

CARINE OTTOU *chef*

Cameroon-born, London-based chef Ottou and her husband, Jacob, bought their Victorian terraced house in 2011. Last year, Yoko Kloeden completed a top-to-bottom refurbishment, which included creating a new bathroom for their two daughters, Maj, aged seven, and Moa, aged one

- I wanted a bathroom that was not only playful for the girls but somewhere they could grow into. One minute, children love pink; the next, they're all over purple – so this needed to be a space that they can enjoy for many years, and that is also suitable for guests to use. The Jim Lawrence lights by the mirror add a grown-up touch.
- I like natural materials and colours, so Yoko decided to play with pattern instead. We initially talked about stars – I wanted to play on this idea of the sky is the limit – then added moons as well. The grey floor tiles are from Emery & Cie; the wall tiles, including the randomly placed geometric ones, are from Mandarin Stone.
- Both from a food and style perspective, I like things that are earthy, so there are plants all over the house. For the bathroom, we chose a money plant and a *Monstera deliciosa*. Around the window, we also used 'Seashell' Kalklitir paint. It has a barely noticeable hint of blush pink, which softens the floor tiles, but as it's lime-based it also helps the bathroom to breathe, reducing the risk of mould.
- In the early stages of working with Yoko, I sent her a Pinterest folder of images I liked. Most of them needed a lot of space, but one of the features we used was the alcove shelf above the bath.
- It's not a large bathroom and we wanted to create as much storage as possible. The vanity unit has a hard-wearing silestone top and stained oak drawers, with a shelf underneath where we keep their bath toys. inspiringchefs.com; marielittlejar.co.uk; yokokloeden.com ►



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Clockwise from top A chic grey palette ensures the style will last as the girls grow up; Ottou had her London home renovated last year; the geometric wall tiles are Mandarin Stone and the floor tiles are by Emery & Cie

INSIDE MY BATHROOM

Ottou on her daughters' rituals

Daily routine? They both have a shower in the morning; twice a week, they have a bath, too. Maj is very confident and capable of using the bath tub on her own.

Favourite products? Maj used to love anything that smelt fantastic, like strawberries, but now she is getting into more natural products. I make her hair and body butter, soap bars and suncream, but for the shower she prefers liquid soap by Savon de Marseille. She also loves bath bombs in funky colours from Lush.

What's in the bathroom cabinet? Hairbands, spare toothbrush heads...

Top bathroom memory? Recently, Maj wanted to give me a spa treatment in her bathroom, so she painted my nails and feet, and put cucumbers on my eyes.

Best thing about the bathroom? It feels grown-up but also playful and accessible – everything is within easy reach.