

Planning the perfect space to complement your master bedroom involves research, preparation, and a dose of design inspiration, too

Words: Yvette Murrell

# HOW TO CREATE AN ensuite BATHROOM

**H**aving your dedicated ensuite can feel like a sanctuary, separate from the main family area and a place to relax or get ready in peace. Whether you are redoing an existing set-up or planning to create a new room from borrowed space, you must follow a few rules. Building regulations require a mechanical extractor fan in any room with a bath or shower if it has no window. It must perform at a minimum of 15 litres per second, with an additional 15 minute overrun, to prevent mould and mildew. Lighting in close proximity to water needs to have an IP rating to ensure safety,

starting from at least IP44 in areas 0.6m outside the perimeter of the bath or shower. And while creating a wetroom is a good way to make an ensuite feel more open, it needs full waterproofing – known as tanking – which takes more time to plan and is a financial investment. So work out your budget first and decide what must-haves will be on your wishlist as well as what fixtures and finishes you'll go for to help the bathroom blend in with the adjoining bedroom and create a cohesive flow between the two. Turn over to be inspired by three homeowners who have transformed their spaces. ▶

↑ Unit in Quercia Wild with integrated ceramic basin, £2277; Lumus mirror in Quercia Wild with open shelf, £1444; street lamp, £216; and Brio50 towel rail, £178, all from Alternative Bathrooms.

## Sophisticated décor scheme

"The space used to be a separate room next to the master bedroom," explains designer Andrea Milward. "In order to create a new doorway, careful considerations had to be taken to work out how big the wardrobes in the adjoining space could be and how they would be accessed. This dictated the position of the entrance. There was a chimneybreast, too, which was concealed with a bespoke vanity and fitted, hidden cupboards on either side to provide ample storage. The different types of marble and traditional fixtures add texture and a sophisticated feel. A length of steel installed underneath the floor supports the cast-iron bath's weight. Lighting was important for a relaxing ambience. Low-voltage downlights, wall and floor illumination, and LED strip lighting on the shelf behind the bath help create a layered scheme." ▶



↑ Having enough storage was important, so fitted cupboards were fitted behind the WC.



↑ When creating the new doorway into the ensuite, designer Andrea needed to ensure enough space was left to accommodate wardrobes in the master bedroom.

→ The layout had to fit in several wishlist items, including a cast-iron bath, shower area, and plenty of storage.

Photographs: Paul Teverini

REAL  
PROJECT



**Designer:** Andrea Milward, design director at Milward Teverini

**The clients:** A family with their teenage daughter

**Location:** Clapham, south west London

**The brief:** To create a luxurious ensuite with a generous shower, roll-top cast-iron bath and ample storage. The owners wanted Mid-century accents in a moody palette.

**Cost:** Around £49,000 including build, joinery, design, and materials.



REAL  
PROJECT

The freestanding copper-effect roll-top bath is shielded by a wood unit, which also houses the bath filler and a handheld showerhead.

## Tasteful textures

"I designed an open-plan, free-flowing space that included a walk-through shower, freestanding bath, and his and hers vanity units," says Tony Lister at Simon Taylor Furniture. "All of these features, paired with the finishes, create the spa-like feel the owners wanted to achieve. To complement the style and décor of the adjoining bedroom, the scheme incorporates shades of grey mixed with rich walnut cabinetry, which was made to measure to perfectly suit the space. Central to the room, the bath was painted in a copper effect to match the timber, which is found on the stud wall too. Apart from shielding the tub, it also hides the plumbing for the bath filler, which matches the taps on the vanity, and the handheld showerhead. For a luxurious finish, book-matched porcelain marble-effect tiles by Minoli were fitted throughout the walk-in shower area and by the basin as a splashback, with anti-slip versions on the floor. The double vanities are a floating design, which frees up floor area and give a feeling of more space."



→ The clear glass shower screen is by Mistley and the wet area features a powerful Vado waterfall showerhead, which is accompanied by a second, handheld outlet for convenience.



**Designer:** Tony Lister, senior designer at Simon Taylor Furniture

**The clients:** A professional couple with two young children

**Location:** Soulbury, Buckinghamshire  
**The brief:** The owners wanted to convert an existing spare bedroom into a relaxing, spa-like bathroom which would complement their new master suite design.

**Cost:** Simon Taylor Furniture bathroom projects start from £20,000.



Wooden finishes tie in with the existing décor in the master bedroom.



Wall-hung vanity units are a great way to keep floorspace free. The luxe marble-effect splashback matches the shower area and the floor tiles, while the lights either side of the mirror add a cosy feel in keeping with the overall scheme.

**Designer:** Louise Ashdown, head of design at West One Bathrooms  
**The clients:** A husband and wife  
**Location:** Tunbridge Wells, Kent  
**The brief:** To unify dressing and bathing to create a unified master suite. The owners wanted a 'classic meets contemporary' scheme with a twist of glamour. Having both a bath and a separate shower was a must.  
**Cost:** A similar project would start from £15,000

REAL  
PROJECT

## Practical redesign

"As a throughfare leading from the bedroom to the dressing room, the existing ensuite was an awkward space – so a new layout required meticulous planning to ensure a clear walkway. It also had a false ceiling, which seemed unnecessary so this was removed to create a sense of grandeur," Louise Ashdown at West One Bathrooms explains. "Together with the neutral colours and the large window, this makes the room feel bright and open. The focal point is a freestanding tub from Victoria + Albert Baths, sited in front of the Aged Fresco design tiles. These have an elegant patina look, but also bring in a modern twist thanks to their large size. Polished nickel fittings are sympathetic to the property's Georgian roots, while crystal lights add glamour to the bespoke vanity and the statement chandelier above the bath draws attention to the high ceilings." **KBB**

↓ Statement tiles were used to create a feature wall behind the freestanding roll-top bath.



A frameless glass shower enclosure helps to keep the space looking light and airy.



Photographs: Paul Craig



↑ Fixtures in polished nickel add an elegant look to the design of the ensuite.

← The scheme is sympathetic to the property's Georgian era – an important part of the brief.

↓ As the new space leads from the master bedroom to the wardrobe, it was important to keep the floor area as clear as possible.