

# 'We turned a bedroom into a decadent bathroom'

Blue panelling and a dusky pink tub set the tone for this transformation

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Laura Smith, a solicitor, lives in a four-bedroom 1930s semi in Wanstead with her husband, Jamie, a project manager, and their daughters, Isla, eight, and Olivia, six



**WALL ART**  
A large framed print creates a focal point



**VANITY UNIT**  
Tactile oak and stone create a luxe look, while the drawers provide extra storage



Before

'The old bathroom was separate from the loo, and freezing cold because of a hole in the wall. There was a small bath with a shower over the top that dribbled water and was horrible to use.'

**Where did you begin?**  
The house was a wreck but we lived here for a year while we worked out how best to use the space.

The bathroom project was in phase one when we re-jigged the layout of the first floor and converted the loft. We also replaced the pipes to improve the water flow and pressure.

**A bedroom very nearly had to be sacrificed...**  
We didn't have to in the end though – we began with four bedrooms and finished with four! Our youngest daughter had been using the smallest one but it was dark with a high window – perfect for a decent-sized bathroom with privacy. We converted the loft to create bedrooms for the girls and decided we could also afford to turn one of the other bedrooms into our dressing room. The old bathroom and toilet became our ensuite.

**What were you hoping to achieve the most?**  
To be able to come in here in the evenings, light some candles and relax. I was aiming for it to be luxurious rather than practical, and enjoyable for guests too, as it's next to the guest bedroom.

**How did you decide on the look?**  
I love dark blue and pink together and was obsessed with a Pinterest image of a bathroom with bold floor tiles, a pink bath and wood panelling. The patterned floor tiles came first and I had my heart set on a cast-iron rolltop bath. Our builders made the wall panelling, which is painted in Farrow & Ball's Inchyra Blue to tie in with our bedroom.

**Any other elements to fit in?**  
We visited CP Hart's huge showroom in London's Waterloo and they helped us with the layout. Below the high window was the ideal place to put the bath with enough space on the opposite wall for a separate shower. I spent ages looking for a vanity unit and found one at Lusso Stone – it's the first thing you see when you come into the room, which is much better than staring at a loo!

**Did the scheme turn out as you expected?**  
My comfort zone is decorating in light neutrals, so I was nervous to use dark blue but it was the best decision. The depth of colour creates a cocooning effect – perfect for a candlelit bath – and it completely lives up to the Pinterest photo. **HB**

**OUR SOURCEBOOK** Winchester **bath**; Duravit **WC**; Crosswater **showerhead**; all [cphart.co.uk](http://cphart.co.uk). Crosswater basin **mixer tap**; bath **shower mixer**; both [drench.co.uk](http://drench.co.uk). Crosswater **shower door**, [ergonomicdesigns.co.uk](http://ergonomicdesigns.co.uk). **Vanity unit**; basin; both [lussostone.com](http://lussostone.com). **Floor tiles**, [wallsandfloors.co.uk](http://wallsandfloors.co.uk). **Panelling** painted in Inchyra Blue; **bath** in Middleton Pink; both [farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com). **Lights**, [industville.co.uk](http://industville.co.uk). **Flamingo art**, [junique.co.uk](http://junique.co.uk)



**COLOUR**  
Blue with grey tones has a cocooning effect

**PANELLING and TILES**  
Texture and pattern on the walls and floor introduce character

**BATH**  
The cast-iron tub has been painted in a soft pink that complements the panelling

**WHAT WE'VE LEARNED**  
'We were away when the decorators painted the bath and I wish I'd chosen a darker pink, but it's easy enough to change. Black taps are smart but aren't easy to keep looking good in an area prone to limescale.'

**WHAT WE SPENT**

BATH	£1,265
WC	£231
TAPS	£1,045
SHOWER	£857
VANITY & BASIN	£1,095
TILES	£237
PAINT	£140
WALL LIGHTS	£170
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,040</b>