

# *Play all the* ANGLES

Low pitched ceilings made this space feel claustrophobic, but clever design and subtle use of colour has transformed it into a spacious and elegant light-filled bathroom

PICTURES **FIONA WALKER ARNOTT** | WORDS **MANDI MILLAR**







## LIGHT AND BRIGHT

The oversized mirror makes the room feel spacious and bright, despite its low, sloped ceiling and was bespoke-made to seamlessly fit the width of the wall

## Bathroom profile

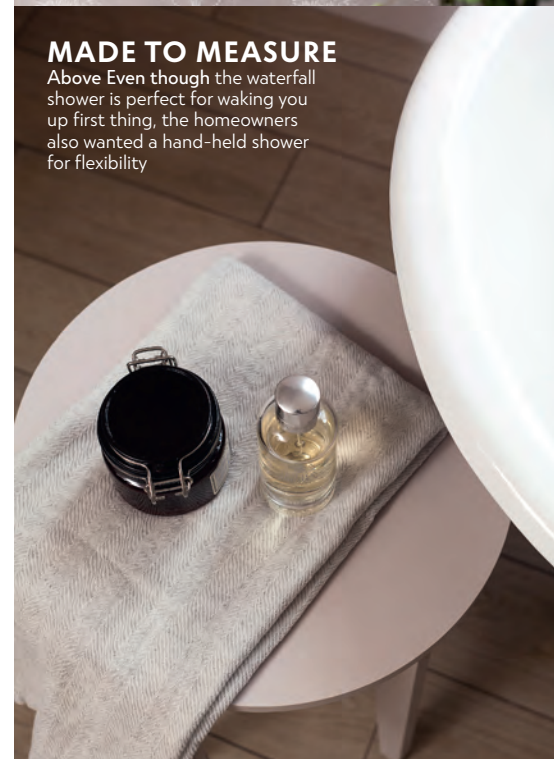
The generous floor area was maximised by reconfiguring the fittings and bringing the free-standing bath into center stage acting as a luxurious focal point, and cutting into the space between the low ceiling rafters facilitated a separate spacious shower. Painting the walls and ceiling in a single light colour masked the overpowering roofline, whilst restoring the fireplace gave the room a hint towards the history behind the home.

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## MADE TO MEASURE

Above Even though the waterfall shower is perfect for waking you up first thing, the homeowners also wanted a hand-held shower for flexibility



## TASTEFUL TOUCHES

The shower tiles were starting point for the whole scheme. Their classic, vintage look set the tone for a graceful aesthetic, and the addition of greenery brings life to the space

*‘They wanted a pared down, streamlined space so we opted for wall-sunk taps for the shower cubicle’*

Although the former bedroom of this Edwardian villa had already been converted into a bathroom, there were still plenty of challenges in giving it the revamp it really deserved. ‘The fixtures were all clustered in a single corner of the room with a shower over the bath so, although the floor area was generous, the space still felt cramped,’ explains designer Fiona Duke. ‘The low sloping ceilings only added to the overall sense of claustrophobia. The main aim was to lighten the mood in what was a beautiful space with amazing rural views – and to give the owners the separate shower and bath they really wanted, a relaxing haven.’

The starting point was the layout, but to reconfigure the position of the bath and also house a separate shower meant some fairly major plumbing work. ‘The roofline was problematic too if it was to accommodate a full height shower but we got around this by some clever cuts between the rafters, allowing us enough overhead clearance for the shower cubicle, though we had this made to measure just to ensure it all fitted perfectly,’ says Fiona.

With the layout decided, the look was the next stage. ‘The homeowner chose a Laura Ashley shower tile which was quite traditional and a little bit vintage in style, setting the theme as a timelessly classic look which we felt complemented this Edwardian house,’ she continues.

‘The fittings were important, too. Our client wanted a pared down, streamlined space so we opted for wall-sunken taps for the shower cubicle and a bespoke vanity unit to hide pipework and provide storage under the basin. We also decided to reinstate the fireplace and managed to source a fire surround from a local reclamation yard which matched the era of the property,’ says Fiona who wanted to intensify the beautiful surrounding rural views.

‘We decided a sheer white blind on the window would be least obtrusive but we also wanted a wall colour that would enhance the vista outside rather than be a distraction. The soft muted tone we settled on creates a relaxing ambience, while painting the sloping ceiling and walls the same colour blurs the overpowering roofline so the whole space becomes much more seamless.’ Now though, with the challenges met and everything finally in place, this timelessly elegant room is the perfect retreat the homeowners dreamed of. **EKBB**



*'We were all delighted to see the fireplace reinstated. It really changed the whole dynamic of the room'*



**FIONA DUKE**  
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Q&A

**What was your brief?**

To make better use of the great floor space in the existing bathroom and to minimise the claustrophobic effect of a low, sloped ceiling. With beautiful rural views beyond, the owners didn't want anything too strident which would detract from those. They wanted a relaxing haven.

**What were the challenges?**

Apart from ensuring the low roofline could accommodate a full height shower, there were other practicalities – like getting the heavy bath upstairs. Now that was a challenge and we have the photos to prove it!

There were also a few hairy moments getting the huge mirror up a relatively tight staircase but patience and perseverance prevailed and we got there... in the end.

**What pleases you most?**

We were all delighted to see the fireplace reinstated. It really changed the whole dynamic of the room. Now they have this wonderful modern bathroom, yet the Edwardian reclaimed fire surround is a tangible link with the property's history – echoing the homeowners love of classic style whilst staying sensitive to its architectural past.



## Stockists

### FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Laura Ashley Josette decor **tiles** in Dove Grey, £37.51 per sq. m, British Ceramic Tile. Berwick cast iron **bath**, £868, JIG Baths. London concealed **shower valve** in weathered brass, from £2,250; BSM 100 deck **bath mixer** with handheld shower in weathered brass, from around £820, both Chadder & Co. **Shower head, mixer, bath taps and waste**, £4,423; **vanity unit and tap**, £2,851, all Porter Bathrooms. Charleston Grey **paint on bath**, from £60 per 2.5L; Peignoir **wall paint**, from £45 per 2.5L, both Farrow & Ball. Bespoke **mirror**, from around £1,032; Brentwood Glass. Similar Kora 4 **towel radiator**, £1,248, Castrads. Ledbury Ribbed glass **wall lights**, from £190, Fritz Fryer. Milano column **radiator**, £274.95, Best Heating

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## HIDDEN CLUTTER

By building a bespoke vanity unit around the basin, ugly pipework is hidden. The homeowners loved the aged look of the brass tapware as it reflected the exact style they desired, improving with age

