

MAKE MERRY

A cheerful colour scheme has ensured that this bathroom, which was previously a bedroom, is a warm and inviting space

WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS WAKEFIELD



PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER
Sean Symington
of Sean Symington
Interior Design (sean.symington.com)

PROPERTY
Detached,
three-storey
period house

LOCATION
North central France



After relocating from London back to France with their two children, one couple decided to enlist designer Sean Symington to refurbish their kids' bathroom. They had seen his work in a friend's house and knew he was the one for the job.

1 LAYOUT PLANS

The sloping ceiling of the room limited the amount of head height available and meant planning carefully to make the most of the space. 'We used the two tall walls for the shower and the vanity so we had space for a mirror and lighting above,' says Sean. 'The red claw foot bath draws your eye as you come into the room.'

2 DECORATING INSPIRATION

The homeowner fell in love with a Nina Campbell tile inspired by Moorish architecture. Sean suggested they use the colours as a starting point and build the bathroom scheme from there. 'My client wanted the decor to be youthful but grow with the children,' he says. 'The lively blue, red and pale yellow in the tile pattern was perfect.'

3 COLOUR BALANCE

A medley of French blues in the shower tiles, vanity and striped fabric bounces against dusty yellow walls, which brightens and adds warmth to a space that doesn't receive a lot of natural light. 'There's a thread of brighter yellows throughout the house but this subdued yellow tone is great for colour-drenching,' says Sean. 'The red bath is fun but also has an element of sophistication for longevity.'

4 FINAL TOUCHES

Cherry fabric lampshades and scallop shapes in Sean's vanity design feed into the playful look, while curtains on portiere rods resolve the problem of inward opening windows. 'We had so much fun on the project – the owners are really nice people,' says Sean. 'They're delighted with the bathroom, which is great for the children now but can be easily transformed in the future with a different colour scheme.' 55

OLD-WORLD CHARM

'The red bath is the fun colour punch and makes a fantastic focal point beneath the window,' says Sean.

Vanity design and build, Sean Symington Interior Design. **Claw foot bath**, Cast Iron Bath Company. **Bath** in Rectory Red; **vanity unit** in Oval Room Blue; **walls** in Hay, all Farrow & Ball. **Vanity curtain** in Oswin cotton stripe in Robin Egg, Romo. **Red knobs**, Matilda Goad & Co. **Nina Campbell Ronda porcelain tiles** in Coral Aqua, Fired Earth. **Chair** in Paw Print linen in Raspberry, Soane Britain. **Embroidered Green Cherry cotton lampshades**, Alice Palmer & Co. **Burlington nickel taps**, Hudson Reed