

HOMES & GARDENS®

APRIL 2015
£4.10

BESPOKE DESIGN

TAILOR-MADE HOMES
FULL OF CHARACTER

NEW COLLECTIONS
THIS SEASON'S
FABRICS AND COLOURS

SPRING AWAKENING
EASTER DECORATING
COOKING WITH EGGS
GARDENS IN BLOOM

STUDY SPACES
CREATIVE IDEAS AND
INSPIRING SOLUTIONS

CHIC SHOPPING
MARBLE COFFEE TABLES
ELEGANT BAR STOOLS
STYLISH CERAMICS

REGALL: 1/4/15



POLISH & POISE



PROJECT DIRECTOR

Mike Storey, MSMR Architects, 020 7928 6767, msmrarchitects.co.uk.

BUDGET £60,000.

Bookmatched marble and shrewd use of space give this opulent en suite an air of classic luxury

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE BATHROOM?

This is the en suite of a main bedroom in Cheyne Terrace, a prestigious new development in Chelsea that we worked on in collaboration with interior design studio Hudson & Mercer. All of the apartments are extremely high spec with luxurious features and these standards had to apply to the bathrooms.

WHAT INSPIRED THE DESIGN? The exterior of the building has a classic-contemporary feel and this sense of timeless elegance is continued inside. As the apartments have access to spa facilities at lower ground level, including steam and treatment rooms, we wanted to extend the emphasis on pampering to the private bathrooms. On a practical note, we also gave a great deal of thought to how this space would be used and maintained day to day.

HOW DID YOU PLAN THE LAYOUT? When it comes to making a bathroom feel really luxurious, especially in central London where space is so valuable, careful consideration of how the space is configured is crucial. This room measures about 5x4m and accommodating each element, including the large double-ended bath, without compromising on proportions required meticulous planning.

WHICH FINISHES WERE SELECTED TO ENHANCE THE SENSE OF LUXURY? Polished Statuarietto marble was chosen by the client as the primary surface for the main bathrooms throughout the development. The veining in the large marble tiles above the baths was carefully bookmatched to create a pleasing symmetry, while the grouting was colour-matched to give the impression of seamless surfaces, maximising the impact of the stone's appearance. >





Beautiful Statuarietto
marble meets in a
bookmatched join
above the bath, creating
a distinctive focal point.

WHICH BRASSWARE AND SANITARYWARE

WERE CHOSEN? The client opted for Bette double-ended baths and Duravit toilets, bidets and undermounted basins for their quality and durability. The Symetrics range by Dornbracht was selected for the bath and shower controls and the basin taps; the polished chrome finish of this range complements the veining in the Statuarietto and the Pietra Grey marbles beautifully.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE VANITY UNIT?

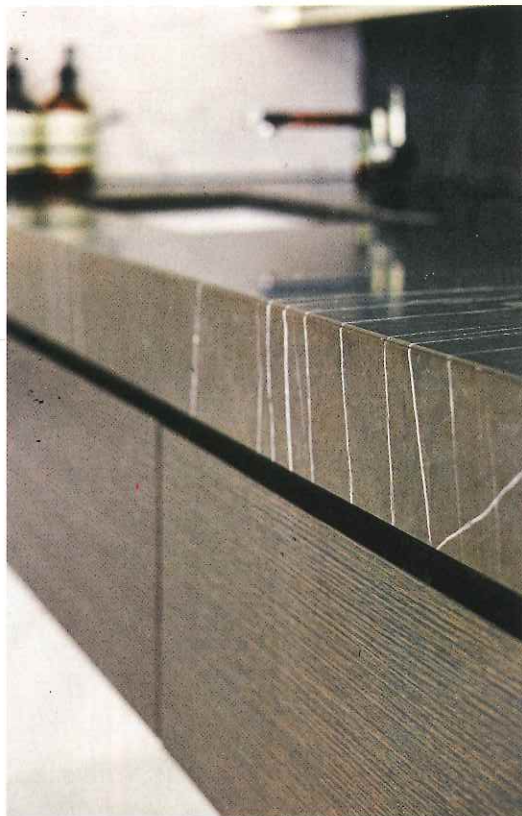
The generous use of the pale Statuarietto marble meant that it was possible to go much darker with the finishes on the vanity, especially as the unit is wall-hung so ample white marble is visible below. The countertops are a dramatic Pietra Grey marble, with a seamlessly mitred strip at the front to give the impression of a thicker slab. The dark-stained oak furniture features two capacious push-to-open drawers, which are ideal for

“
Generous use of pale Statuarietto marble meant it was possible to go much darker with the finishes of the vanity unit.”

storing towels. Above, we installed large mirrored cabinets framed in stainless steel, again with touch opening, which provide plenty of space for toiletries.

AND THE SHOWER AREA? The shower, along with the WC, is enclosed by a 10mm low-iron glass screen, offering a sense of privacy. The same flooring has been used as in the rest of the space to create the feel of a luxurious wet room. It features Dornbracht dual-operated rain and hand showers, with high-performance extraction located in the ceiling coffers so there are no unsightly vents.

HOW DID YOU LIGHT THE ROOM? Recessed lighting is concealed in the ceiling, including wall-washing downlighters that illuminate the marble feature walls. The vanity unit has integrated lighting, with frosted glass panels set into the mirrored cupboards to provide flattering task lighting, and concealed lighting giving a diffused, softer glow above and below.



TOP LEFT The drawer units are mitred at the top to provide finger grooves for access, leaving the fronts unimpeded by handles, while the recessed shadow line adds an extra design detail.

TOP RIGHT Carefully matched grout makes the joins between marble tiles almost invisible.
ABOVE Topped in Pietra Grey marble, threaded with silvery-white veins, the vanity unit both complements and contrasts with the Statuarietto marble used throughout the room.

We also incorporated speakers in the ceiling, controlled by a central AV system, so music can be enjoyed while using the space.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE? Finding a suitable stone was perhaps the biggest difficulty – the client wanted a predominantly white marble with defined veining, which meant it had to be very high quality. Creating the floating vanity top also proved quite challenging. A steel frame was integrated into the unit to support the weight of the marble top and two ceramic basins, but this needed to be well hidden to create the weightless appearance. On a general level, bathrooms tend to involve different materials meeting at numerous junctions, and avoiding misaligned surfaces and uneven joins requires coordination. The palette needs to be consistent across handles, hinges and all other finishes and surfaces for the best results, and getting this right from the beginning is essential. In a finished bathroom, there is little scope to disguise poor design or installation with furnishings or accessories.

WHAT IS THE SECRET TO THIS ROOM'S SUCCESS? Although this is a luxurious space, it also offers simple elegance with high-quality fittings, good proportions and pleasing symmetry. The variety of finishes and good lighting help to transform it from a purely functional space into a relaxing one. □

“
In the shower,
extraction is concealed
in the ceiling so there
are no unsightly vents.”

SOURCES

Cheyne Terrace,
020 7758 3188,
cheyneterrace.com, or
contact Native Land
020 7758 3650,
native-land.com.
Similar polished
marble, Statuario
marble with polished
finish, from £270/sq
m, Artisans of Devices,
01380 720007,
artisansofdevices.
com. Symetrics
single-lever basin
mixers, £173.47 each;
deck-mounted hand
shower spout
£287.90; shower set,
£480, all Dornbracht

at Walton Bathrooms,
01992 224784,
waltonbathrooms.
co.uk. Starck 3
undermounted
basins, £165.60 each;
Bette Art steel inset
bath, from £6,740.40,
all CP Hart, 0845 873
1100, cphart.co.uk.
RainSky M shower
head, from £6,500,
Dornbracht, 024 7671
7129, dornbracht.com.
DuraStyle wall-
mounted bidet, £182;
wall-mounted toilet,
£195, both Duravit,
0845 500 7787,
duravit.co.uk.



Dornbracht's drenching RainSky M shower head is teamed with its Symetrics shower set behind a bespoke glass screen.

WORDS LINDA CLAYTON PHOTOGRAPHY DARREN CHUNG