

CREATIVE HARMONY

Glamorous surfaces and furniture ensure this en suite lives up to its grand surroundings



DESIGNER

Marina Demarchuk,
senior interior architect,
Alexander James Interior
Design, 0118 932 0828,
aji.co.uk.

Can you describe the project?

The house is a five-bedroom mansion-style new build in Weybridge, Surrey, designed for a family with high expectations of quality. We worked on the whole house, aiming for a cohesive look throughout, so this room was viewed as one piece in a bigger puzzle.

Did you have a colour palette in mind?

It usually takes just one material or colour to set the wheels in motion with a project, and in this case it was a particular tile that we knew would make a beautiful splashback for the glamorous vanity. It is a thin porcelain with a silvery finish that is softly textured to give the appearance of fabric. We then looked at natural stones in complementary colours and everything else followed.

How did you choose the fittings?

Picking blindly from a range of fittings by one brand rarely achieves creative results. It takes more effort to judiciously select from multiple suppliers, but it's the best way to get a unique, tailored space. For example, we had a regular composite stone bath by Victoria+Albert lacquered to match the decadent vanity unit by Oasis. They work in harmony but are not a perfect match.

What dictated the layout?

For me, the main focal point is always going to be the vanity unit. A freestanding bath can be equally impressive, but a bather will feel exposed in that prime entranceway position. Instead, we offset the bath in the corner nearest the window to enjoy the views. Aim to avoid hugging all the fittings to walls if possible – placing them a little further into the room can make a big difference.

How important is mood lighting?

It's always essential for relaxation but in a large bathroom it can also help to make the space feel less clinical. This room has high ceilings but few architectural merits, and the finishes selected are also fairly plain. Coffering the ceiling and fitting concealed, low-level mood lighting lends three-dimensional interest.

What makes this bathroom stand out?

At first glance it is undoubtedly grand and luxurious, but on closer inspection, the details give it a softness and subtlety that you can imagine enjoying on a daily basis. As ever, the accessories and finishing touches – soft towels, nice toiletries – are the icing on the cake. Like the pretty necklace that completes a new party dress.



ABOVE The glamorous chandelier was custom-made to meet bathroom safety regulations, while a heated towel rail was placed within easy reach of Victoria+Albert's curvaceous Barcelona bath. **OPPOSITE PAGE** A high-impact vanity unit by top-end Italian brand Oasis takes centre stage in the room, which is clad in delicately veined Calacatta marble for an undeniable sense of luxury.



WHERE TO BUY

FURNITURE Oasis Daphne vanity (including stand, basins, mirror and wall lights), £17,374, Alchemy Design Award, alchemyaward.com.

FITTINGS Barcelona freestanding bath in Gloss Black, £4,575, Victoria+Albert, vandabaths.com.

GRANDERA three-hole basin mixers, £565 each; Grandera single-lever floor-mounted bath mixer, £1,694, all Grohe, grohe.co.uk.

Zehnder Nobis towel warming radiator, £1,752, Zehnder, zehnder.co.uk.

SURFACES Nanoelectic Silver porcelain tiles (behind vanity), £320sq m, Apavisa, apavisa.com. Similar marble tiles from £450sq m, Cosentino UK, silestone.co.uk.

ACCESSORIES Roehampton crystal ceiling light, from £1,499, Heathfield & Co, heathfield.co.uk.

WORDS LINDA CLAYTON PHOTOGRAPHS TONY MURRAY