

SCOTLAND'S BIGGEST SELLING HOME MAGAZINE

# HOMES

## & INTERIORS SCOTLAND

Bathroom  
**DECOR**  
*ideas*

SUMMER SPECIAL

The painting adds 'pop'; the fabric of the Roman blind is the same as the curtains' in the master bedroom, from Rapture & Wright; the swing-arm wall light 90511 is from Mr Light; the radiator cover with metal grille provides shelf space. [Below] The designer's sketch of the master bedroom



## CASE STUDY

# MASTERS AT WORK

Photography Andrew Beasley Words Gillian Welsh

**BRIEF** To design an en-suite bathroom and master bedroom on the second floor of a townhouse. The owners, a young married couple with two children, wanted a relaxed feel and to be daring with colour, and the bathroom was to look like a continuation of the bedroom.

**BIGGEST CHALLENGE** The bathroom unit mirror. Nothing suitable could be found, so NBB Design had it made. It's bevelled and has three parts, the outer two wings of which are movable.

**BIGGEST EXPENSE** The upholstered doors and the Haute Deco handles.

### BUDGET

Bedroom about £10,000  
Bathroom about £6,000

### DESIGNER

Niloufar Bakhtiar-Bakhtiari,  
NBB Design

**D**esigning an en-suite bathroom in the style of a warm, elegant master bedroom is an intelligent solution when you want to create a sense of continuity and space. There's nothing in the rules, after all, that says a bathroom must have hard surfaces and cold colours. "I always try to treat bathrooms as I would other rooms and incorporate art into them," says interior designer Niloufar Bakhtiar-Bakhtiari, of NBB Design. Her techniques range from the use of fabrics to picking and positioning the right type of lighting. ▶





**[Left]** The bedroom with its impressive upholstered doors - the one to the left of the fireplace leads to the en-suite bathroom; the bed is by Robert Langford, the pendant is by RV Astley and the cupboard handles are by Haute Deco. **[Below]** Bathroom sketch

A painting of Peter Sellers, cherished by the client, sets the overall colour scheme of grey with fuchsia additions. Solid oak planks match the grey and beige hues of the bedroom carpet, while a vibrant Christopher Farr cloth has been used to upholster the doors in the bedroom, one of which leads to the bathroom. Floor space is freed up by having a fitted bath, and the bespoke bath panelling – of light-reflecting mirrored slats – open up this west-facing room even more.

More in keeping with a living area than a bathroom are the fitted bookcases that reach up to ceiling height around the bath. The designer has added lights to them – on a dimmer switch, of course – which provide an appealing extra source of illumination. The chair, from Made In Design, with a sumptuous cushion from Peter Jones, is there to be sat on.

There’s a lot of storage in this room. As well as the bookcases, there are neat cupboards under and above the vanity sink unit. The bespoke mirror conceals more, and there’s space for a laundry basket at the bottom of one of the bookcases.

Using the same paint shade throughout the interior (Dove Tale by Farrow & Ball, mixed with lighter greys) gives a sense of fluidity to the two rooms.

There’s no shower (though there is one in another en-suite bathroom), and if you’re wondering where the loo is, “It means you didn’t see it, which is the whole idea,” says the designer. “It’s tucked behind the basin unit!” ■

**DESIGNER’S TOP TIPS**

**Niloufar Bakhtiar-Bakhtiari on how to approach an en-suite bathroom**

- Treat the bathroom as a normal room.
- Use different light sources, making sure that they’re all dimmable.
- Add bookshelves - they will make the bathroom look more like a living space and will provide valuable storage. Add lighting to the shelves, which is a good source of vertical illumination.
- Avoid tiles on walls. Paint is less clinical.
- Hang art on the walls.
- If you have the space, a small armchair will add softness.



**BASINS AND BATH**

• The washbasins are a simple Bathstore design. They sit in a made to measure spray-painted double-vanity sink unit. The bathtub is by Bette.

**FLOORING**

• The bathroom floor is a basic wide-plank oak, stained to a grey-ish beige. It can be washed with soapy water but needs waxing once a year.

**FABRICS**

• The blind and curtains are Rapture & Wright’s Junkanoo Chillie; a Christopher Farr cloth is used to upholster the doors; the cushion in the bathroom is by Peter Jones.