

Case study



Bathroom designer: Anthony Arta of Anthony Arta Interior Design.

The clients: A partner in an international financial firm and his wife, who is a very busy mother and grandmother. The couple travel extensively due to his work and also their love of exotic places.

Location: Top floor apartment in Regent's Park, London.

The brief: The apartment was in desperate need of modernisation. The brief was to re-plan the entire space to provide three bedrooms (two with ensembles) in addition to a study, spacious kitchen-diner, large sitting room and dining room.



The entrance into the bathroom is through a pair of doors set in line with wardrobes either side of them, so that when the doors are shut it appears (from the bedroom) as one long wardrobe.

As the bathroom has no windows, Anthony decided to make the most of its lack of natural light by giving the space a more dramatic look using dark colours and materials. "The tiles are black with texture, not unlike silk fabric, and I chose the largest available (600 x 600mm) grouted in black because the scale of the tile helps

to give the feeling of a larger space," he explains.

"My client also asked for maximum storage space and good lighting for make-up," Anthony says. "I solved this by incorporating mirror-fronted cupboards along two walls for storage, with inset lights on either end to provide shadowless illumination."

The vanity unit cupboard, and all other joinery in the bathroom, is finished in black lacquer, topped with white marble featuring grey and black stripes. The sanitaryware (from CP Hart), meanwhile, is white with nickel-finished taps.



Above: Falper created the Level45 bathroom system for open-plan living, which allows the WC and bidet to be hidden from view. A system including WC, bidet, bath, basin and storage is around £15,000.

Below left: This bathroom flows into the bedroom with a continual colour scheme and floor tile. The Victoria & Albert Edge bath, £2575 and Edge basins, £450 each are from Plug-in Design.

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SARAH IRELAND,
SARAH IRELAND BATHROOMS

Go with the flow

When planning your ensuite, don't think of it as separate from the bedroom, says Lesley Taylor of Taylor's Etc.

"Treating the bedroom and bathroom as one space in the early design stages will encourage a sense of flow, making it easier to achieve an ensuite that feels like it belongs with the bedroom," says Lesley. She suggests buying your bedroom and bathroom furniture at the same time. "This holistic approach will ensure that you are more aware of design elements that can be incorporated into both spaces. If you opt for walnut bedside cabinets, try to introduce walnut into the bathroom through components such as furniture or mirror surrounds. This approach will result in a seamless transition from one room to the next."

Lesley also suggests treating your ensuite as a living space by including wallpaper or a chair upholstered in a fabric repeated in the bedroom. "This will not only encourage a greater sense of relaxation, as the movement between spaces is more gradual, it will ensure there is no stopping or starting in décor between the two spaces. When it comes to flooring, choose tiles for a contemporary setting that can be used in both the bedroom and ensuite or, for a more traditional scheme, wood. Physically breaking the boundaries to have a fairly open-plan ensuite will also prevent the two rooms feeling separate from each other."



do not have a window, choose an extractor with a timer that continues to clear the air for at least 15 minutes after you have left the room.

A bathroom designer can offer expert advice on the products most suited to the size and location of your ensuite, however discussing all options before you start the project will prevent costly mistakes.

Plan ahead

Alex Walmsley at Ripples says, "Think about who will be using the room and when. If it's the master ensuite and you both rise at the same time, double basins or even double showers ensure you won't have to fight over who goes first. If you don't have the space, perhaps a larger bowl with two mixer taps might work. Also, think about your main focal point when you enter the room. Often the door to the ensuite is left open so place the WC where it won't be seen."

You will also need to think about the style of the bedroom and choose bathroom fittings and finishes accordingly. Bathroom designer Sarah Ireland says, "The key is to carry the ambience, colours and textures of the bedroom through to the ensuite. Depending on your bedroom style, be it shabby chic or French boutique, pick out coordinating furniture to use as a vanity unit in your basin area – you can even utilise vintage finds." **KBB**