



‘PINTEREST WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR MY NEW LOOK BATHROOM’

Dramatic colours, vivid patterned tiles and a trove of vintage treasures turned a dated family bathroom into an indulgent space

WHAT IT COST

Paint	£90
Bath	£395
Basin	£225
Taps	£160
Loo	£161
Floor tiles	£240
Wall tiles	£33
Lighting	£58
Heated towel rail	£58

TOTAL £1,420



Marketing consultant Kate Moerel, and her husband, Ross, live in a four-bedroom home in the New Forest with their children Josie, seven, and Finn, four. Walls were moved and the ceiling altered to make way for a new bathroom

Describe what your bathroom was like before...

The brown and cream flock wallpaper and similar-looking floor tiles were really old, and the loo and basin were separated from the bath by a strange half wall, presumably for privacy.

Where did you get your initial ideas?

I came across an image on Pinterest three years before we found this house and it stayed in my mind. It had a freestanding bath at one end



VANITY UNIT
An upcycled cupboard makes a characterful vanity unit, topped with a large streamlined basin

and a vibrant geometric floor. I considered having a dramatic pink bath and bronze taps, but it would have been a huge expense to change if we had second thoughts later on. Repainting walls was considerably cheaper and easier.

What was top of your wishlist?

Having a generous-sized bath was definitely a priority.

And your biggest challenge?

My dream floor tiles were Moroccan encaustic cement, but they're porous and wouldn't have lasted in here. I spent months looking for something comparable in a geometric pattern with a handpainted-style finish and found these on Ebay – I absolutely love the colour. I also wanted a reinforced acrylic bath. The one I liked in my price bracket was in the Charles Brooks showroom, which was too far away for me to visit to check the quality. Luckily, I found someone on Instagram who'd bought a bath from there and reassured me it would be a good buy.

Why did you decide to paint the walls blue?

I love how you can turn a functional space into something far more ►

'I'm so pleased we planned the width of the room around the length of the bath, as this makes a lovely focal point'

WINDOWS

Roof windows without blinds don't compromise privacy and mean the night sky can be enjoyed while lying in the bath

SHELVES

Recycled wood from the house renovations has been fashioned into bespoke shelving, as well as a bath board and bench

INDUSTRIAL STYLE

The mirror and shelf combo and wall lights are practical and smart

BATH

Choosing a generous-size freestanding tub was the ultimate indulgence

intriguing with dramatic use of colour. We were renovating the whole house – it took six months for the work to be completed, and we moved in before decorating as we were so desperate to get out of the caravan where we'd been living. We waited to see if there would be enough natural light in here for the walls to carry the navy blue without making the room feel dingy. Fortunately, we're bathed in ambient light from the roof windows, so we decided to go for the strong blue and I'm so pleased we did – I think it looks amazing.

What makes the room personal to you?

We've had the vanity unit for more than 10 years. We found it discarded on a street in Brighton, where we used to live, and it's been useful in every home we've had. When we were in the caravan, we stored our crockery in there. We like that it has a story and we knew it would look great with a basin mounted on top. Ross made the wall shelves out of wood salvaged from the old roof – this was a bungalow before – and the tree stump came from a tree we had to cut down to get the caravan into the garden. Years ago, I used a letterpress tray to

store my jewellery and now this is where we display the shells our children collect during our beach adventures.

Do you have any money-saving tips?

We bought our kitchen appliances from ao.com via the website topcashback.co.uk and they gave us a percentage of our purchases back in cash. We used the money to buy the loo from Sanctuary Bathrooms and tiles from Ebay. It's a great idea.

Is there anything left to do?

We want to add more planters and create a growing wall with ivy. I'm also keen to paint the vanity unit an eye-catching colour such as teal, mustard or gold.

And your favourite part of the renovation?

I love catching a glimpse of the floor at the end of the hallway – it's as if you're being tempted in. We're lucky to have such a big bathroom and the patterned tiles carry the plain sanitaryware well. It's like looking at the original Pinterest picture all over again. I got my dream bathroom in the end.

MAKING PLANS

The bathroom is in the same place as before, and the ceiling has been raised which has allowed for more usable floor space, and moving the adjoining guest bedroom wall made room for the full-length bath. Angled roof windows let in plenty of light.

**IN DETAIL****THE BASICS****PAINT**

Walls in Hague Blue estate emulsion, £45/2.5L, Farrow & Ball

BATH, TAPS AND VANITY UNIT

Charles Brooks Kensington freestanding acrylic bath 1700, £395, Lusso Stone at Ebay. Lauro stone resin countertop basin 600, £225, Lusso Stone. Adora Fusion wall-mounted bath filler taps, £90.30; Adora Fusion basin two-hole tap, £69.30; all Sanctuary Bathrooms. Vanity cupboard found discarded on the street

SANITARYWARE

Rak-Resort back-to-wall WC with soft-close seat, £161, Sanctuary Bathrooms

TILES

Tangiers Blue Diamond Moroccan porcelain floor tiles, £20/sq m, Planet Tiles Online at Ebay. White ceramic wall tiles, 150 x 150mm, £5.50/sq m, Wickes

LIGHTING AND ACCESSORIES

Sleek Edison wall lights in Brass, £29 each, Industville. Heated towel rail, £58, Wickes. Shelves, bath board and bench made by Ross from reclaimed wood. Large industrial mirror with shelf, £115, Rose & Grey. The Arthouse Alchemy Bouquet framed print is similar, £31.99, Amazon. Hammam towel, £25, Not on the High Street

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY PAGE**

KATE'S TIPS**Choosing floor tiles**

• If you want to use encaustic tiles, which are often lovely and vibrant, you'll need to seal them to prevent staining and preserve their colour. After laying the floor, leave the tiles to dry fully before sealing them.

• Ceramic or porcelain tiles are a hardwearing, low-maintenance option for bathrooms. They also tend to be less expensive, as they're made by machine.

WORDS: JANE CRITCHFORD PHOTOGRAPHY: JAMES FRENCH
STYLING: ANDRASHA TAYLOR PLANT: NERTSIA JANKO

BEFORE