

# 'It's a luxurious look ON A BUDGET'

Inspired by the glamorous interiors at a Dubai hotel, Kopal Jaitly turned her bland bathroom into something special

## COME ON IN!



**ABOUT ME** I'm Kopal Jaitly, 36, a fashion influencer, photographer and stylist (you can find me at @pinklondonhome and @petite\_and\_curvy). I live with my husband, Manav, 39, a director of revenue at a large hotel. We moved to our four-bedroom 1930s semi in Harrow, London, in October 2019.

**OUR CHALLENGE** The previous owners had given the bathroom a cosmetic refresh and although everything looked white and clean, it lacked character, with outdated fittings, plus it had poor water pressure.

**MY WISH LIST** I wanted more storage and a big mirror, and I absolutely love the look of gold finishes with marble. Bold patterns are very 'me', although I didn't go too crazy in here as the space needed to feel calm and serene.

**M**anav and I moved from our previous terraced house as we wanted more space for our visiting family from India, who often stay for a month at a time,' says Kopal.

'On the surface, this semi-detached house looked fine as all the rooms had been decorated white, but after we moved in, we discovered it wasn't in such great condition. We were a little naïve! We'd lived in a new-build before and had no renovation experience, so didn't know the warning signs to look out for.

## Starting out

We discovered both bathrooms had poor water pressure – something we hadn't noticed when doing the viewings as it hadn't occurred to us to turn on the taps. The problem was down to narrow pipes and the water tank in the loft, and although we decided to make do at the time as I wanted to tackle the kitchen first, when the bath began to leak in May 2021, we were forced to make the bathroom our priority.

First, we replaced the pipes and installed a powerful Megaflo heating system to improve the water pressure. Then we had a DIY shop design our floorplan, as we wanted to work with a company who could manage the installation, too. Manav was keen to have a separate shower and although the DIY shop managed to fit everything into the layout, the design looked like it would feel cramped and their quote was expensive.

## Choosing the look

I knew that I wanted the bathroom to be a luxurious space. Manav and I had been to Dubai and treated ourselves by staying at the Versace Hotel where we had a beautiful

marble and gold bathroom. I loved the combination – I grew up with a marble bathroom, which is popular in India, and I was adamant I wanted gold or brass fittings. However, to buy and fit marble was out of our budget.

## A lucky find

Thankfully, when I'd been looking for tiles for our en suite, I came across this striking marble-effect porcelain tile in a local bathroom shop. I knew instantly the gold vein would look perfect with gold fittings. As we looked around, we were surprised to find the shop was competitively priced compared to bathrooms online – and they gave us a 15-30 per cent discount. A neighbour recommended a tradesperson who could fit the whole bathroom. I'd >>



## SPA STYLE

'I've now got the luxurious bathroom I always wanted – it's my sanctuary!'



## IDEA TO STEAL

A folding shower screen resolved the problem with the edge of the bath running up to the window

## SLEEK FINISH

'Using the marble-effect tiles up to the ceiling and along the bath gives a seamless look'

**TOTAL**  
**£3,275**  
**TURN OVER FOR**  
**MY SHOPPING**  
**LIST**



## FINISHING DETAILS

'I saw the gold tile trim on Instagram and loved it. Polished gold with a box square edge brings the room to life'

## IDEA TO STEAL

Kopal viewed the brushed brass fittings in the showroom to check they all had the same tone

## Do it! GET THE LUXE LOOK

- ★ Rich, elegant jewel tones of navy, emerald and mustard are perfect colours for showing off gold or brass fittings.
- ★ Play with marble effects by mixing squares, mosaics and herringbone tiles.
- ★ Edge tiles in gold trim. Profiles come in L-shape, quadrant, box and triangle with polished, brushed and mirror finishes.
- ★ Choose fittings in gold or brass and opt for polished finishes for a bright, shiny and reflective look. Kopal chose the warm, matt look of brushed brass.
- ★ Accessorise with plush towels, gold plant pots and candlesticks.

» been a little nervous about the tiling, but he proved himself in the en suite so we felt confident he'd do a great job. The work on the bathroom took about three weeks and included moving the shower head higher up, as we'd forgotten to measure the height properly and Manav, who's tall, couldn't fit underneath. Then, a few days after everything was finished, a faulty pipe connection caused water to come through the hallway ceiling under the bathroom! It was unfortunate but we took it in our stride. Luckily, it was possible to repair the leak from below, so we didn't disturb the new tiled floor.

Since the bath ran up to the window, there was nowhere to install a rigid glass shower screen. My solution was a folding

design that we fixed to the wall, although I was disappointed I couldn't find one with a gold trim. In fact, they were almost all chrome and it took a while to find one in white. I also considered a gold basin, but online reviews said they're not easy to maintain and don't last long.

## Finishing touches

I'm really pleased with the mirror above the vanity, which runs all the way up to the ceiling, as it adds the touch of glamour I really wanted. I've also got my eye on the Versace Medusa Head wallpaper in gold, which I might put up next. Marble and gold together have such a lovely luxurious, relaxing feel – the bathroom is my own little sanctuary.

## CONSIDERED CHOICES

'The wall-hung toilet shows-off more of the white glitter floor'



## Where to buy Kopal's style

Meridian acrylic **bath**, 1700x700mm, £369; pop-up brushed brass **waste**, £69.30; all brushed brass from the JTP Vos range: bath spout **tap**, £84; concealed three-way **shower valve**, £469.32; **shower kit**, £111.30; **shower head**, £139.30; **shower arm**, £63; wall-mounted basin **mixer**, £237.35; toilet **flush plate**, £74.25; douche **hose**, £196; **toilet roll holder**, £34.70; tumbler **holder**, £34.70. Emily gloss white wall-mounted two-drawer **vanity** and Hudson Reed rectangular **basin**, £377.52; white gloss **worktop**, £54; Madrid brushed brass **handles**, £64 for a pair; wall-hung **toilet** and frame, £546; soft close **seat**, £21.75, all

from Olympic Plumbing & Bathrooms. Nosta Carrara marble-effect **tiles**, 600x600mm are similar, £34.68sq m; Revive brass bathroom **chandelier** is similar, £319.99, both Victorian Plumbing. Matt white **tiles**, 59.6x59.6cm, £54.14sq m, Porcelanosa. Similar **towel rail**, Harbour Status flat-heated in brushed brass, 900x500mm, £179.99, Drench. Polished gold box square edge **trim**, £99.99 for a pack of 10, Vroma Trims. Bespoke **mirror**, £200, Mirror Fit. Macrame **mirror** with shelf, £34.50, Oliver Bonas. For a similar **plant stand**, try the round gold design, £29.95, Melody Maison. Gold metal **candlestick** is similar, £8.99, H&M.

'A MADE-TO-MEASURE SHEET OF MIRROR GLASS FITTED RIGHT UP TO THE CEILING MAKES THE ROOM LOOK BIGGER AND MORE LUXURIOUS'



## STORAGE SOLUTIONS

'Moving the basin away from the window meant I could fit in a wider vanity with deep drawers and a mirror above'