

Sarah wanted dark walls to emphasise the clean look of the white tiles and bathroom suite, and to draw attention to the patterned floor. A mix of faux and real plants, along with the botanical window blind softens the space

My bathroom is a botanical haven

By getting rid of the shower cubicle and decorating with dark colours and garden-inspired prints, **Sarah Haigh** has created a dramatic new look for her bathroom

My room...

My problem bathroom

The bathroom looked permanently dirty – nothing had been changed for years. There were nasty yellow wall tiles and a mouldy shower cubicle squeezed in next to the bath.

How I made it work

I wanted a clean but dramatic look with dark walls, white tiles and a free-standing bath. I would have liked the bath beneath the window – Darryl played around with the layout using a computer design program but when he showed me the drawing, it was obvious we didn't have room. Instead we created space around the bath by sacrificing the separate shower cubicle and fitting a shower over the bath.

My favourite part

I love the mix of patterns and all the greenery. The botanical blind and floral shower curtain are the things that catch my eye when I walk in – they give the bathroom its character.



A bit about me
I'm Sarah Haigh and I live in a four-bedroom semi-detached house in West Yorkshire with my husband, Darryl and our children, Elsie, 10, and Woody, five.



Before

Style idea

Don't be afraid to mix and match bathroom suites – Sarah's basin, bath and toilet are all from different ranges

TOTAL
£1,949

'I love the fresh feel of my bathroom with all the plants – there's something to look at everywhere'

Style advice

Three simple tricks to try in your home



Go green

Leafy plants were the last piece of the styling jigsaw after Sarah had hung the botanical blind. 'I bought a faux fern and it wasn't really meant for the bathroom,' she says. 'On a whim, I put it in here and instantly loved the way the greenery brought the room to life. I bought more faux plants, although the devil's ivy at the end of the bath is real and I'm trying to grow it up the wall.'

On the dark side

Sarah considered painting the walls black, but decided grey had the same style impact with a warmer colour tone. 'I bought lots of testers and found Annie Sloan's Graphite wall paint was the best colour and best quality as it's hard-wearing enough to withstand the bathroom's heat, damp and steam,' she says.



Create space to relax

Placing a bath bridge across the tub is a simple way to create extra surface space in a bathroom. 'I wanted the bathroom to be a place where I could go and relax with some candles and a glass of wine,' says Sarah. 'There are no flat sides on the bath so the bridge is a great solution. I like the way the wood works with the plants and this one is extendable so it fits perfectly.'

'I was inspired by my mum's cast-iron free-standing bath. It's lovely and deep, and I really wanted to find something similar within my budget'

Sarah stuck to her budget and found an affordable alternative to a cast-iron free-standing bath with a roll-top from Victorian Plumbing. The sloping ends are lovely for relaxing and placing the shower head in the middle means there's a safe space to stand and shower too

Picking a basin on a chrome stand adds to the traditional feel of the room, as does the vintage-style mirror above it.



My experience...

When I first saw this house online, I didn't pay much attention as I didn't like the look of the outside. But with the arrival of my son, Woody, getting closer we really needed to move, so we arranged a viewing. Right away I loved the big kitchen and I thought we could eventually improve the outside, but the bathroom was a different story.

This was the only room that hadn't been touched and even after a good scrub it still looked grubby. I particularly hated stepping onto the carpet after a shower; I felt dirty all over again!

We knew we'd need to save up as everything needed ripping out – we lived with it as it was for nearly four years. One thing I liked the look of was the old-fashioned high-cistern toilet and that inspired the traditional-style bathroom fittings. Instagram was good for ideas and I share posts through my account @haighshomeinyorkshire. This was where I saw a picture of a roll-top bath with a shower over the top – it makes the room feel so much bigger.

I've put my own stamp on the space with the graphite walls, patterned floor tiles and blind. I'm really into pattern and fabrics, and luckily I work next to a lovely fabric shop. They helped me find a blind fabric with a charcoal background to go with the walls. I'm still on the hunt for a shelving unit that doesn't hide the pretty towel radiator, but apart from that I'm happy.

Style idea

A pretty flower-patterned shower curtain gives a flash of colour without overpowering the room

My shopping list

Duke Black 1695 double-ended **roll-top bath**, £539.95; Carlton high-level **traditional toilet**, £329.95; Keswick traditional 500mm **basin and chrome wash stand**, £209.95; Chatsworth 1928 traditional cross-head pillar **basin taps**, £49.95; Chatsworth **thermostatic shower**, £199.95; Chatsworth 1928 traditional cross-head **bath shower mixer tap**, £129.95; Savoy **traditional radiator**, £189.95; traditional chrome **oval shower rail**, £169.95, all Victorian Plumbing; Berkeley/Chaicoal 45 x 45cm **floor tiles**, £29.65 per sq m; Metro Brick 10 x 20cm matt white **wall tiles**, £10 per sq m, both Tiles Direct; Graphite **wall paint**, £41.95 per 2.5L; Annie Sloan, Flora Wilde **shower curtain**, £47.95, Junique.

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