



'WE WANTED OUR BATHROOM TO LOOK BIGGER'

A mirrored wall and a painted ceiling are just two of the decorating tricks that have been used to create an illusion of space in this compact room

BATH AND SHOWER
Due to the modest size of the room, the shower is fitted over the bath rather than being a separate unit. The Crittall frame suits the room's monochrome scheme



STREAMLINED
A wall-mounted tap in brushed brass keeps things neat, and provides a warm highlight

INDUSTRIAL STYLE
Wire wall storage is ideal for everyday essentials and holiday finds



WHAT IT COST

Bath	£150
Shower	£305
Shower screen	£200
Basin	£150
WC	£115
Floor tiles	£120
Wall tiles	£200
Wall paint	£50
Bespoke mirror	£1,100
Fittings	£525
Heated towel rail	£75

TOTAL **£2,990**



Leanne Baud, an emergency medical technician and husband Ash, a plumber and gas engineer, updated the bathroom of their 1930s home in west Yorkshire as part of a whole-house renovation

Describe what your old bathroom was like?

There were dull grey tiles that went all the way to the ceiling and the basic suite was a budget one. The most annoying thing was the bath, which had a big rounded end that stuck out into the room.

What was your biggest challenge?

The bathroom is just 2.4m x 1.8m, so the main aim was to make it feel larger. My idea was to put a huge mirror on one wall to create a feeling of space – however when we were installing it, we had a really nerve-wracking time trying to swing the bespoke glass around

at the top of the staircase! We had to cut out a bannister and newel post, which sounds drastic, but we knew we'd be replacing the stairs. I was convinced there was enough room, but had to prove that to the installers by trialling it with a piece of MDF cut to size. Now in place, it's the perfect fit, running pretty much the length of the bath and up to the ceiling.

How did you want your new bathroom to look?

I'd seen the star floor tiles on Instagram a year before and loved their aged look, which I knew would work well with the charcoal grey paintwork and Crittall shower screen. Brushed brass fittings look good against dark walls and I chose a mottled finish for the mirror to go with the overall vintage, industrial feel.

You decided to paint the walls and ceiling one colour...

Yes, I'd already fallen in love with Farrow & Ball's Down Pipe and got braver with each room I decorated. I kept seeing Instagram pictures with streamlined ceilings and walls and was surprised at how it made small rooms look larger – so I decided to go for it.

Was keeping the layout important to you?

We considered putting the bath beneath the window, but that didn't leave enough space for a separate shower – and the window ▶

TOWEL RADIATOR

In a matt black finish, this modern rail blends in well with the other industrial-style elements

WINDOW

To ensure they blended in with the walls, the uPVC frames have been treated with a primer and painted charcoal grey

FLOOR TILES

Leanne loved the pattern and aged finish, which add a vintage feel

SHOWER SCREEN

The Crittall glass was a fortunate sale find, and helps to maintain the feeling of openness

MAKING PLANS

Replacing the existing p-shaped bath was essential to increasing floor space and Leanne installed a huge mirror on one wall to maximise light. Spotted on Instagram, statement floor tiles inspired the choice of Crittall shower screen and charcoal paint used on walls, ceiling and the uPVC window frame. Open shelves were chosen to maintain an airy feel.



'Although we couldn't change the layout because of the window, the mirrored wall and neater bath have really opened up the room'

BATHROOM BASICS**SANITARYWARE**

Double-ended square gloss bath, £149.99, Plumbworld UK on Ebay. Duravit basin, £149.99, Atlas Bathrooms. Close-coupled white toilet back-to-wall pan, £115, Tapshop321 on Ebay. Arezzo matt black grid hinged bath/shower screen, £199.95, Victorian Plumbing. Crosswater MPRO shower kit, £304.50; wall-mounted basin tap two-hole set, £220; thermostatic twin outlet shower valve, £384; all in brushed brass, Sanctuary Bathrooms

**TILES AND PAINT**

Scintilla Black Star floor tiles (450 x 450mm), £19.95/sq m; Metro White Chapel white gloss wall tiles (150 x 75mm), £22.95/sq m; both Walls & Floors. Walls painted in Down Pipe estate emulsion, £47.95/2.5L, Farrow & Ball

MIRROR, STORAGE AND TOWEL RAIL

Mirrored wall in Gold Antiqued glass, £1,100, A Touch of Glass. Open wire cube shelf unit is similar, £65, Cox & Cox. Natural-grey baskets, £48/three, La Redoute. Bath board, £21, Amazon. Towel rail, £75, House of Enki

FOR STOCKISTS SEE **WHERE TO BUY PAGE**

LEANNE'S TIPS*Renovation advice*

- When you settle on a product, be sure to shop around to check you're buying at the best possible price
- Keeping the layout the same will save on labour costs and give you more in your budget to invest in quality fittings
- Do your research on good quality brands, then see if you can find the same for less on Ebay. Some sellers offer seconds or ex-display products at knock-down prices

WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH STYLING IMRASHA TAYLOR PLAN NERITHS KWAK

prevented us going for a shower over the bath in that position, as it wouldn't have allowed for privacy. A big walk-in shower on its own was another option we looked at, but in the end we felt this might devalue the house as a family home in the future.

Where did you spend and where did you save?

I had to convince Ash about the mirror because it wasn't a cheap option, but then he wanted the Crosswater taps – as a plumber, he has seen that cheap brands don't last. Although he gets a trade discount, I still managed to source branded sanitaryware for less than he could, through Ebay. We used up existing paint and a box of Metro wall tiles that were left over from other rooms we'd renovated. By the time we started, we only had to pay for the plasterer and the electrician.

You and Ash did most of the work yourselves – how did it go?

We've always said this is like the house that Jack built. When we started to chip off the old tiles, we discovered the previous owners

had tiled on top of tiles and the plasterboard began to break away. Then we found the ceiling had been overboarded many times and we'd lost a few inches of head height. In the end, we took everything back to the brickwork and rafters, which created lots of awful black lime dust and rubbish that filled two skips!

What's your top tip for anyone renovating a bathroom?

If you're going for wall-mounted fittings, make sure you invest in a good quality brand that will last. Cheap fittings are more likely to need repairs, which means the plumber will have to break out the tiles to access the pipes. Don't compromise, but wait and save up to buy exactly what you want. A new bathroom is a long-term investment that should last for years.

Are you happy with the result?

Yes, very – I wouldn't change a thing! The bathroom is both practical and pretty, and gives the impression of being a lot bigger than it is, which is exactly what we wanted to achieve.