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Dream schemes

STAFFAN TOLLGARD AND PAOLO MOSCHINO WEAVE THEIR DESIGN MAGIC
PLUS INSPIRING IDEAS FOR DRESSING ROOMS

GREY MATTERS



DESIGNER
Stephanie
Rakowski.
BUDGET
£25,000.

Luxurious marble sets the tone for this sophisticated scheme of classic furnishings and spa features

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE SPACE? This is the master bathroom of the lovely double-fronted, Victorian end-of-terrace house in Balham, south London, where I live with my husband Arthur and our two children. Originally the bathroom was much larger – bigger than our bedroom, in fact – but, as part of the total house renovation, we extended and then split the space to incorporate an adjoining dressing room.

WHAT WERE YOUR MAIN GOALS? The most important thing was to create a beautiful, luxurious bathroom with plenty of marble. Our list of essentials included a generous shower, twin basins, a large bath for relaxing in and lots of storage. I also wanted heated towel rails within easy reach of both the shower and the bath. My ideal scenario included a bath with underwater lighting on a colour-changing system, as I think water looks so much more appealing when lit. Lastly, we added a television and speakers in the ceiling to our wish list, to complete the spa-like atmosphere.

HOW DID YOU PLAN THE LAYOUT? It went through many incarnations, as we tried to accommodate everything in the available space and work around permanent fixtures, such as the window. In the end, there was little option other than the layout we settled on, which maximises the natural light coming into the space. We had to sacrifice the enclosed WC that I had originally considered, but as the WC is positioned at the far end of the vanity unit, it's essentially hidden as you enter the room.

DID YOU FACE ANY OTHER CHALLENGES? I searched endlessly for a deep, square Japanese-style ofuro soaking tub (though not made of wood), so that I could fit in both a bath and an enclosed WC, but I just couldn't find one that met all my specifications. In the end, I settled on a more traditional double-ended, under-mounted bath and then added a beautiful Calacatta marble top and chromotherapy lighting. I do like the look of some free-standing baths, but I don't find them practical, as there's nowhere to rest a book, glass or soap.

WHAT INSPIRED THE COLOUR SCHEME? The tones of the marble range from bright white to grey, so I felt that grey paint (we used Plummett from Farrow & Ball) was an obvious choice for the walls. It complements the marble beautifully and ties in with the greys and whites I have used throughout the house, including some wonderful silk wallpaper in the wardrobe panels of the dressing room next door. I am known for my love of



The deep-grey shades of marble are echoed in the wall to create a cohesive look.





ABOVE LEFT The bathroom is entered via a set of mirrored doors within Stephanie and Arthur's dressing room. **ABOVE RIGHT** Custom made by Stephanie's joiner, the vanity unit features delicate moulding details and volcanic glass knobs. **BELOW LEFT** The bath top is cut from a slab of Calacatta marble with an elegant ogee edge profile. **BELOW RIGHT** To keep the room free from condensation, the virtually frameless glass steam shower is a sealed unit with internal ventilation.

grey; even my cat is grey! All the woodwork was painted in Strong White, also from Farrow & Ball.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SHOWER? We had wanted to have a steam room in the basement gym, but following a last-minute re-working of the space downstairs, I decided to create a mini steam room in the bathroom instead. We made the sealed shower enclosure as large as practicable and incorporated a marble-clad bench. The structural glass is virtually frameless, enhancing the clean, modern look. Being a sealed unit, no steam escapes into the room during a normal shower either, which keeps the mirrors clear. This is particularly useful, because the mirrors are also cupboard doors, so they couldn't have de-misting heat pads. A special ceiling made from a PVC material was also installed within the steam shower.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE TILES? They remind me of the New York apartments we've lived in. I love the metro-tile look we used on the walls, while the smaller mosaics on the bath panel create variety and interest. We selected larger tiles for the floor and shower walls above the dado to minimise grout and make cleaning easier. The vanity top, bath top and shower seat are all Calacatta marble, which matches the tiles perfectly. I considered Carrara marble, but could only find very grey slabs that were too dark for the tiles. Calacatta was more expensive, but absolutely worth it.

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SOURCES

616103 Loop & Friends oval basins, £321 each, Villeroy & Boch; Duo bath, £1,211, Bette; ML1261 pair Mackintosh lever bath taps, £760, Lefroy Brooks (LB); RT2130 Belle Aire bath shower handset, £167, LB; ML1228 Mackintosh basin taps, £466, LB; MK8706 thermostatic shower, £1,019, LB; Ballerina towel rails, from £1,136, Vogue UK; Fairfield showerhead, £647, Samuel Heath; all West One Bathrooms, 0333 011 3333, westonebathrooms.com; Walls in Plummert, Modern Emulsion, £42 for 2.5 litres; woodwork in Strong White, Estate Eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres; both Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141,

farrow-ball.com; East Hampton marble tiles, from £104.98sq m, Fired Earth, 0845 366 0400, firedearth.com; Honed Calacatta slabs, £8,320, Surrey Marble and Granite, 01428 651940, surreymarbleandgranite.co.uk; Café tier-on-tier shutters, £1,000, Plantation Shutters, 020 8871 9222, plantation-shutters.co.uk; Watt single-arm scone with plain glass shade, £858, Waterworks, 020 7384 4000, waterworks.com; Obsidian cabinet knobs, £22 each, Chloe Alberry, 020 7727 0707, chloealberry.com; Specifications, Fiona Parke, 07801 521000, johnstonparkeinteriors.com.