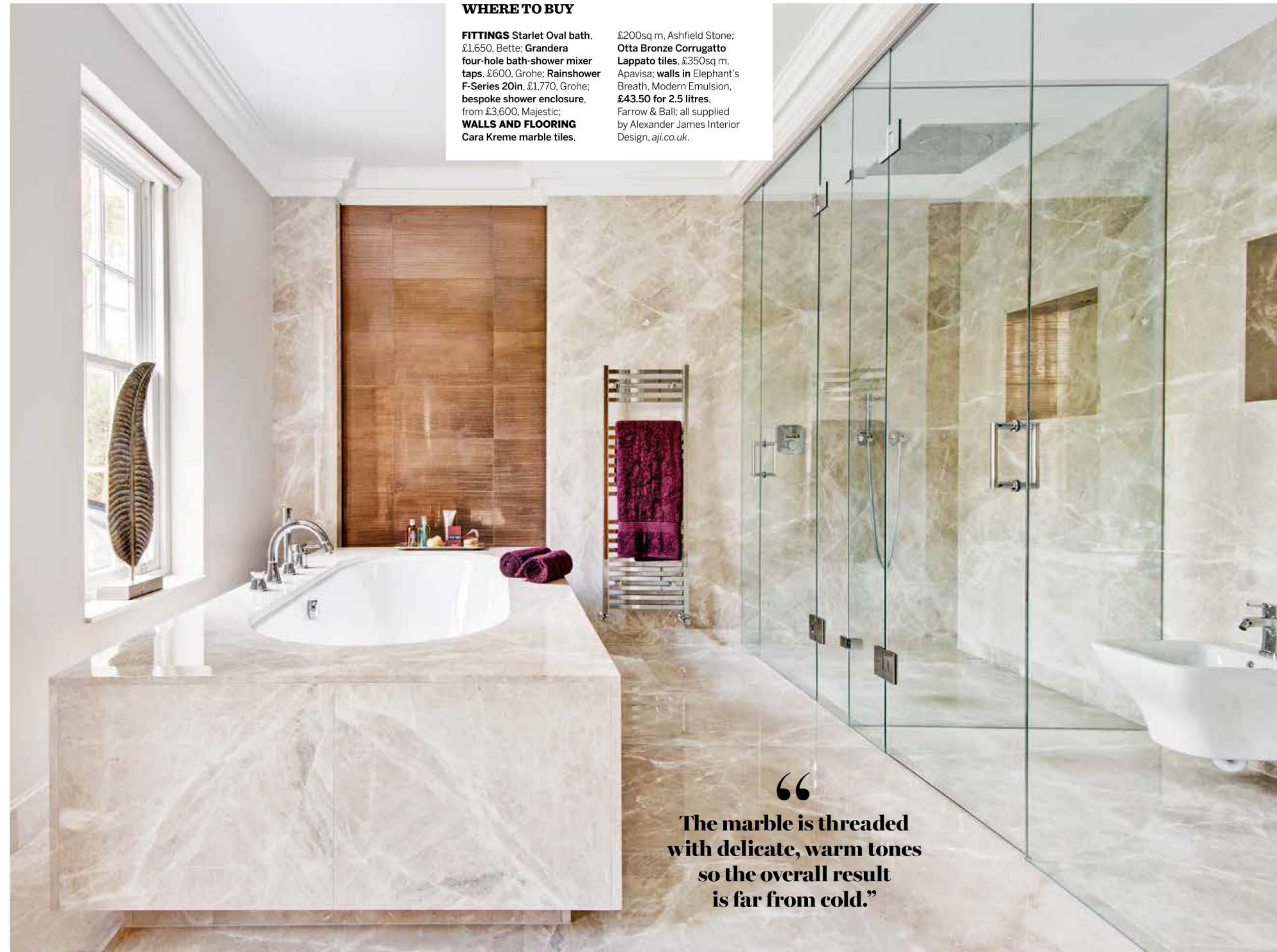
This is a double-ended bath that's been given a bespoke marble surround to boost its impact and make a shelf for toiletries. We added a shadow-line plinth, with concealed lighting in the perimeter, to lighten the load and create a floating effect by night. The feature wall at the end, which also has hidden lighting, adds vertical dynamism and helps to centre the bath. It's nice to break up a flat wall with a recessed area, especially in new-build homes that sometimes lack the quirky niches and alcoves of period properties.

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## WHERE TO BUY

**FITTINGS** Starlet Oval bath, £1,650, Bette; Grandera four-hole bath-shower mixer taps, £600, Grohe; Rainshower F-Series 20in, £1,770, Grohe; bespoke shower enclosure, from £3,600, Majestic; **WALLS AND FLOORING** Cara Kreme marble tiles,

£200sq m, Ashfield Stone; Otta Bronze Corrugatto Lappato tiles, £350sq m, Apavisa; walls in Elephant's Breath, Modern Emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball; all supplied by Alexander James Interior Design, [aji.co.uk](http://aji.co.uk).



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