

Suite dreams

A couple remodel their home to create a practical space for their young family and a clutter-free sanctuary for themselves

Report: Heather Wade Photography: Jake Fitzjones Styling: Shani Zion



COST

A similar bathroom would cost around £11,000

CONTACTS

BEDROOM

Bed and bedside units Ikea (0845 355 1144 or www.ikea.co.uk)

Bedside lamps Ikea, as before

Chair Heal's (020 7896 7451 or www.heals.co.uk)

Carpet Westex (01274 861334 or www.westexcarpets.co.uk)

Canvas Tammy Ward (www.tammyward.co.uk)

Bed linen and cushions Heal's, as before, John Lewis (0845 604 9049 or www.johnlewis.com), The White Company (0870 900 9555 or www.thewhitecompany.com)

Folding glass walls Alco Beldan (01923 246600 or www.alcobeldan.com)

BATHROOM

All bathroom fittings supplied by Colourwash (020 8459 8918 or www.colourwash.co.uk), including:

sanitaryware Duravit (www.duravit.co.uk)

brassware Hansgrohe (www.hansgrohe.co.uk)

Radiator Hudevad (01932 247835 or www.hudevad.co.uk)

Vanity top and floor tiles Pietra Serena limestone, Classico Marble (01753 580044 or www.classicomarble.co.uk)

Blind John Lewis, as before



Above: An extra-large sunken shower tray and an open-plan enclosure make for unconfined showering. Rochelle loves the high, pitched ceiling with its illuminating Velux window



basins are surface mounted. "I was determined to use a brushed steel finish on the brassware throughout the house," says Rochelle. "It proved a challenge, but I eventually found what I wanted by Hansgrohe."

In the ensuite, as in the dressing room, the Goldsteins rejected their initial choice of doors – a flexibility achieved by managing the project themselves. "We were originally going to have frosted glass doors on the shower enclosure and WC cubicle, but once we actually saw the room, we decided to leave them open," explains Rochelle.

Nine months after moving out, the Goldstein family returned to their revamped property. "There was no heating and only one working bathroom, but it felt great to get the family back home," smiles Rochelle. "The project has given us a huge sense of achievement. Dean had never tackled such a large job before, so it was a bit of a risk." All the seven-day working weeks, scrupulous research and disruption have certainly been worthwhile. This husband and wife team has succeeded in creating a family home that truly does them credit.

KBB

Q&A: HOMEOWNER

Were there any complications with the installation of the folding glass walls?

"No, but the huge expanse of glass in the bedroom meant that we had to adapt our heating to counter the loss through the windows."

What do you like about your new floor plan?

"We considered tucking ourselves away on the third floor, but chose to stay on the second. It was a good decision as we can be near the children but still have a separate space of our own."

With hindsight, would you have done anything differently?

"The ensuite is lovely and light with its high, pitched ceiling and Velux windows. I sometimes wish that we'd left the bedroom ceiling open to the eaves, but I missed the opportunity to change my mind on site."

Do you have any advice for someone taking on a similar project to yours?

"Whatever your budget, double it! It's worth waiting until you can afford quality finishes. It would be terrible to work so hard and then regret the choice of materials."

Left: The custom-built shelving, mirror cabinets and vanity shelf add a touch of luxury that would not be out of place in a spa **Below:** The Happy D freestanding bath by Duravit is the perfect place to take time out from frenetic family life





"It's worth waiting until you can afford quality finishes. It would be terrible to work so hard and then regret the choice of materials"



Left: The pale grey Westex carpet in the bedroom complements the graphite grey tone of the Pietra Serena limestone flooring in the ensuite beyond **Above:** The open rails, shelving and island storage give the dressing room the look of a luxury clothing boutique – every girl’s dream **Below:** A comfy chair makes a quiet spot to read and relax. The canvas was painted for the Goldsteins by Dean’s sister, Tammy Ward



“We wanted a bright and calm space that wasn’t cluttered by furniture, so a dressing room was the perfect solution to remove the wardrobes and drawers from the bedroom,” says Rochelle. The rail, shelf and drawer storage was custom made to fit the space available. “When we saw the fittings we decided to leave them open rather than add the dark wood doors that we’d originally planned. The downside is that, for the look to work, we need to be extra tidy,” she adds.

Light pours into the bedroom courtesy of double-aspect glass walls from Alco Beldan, which can be folded back like those on the ground floor to open up the whole back of the house. The windows are dressed with airy voiles for the day in front of white blackout drapes for uninterrupted sleep. In keeping with her clean and clear principles, Rochelle has decorated and furnished the bedroom

simply, with gentle lighting, white walls and a pale grey velvet carpet. “I wanted to have something soft and luxurious underfoot to contrast with the wood and stone flooring in the rest of the house,” she says.

The tone of the carpet was chosen to complement the graphite grey of the Pietra Serena limestone used for the floor tiles and vanity top in the ensuite, as well as elsewhere in the property. Again, the aesthetic is neutral, with white walls and Duravit sanitaryware and mushroom-coloured brick mosaics lining the capacious shower and WC enclosures as well as the handy niche in the wall beside the freestanding bath. The open shelving and mirror cabinets were custom built to accommodate the couple’s bathroom paraphernalia, and the dark limestone is used to good effect as a splashback and floating 100mm-thick vanity shelf upon which twin ▶

WILLESDEN HOME

With the cost of moving home rising faster in many areas than house prices, it makes sense to redesign and extend an existing property to get the layout and space required rather than upping sticks. The Goldstein family agreed. "We loved our house and the area, but we wanted more light, space and a practical room configuration," says Rochelle.

Having neutralised the previous owners' extravagant decor in 2002 when they moved in, Rochelle and her developer husband Dean lived comfortably in their late 1920s detached home in north-west London until March 2005. "I'd had my third child the previous

December, so moving out into rented accommodation and taking on a building project seemed daunting to say the least," Rochelle recalls. "We were out of our house for nine months and Dean managed the whole project himself."

Upstairs, an extension allowed the couple to relocate their master bedroom and ensuite from the front to the rear of the house. "We toyed with the idea of locating our suite on the third floor, but in the end we chose to be on the same floor as the children," says Rochelle. The couple's old bedroom became their son's, and to complete their sanctuary, Dean converted one of the other bedrooms into the dressing room that Rochelle had always desired. ▶

