



Feature by Sharon Davies

Photography by Robert Reader


design perfection

A bathroom to be proud of, Fiona and Tim's expertise shines through in their beautifully designed bathroom.

To some people, taking on the complete redesign of a single storey property would have them quivering in their boots. But not Fiona Petrocelli and Tim Hooker. They thoroughly embraced the thought of converting an ordinary 1970's house into a magnificent open plan property.

Part of this redesign included the installation of what can only be described as a sensational new bathroom. Luxurious and chic, the completed space overflows with style. Lavished with natural materials, classically designed sanitaryware and sophisticated accessories, the bathroom has a truly contemporary feel. Inspired by bathrooms found in luxurious hotels, Fiona describes her original thoughts on the bathroom design. "I feel the bathroom is such an important place. We wanted to create that indulgent, spa retreat feeling in our own home," she says.

Walking into Fiona and Tim's bathroom you immediately feel relaxed. A neutral colour palette and combination of natural materials fuse beautifully, making the space calming and peaceful. Apart from its sheer beauty it is unquestionably functional too. But then you would expect nothing less from such a talented husband and wife design team. With Tim's technical ability as a trained architectural engineer and Fiona's artistic flair, the two have thought of everything and overlooked nothing.



“It’s a little unusual standing in the shower being able to look outside!”

The central plinth with its recessed shelf effectively splits the bathroom into a dry area and a wet area.

Knocking through two original rooms and a closet allowed for one big open space. Their hardest decision was deciding on a style. “We spent ages thinking about it,” explains Tim. “We could see the benefits of starting with a blank canvas and knew we had the flexibility to do whatever we wanted. We had about twenty different schemes at one time with some quite unique ideas.”

Perhaps the most striking feature of the bathroom is its floor to ceiling window, that fills the space with natural light. “We thought, why don’t we make the window just a little bit bigger, and then a little bit more and so on? So we decided to completely go for it by stretching it from floor to ceiling,” says Fiona. “It’s a little unusual standing in the shower being able to look outside!” Tim says.

Fiona and Tim’s bathroom is practically divided into two spaces. A dry area and a wet area. The dry area, contains a WC, extra wide washbasin and a mirrored cupboard. The smooth Turkish limestone flooring is warmed with underfloor heating which is a very popular choice with Fiona and Tim’s four year old son, Quinlan, who finds it a great place to play with his toys!



Stepping up into the wet area, the built-in bath and walk-in shower are separated by a slated oroko platform. It was Tim's dislike of bathmats that encouraged them to go for a raised wooden section. Highlighting the design features of the shower Tim explains, "I hate small showers, preferring a more open, walk-in wet area." With smart taps and a beautiful slate floor, Tim demonstrates how the water simply runs off the edges to a hidden drain beneath. "I didn't want a visible drain and a sloping floor. The shower drain was all our thinking. We drew up the plans and determined whether it was feasible or not. The design ended up pretty much how we planned it," he explains. It is these hidden, practical features that really makes this bathroom

A no-nonsense shower, water flows away almost unnoticed off the edge of the slate floor to the hidden drain beneath.

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stand out. Other design subtleties include the installation of a small radiator under the wooden platform to keep the wood warm and dry, an extendable bath tap for washing hair, and a temperature controlled tap in the shower so Quinlan won't scald himself.

Taking in her bathroom, Fiona sums it up by saying, "It's an indulgence bathroom, there's no doubt about it." Fiona and Tim have put a huge amount of thought and care into this room and have found themselves the proud owners of a subtle, well-designed, relaxation retreat.

The ceramic basin is set off perfectly with its stylish chrome accessories.

useful information

Bathroom cabinet mirror and spot Lights

Pattern Shop. Tel: 01666 500123. www.thepatternshop.co.uk

Wall tiles, stone flooring and slate floor

Mandarin. Tel: 01600 715444. www.bymadarin.com

Radiator Bisque. Tel: 01225 478500. www.bisque.co.uk

Basin, taps and fittings C.P. Hart. Tel: 0207 902 1000

www.cphart.co.uk

Bath bathstore.com. Tel: 0700 022 8478.

www.bathstore.com

Wooden bench Habitat. Tel: 0845 601 0740. www.habitat.net