

# VARIETY SHOW

Warm wood, polished brass and statement tiles combine to create a luxurious sanctuary



**DESIGNERS**

Ali Johnson and Alex Keith,  
Otta Design,  
[otta-design.com](http://otta-design.com).

**Can you tell us about the property?**

The house is a substantial Victorian semi-detached villa next to Wandsworth Common in south-west London. The project was to redesign a rather tired en-suite bathroom leading off the main bedroom at the front of the property. It's generous size, with dimensions of 4x3.5m, allowed us to be flexible with the layout.

**Did the owners give you a detailed brief?**

It always takes a few meetings to pinpoint a client's interior style and draw up a wish list for a scheme, but it was a joy to work on a project with owners who were so open-minded about our ideas. Magada and Bruce Lock's home has an eclectic décor so that gave us plenty of scope to explore a range of looks and materials. The new en suite had to be a luxurious space to relax in after a busy day. It was decided the scheme would be based on a monochrome palette, with patterned tiles and wood finishes.

**How did you come up with the choice of tiles?**

Black and white can be rather austere, so we needed to incorporate a mix of materials to add another dimension to the room. We had already fallen in love with the chevron tiles for the shower area before we took on this project and the reflective qualities of the marble and the mosaic effect were just the look we wanted. The hexagonal floor tiles provide a subtle pattern without dominating, adding a sophisticated feel that brought the scheme together.

**What are the other key elements of the design?**

The sash window on the rear wall was central to the layout and made the perfect backdrop for the freestanding volcanic limestone bath. There was also enough space to build a bespoke 1.8m-long double vanity unit made from American black walnut with polished brass taps and fittings. We needed to provide plenty of storage and came up with the idea of the Crittall-style framed doors for the wardrobes, with mirrored panels adding to the glamorous style.

**How important was the lighting scheme?**

A well-thought-out plan can make or break a project. There is plenty of natural light in this room during the day, however, we wanted the clients to have the luxury of choosing a range of lighting options to change the mood in the evening. There is a layered lighting scheme throughout, with dimmer switches in the bedroom. The lights include LED strips under the walnut picture ledges and floating vanity unit, as well as spots in the shower.



**OPPOSITE PAGE** A teardrop-shaped bath takes centre stage in front of the sash window and sets a tone of spa-style luxury.  
**ABOVE** The bespoke vanity unit topped with marble fits neatly in an alcove with large mirrors helping to enhance the light levels in this corner.



**ABOVE** A frameless screen helps to achieve a luxurious wet-room appearance and allows the tiles to come to the fore, with a neat niche for toiletries contributing to the elegant minimalism of the scheme.

WORDS SALLY SMITH PHOTOGRAPHS DARREN CHEUNG

## WHERE TO BUY

**CARPENTRY** Vanity, picture ledges and wardrobe, from £10,000, designed by Otta Design, [otta-design.com](http://otta-design.com); made by Tim Amery, [timamery.com](http://timamery.com).

**FITTINGS** Napoli bath, £2,700, Victoria + Albert, [vandabaths.com](http://vandabaths.com). Artis basins, £530 each; Subway 2.0 wall-hung WC, £580; both Villeroy & Boch, [villeroy-boch.co.uk](http://villeroy-boch.co.uk). Shower panel, £532, Matki, [matki.co.uk](http://matki.co.uk). Shower mixer, £3,245, Vola, [vola.com](http://vola.com).

**SURFACES** Pyrenees chevron marble wall tiles, £205sq m; Casablanca black hexagon floor tiles,

£40sq m; both Mandarin Stone, [mandarinstone.com](http://mandarinstone.com). Walls in Ammonite, Estate Emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, [farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com). Windows and wardrobe in Jack Black, Flat Oil Eggshell, £61 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene, [littlegreene.com](http://littlegreene.com).

**ACCESSORIES** Diamond brass pendant light, £220, Graham and Green, [grahamandgreen.co.uk](http://grahamandgreen.co.uk). Filo 60 brass wall lights, £432 each, Hector Finch, [hectorfinch.com](http://hectorfinch.com). Bespoke black steel mirrors, £650, Looking Glass of Bath, [lookingglassofbath.co.uk](http://lookingglassofbath.co.uk).

