

BRIGHT BATHROOM MAKEOVER

Playful style

Wanting a colourful and fun bathroom for their children, Sanu and Kyp chose vibrant terrazzo tiles and a funky monkey light

WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN PHOTOGRAPHS SIMPLY BATHROOMS (SURREY)

PROFILE

THE OWNERS

Sanu and Kyp Andronicou, who both work in finance, live here with their young children, Callie and Kostas

THE PROPERTY

A detached four-bedroom 1950s house in Epsom, Surrey

PROJECT COST

£12,390



Right 'Moving the plumbing outlets allowed for the space to be reconfigured so it could accommodate a separate bath and walk-in shower,' explains Sanu.

BC Designs' Amerino off-set **corner bath**; Simply Bathrooms. Walls **painted in Blue Gray**, Farrow & Ball



BEFORE



Sanu Andronicou had a light-hearted family bathroom in mind for her children when she began thinking about the changes she'd make – terrazzo tiles and a monkey light were her must-have elements. Her ideas were a leap into modern-day living for the 1950s house, where time had stood still and rooms were ripe for transforming into the family's forever home. As a small part of a much larger renovation, updating the bathroom wouldn't impact on any of the other work, so Sanu and her husband, Kyp, began planning. 'We wanted to improve the layout but we were restricted by the plumbing outlets,' Sanu explains. 'But during the design phase of the renovation, our ideas grew and we decided to gut the house. Since we were rewiring, plastering and laying new floorboards throughout, it made sense to upgrade the plumbing, giving us flexibility in what we could do in the bathroom.'

STEP 1 IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEMS

'The bathroom was square though not huge with bland, beige décor; however it was a light, airy space. The suite was dated and had a shower over the bath next to the window, which didn't really work. A plus point was that the room had been well looked after by the previous owners, so was usable for the two years before we started making changes to the house. An interior designer had planned our bedroom and en suite. This time we thought we'd design it ourselves, but with the help of a bathroom specialist. Our main goal was to inject some fun into the room and comfortably fit in a separate shower and bath.'

STEP 2 WORKING WITH EXPERTS

'I played around with the five and a half square metre layout using online software, but it was a challenge. I got advice on chat forums and was wary about buying poor-quality products as many people on the forums said they'd had bad experiences. Using a bathroom company sounds like a luxury, yet no one thinks twice about going to a kitchen firm. We were pleasantly surprised by how affordable the whole experience was. I found Simply Bathrooms on Instagram and really liked their projects. They came around to measure up and got what we wanted from the layout in their first design, which was brilliant.'



'The glass screen, low-profile shower tray and glossy teal tiles have given the shower a luxe, wet room feel,' says Sanu.

Minoli's Luminous Lume blue wall tiles; Flair Showers walk-in 900mm screen, both Simply Bathrooms



'Recessing the bath into the boxed-out wall created more floor space,' says Sanu. 'The shelving niches are a neat way to keep toiletries to hand.'

JTP VOS matt black **shower mixer kit** and **bath taps**. For similar terrazzo **wall tiles**, try Tile Mountain



'The vanity is a bespoke piece and an investment, but it's easy to repaint, so it will last.'

Saneaux Matteo **countertop basin**; bespoke two-drawer **vanity** with Silestone top; JTP VOS matt black **basin tap**; Saneaux Uni **wall-hung WC**; Ca' Pietra's Piazza Porcelain Geo Pearl **floor tiles**; all Simply Bathrooms. Marcel Swinging Monkey **light**, IP44 rated, Dowsing & Reynolds

STEP 3

PROBLEM SOLVING

'Simply Bathrooms suggested having a narrow box along the window wall to conceal the pipework and an ultra-slim WC, which I really like. This allowed for a low niche shelf with lighting next to the vanity – these extra touches make the bathroom feel like a properly designed room. The shower had one place it could go so it wouldn't clash with the windows or door, and the bath was placed opposite. We were a bit disappointed not to have a freestanding tub, but the back-to-wall style with the curved front gave us a similar look. The decision meant we saved space and money, just as we've done by having a low-profile shower tray and single glass screen, which still has the feel of a more expensive wet room.'

STEP 4

ADDING STYLE AND COLOUR

'Bold terrazzo tiles were my starting point after falling in love with pictures on Instagram. We looked at different ideas to work out how much to have without overpowering the room. Large format tiles on the floor and up the walls draw the eye and make the space feel bigger. The pattern colours became the base palette leading to the teal shower tiles and mustard vanity, which is painted in Farrow & Ball's India Yellow as yellow is my son's favourite colour. It adds a fun feel to the room. The black shower and taps were an easy decision, but Kyp and I weren't sure about Farrow & Ball's Blue Gray on the walls – now we think it looks lovely and balances out the room.'

STEP 5

BRINGING THE PROJECT TOGETHER

'Simply Bathrooms helped keep costs down by suggesting alternative tiles and reducing tiling behind the basin instead of doing the whole wall. Interestingly, I was disappointed we couldn't afford a concealed shower, but now I don't even notice! We only had one small issue during the fit-out – the door swing was too close to the bath. Again, Simply Bathrooms advised recessing the bath into the boxed-out wall and swapped our taps over for wall-mounted fittings. The quality of our builders' work was great, especially the precision of the tiling. The children love the bathroom and we do, too. It's got a fabulous high-end finish, and the monkey light is my favourite feature.'

COSTS & CONTACTS

Labour £6,000
Basin & vanity £2,000
Shower £1,360
Tiles £1,200
Bath £680
Taps £650
WC £500

Bathroom supplier
Simply Bathrooms (Surrey),
simplybathrooms Ltd.co.uk
Builder Radek Jablonski
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