

TWO FOR ONE

'This radiator is stylish and also handy because it doubles as a towel rail'

**COME ON IN!**

ABOUT ME I'm Becky Stevenson, 35, and I live with my husband Jim, 34, and children Molly, three, and Bertie, one, in a three-bedroom Thirties semi in south London. We moved here in September 2017.

MY CHALLENGE Dark panelling and tiled walls made the bathroom feel dark and oppressive and much smaller than it was. The room was badly laid out and I wanted to move the shower, but I wasn't sure if I could make it work without the room feeling enclosed.

MY WISH LIST We wanted to create a stylish bathroom that was practical for the children, and would be a relaxing place for me to have a bath. A walk-in shower was top of our must-have list.

'I've discovered I LOVE COLOUR!'

Buy it
Shop Becky's modern classic look
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After years of neutral decor, a new home inspired Becky to experiment with colour and pattern in her bathrooms

We needed a house with more space,' says Becky. 'Although this place was dated, it was just about liveable and in our budget – not easy to find in London. My husband Jim and I updated the fuse board first of all, and managed with the old water tank heating system.

We were planning to start with a new kitchen, but when the shower started to leak on our first weekend here, we decided to put that project on hold and focus on the bathroom.

Our bathroom was a good size, but the boxy shower cubicle and hot water tank cupboard encroached into the space. Making the room function better was our priority, and gave us the perfect excuse to update the heating system and install a new combi boiler in the kitchen.

We also wanted a bigger walk-in shower, so I began researching showers, looking for a cubicle size and shape that wouldn't feel bulky. The curved design we chose is perfect as it's narrow at the back and widest at the front where you need the space most. When the shower tray first went in, it seemed so small, but the cubicle came together once the glass panels had been fitted.

Design decisions

We'd decorated our old flat in shades of grey, knowing neutrals would help us sell it later on. This time, I wanted to play around with colour. When I spotted some teal crackle metro tiles, I surprised myself by making them the focus of the room. I also went for black, star-patterned floor tiles. Choosing the painted grey bathroom suite was easy, as I wanted a traditional scheme to suit the age of the house.

We had a rocky journey with the fit-out, which was frustrating because I like >>

**IDEA TO STEAL**

'Electric underfloor heating operates on a separate timer and is fantastic for keeping the kids warm after their bath'

SPACE QUEST

'Having replanned the layout, we were so pleased to be able to fit in a bath and a shower'

TOTAL
£3,045
TURN OVER FOR
MY SHOPPING
LIST



SEE THROUGH
 'I thought about building a shower with solid walls but the frameless glass is essential in here as it gives the illusion of space'

Do it!
PATTERNED FLOORING

- * As well as encaustic, ceramic or cement flooring, try vinyl sheets or tiles, a hard-wearing option that's softer and warmer underfoot.
- * A ready-made set of patchwork tiles can help create a relaxed but varied pattern guaranteed to work together in colour and style.
- * Play around with layouts of modern, geo or circular shapes to create a unique pattern.
- * A bold design works well in plain hues, whether in white or an accent colour from the tile.
- * If you're choosing a large-scale pattern on the floor, go for a smaller-scale pattern on the wall, and vice versa.
- * Monochromatic shades of grey or black and white will go with vibrant wall colours and match almost any scheme.
- * You don't have to cover the whole floor with pattern - tile the middle section of the room, just the edges or use them around a washbasin or freestanding bath.

IDEA TO STEAL
 'A walk-in shower works well for young children who can step (or crawl) in and out with ease'

PRACTICAL AND PRETTY

'I love the pattern of the floor tiles and the worn, weathered finish, which works well in a busy family bathroom'



» to be hands-on but I couldn't get stuck in, with the children being so young. We went away in for a week and the plumber promised we'd come home to a working toilet and bath. But when we returned, the bath wasn't ready and the project dragged on for another month. Then the shower leaked because the sealant wasn't finished properly. We also had a problem with a split bath panel and the shower valve broke, but both were replaced.

Styling the room

With the problems ironed out, I started styling the room. I made the stained glass

on the window ledge during a course Jim bought for my birthday. Next to this, I've hung three decorative fish we bought from an artist in Cornwall on the weekend we visited to write our wedding vows, and I fitted the reclaimed scaffolding board shelves to chunky metal brackets. I'm really pleased with the bold colour scheme. We've really got into blues now and not only have I painted the joinery on the stairs and landing blue, but I plan to use it in the guest bedroom, too!



SHELF STYLE

'Hanging these shelves at the end of the bath means they don't get in the way'

Why it works



STYLE AT HOME SAYS...

'Becky has balanced out the strong colour with areas of white, and soft grey.'
 FEATURES EDITOR
 Holly Walsh

'IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BUY FROM A PARTICULAR SHOP, SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ITS NEWSLETTERS - WE WERE SENT A DISCOUNT CODE WE THEN USED TO BUY OUR TILES'



COLOUR CARE

'I didn't want a top-heavy look or for the room to feel enclosed, so I painted the walls above the teal tiles white for contrast'



RETRO REVIVAL

'The original Art Deco handle looks amazing since we stripped the white gloss paint off'

Where to buy Becky's style

- Winchester dual-valve **rain shower**, £299; Clarity steel **bath** with handle clips, £169; Winchester bath shower **mixer tap**, £99.99; Camberley satin grey wooden **bath panel pack**, £179; Camberley satin grey **vanity with basin**, £279; Winchester basin **mixer tap**, £44.99; Camberley satin grey wall-hung **mirrored cabinet**, £119; Camberley low-level **toilet** with grey soft-close seat, £319; Dulwich black traditional **towel radiator**, £279; all The Bath Company range at Victoria Plum. Excellence easy-clean glass walk-in **shower enclosure** with right-hand tray, £175; Royal Bathrooms. Scintilla black patterned **floor tiles**, £25.95sq m; Jourdain green crackle metro **wall tiles**, £39.95sq m, both Walls and Floors. Underfloor **heating**, £126. The Underfloor Heating Store. Splash Samaki fish aqua **roller blind**, £91. Blinds2Go. Rustic wooden **shelves** with black brackets, £88, Etsy. Green and gold **candle pot**, £10, Sainsbury's Home. Black and white **plant pot**, from £8.99; green herringbone **towel**, £12.99; **face cloth**, £4.99, all H&M Home



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