



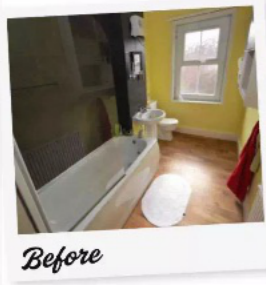
**INSIDER INFO**

**THE HOMEOWNER** I'm Nicola Williams, an account manager, 31, and I live here with my partner, Shaun Brennan, a carpenter, 34, and our son, Cavan, 15 months. Our second child is due in April.

**THE HOUSE** A two-bedroom Victorian terrace in Leicester. We moved here in October 2015. I share my renovation updates on Instagram @\_backtobrick\_

**THE PROBLEM** Everything was on one side of the room with a basin against the chimney breast, so it felt cramped despite being a big space. The suite was dated and the walls were yellow and had holes in them where the previous owners had hung mirrors and cupboards.

**THE SOLUTION** We reworked the layout to fit a bath in front of the window, inspired by a luxurious free-standing one that I saw on Instagram. We took out the chimney breast and moved the plumbing for the toilet and the basin, and found a 1,500mm-long bath to fit the narrow room.



Before

**STREAMLINED SCANDI** Sticking with her love of minimal, clean lines, Nicola opted for sleek chrome hardware set against geometric shapes

# 'The new layout looks more balanced and has real wow factor'

A meticulously planned layout change meant **Nicola Williams** could fit the free-standing bath she wanted in her Scandi-chic bathroom, as well as a practical shower

This two-bedroom terrace is Nicola and Shaun's first home together. They had plans to open up the downstairs layout as soon as they moved in, but wanted to change the dated upstairs bathroom too. 'We loved the space, but the main problem was the access through the guest bedroom at the back of the house,' Nicola explains. 'The suite also looked really tired, but fortunately it was functional, so we didn't rush to make this project a priority.'

Nicola and Shaun lived with the bathroom for four years while they renovated the rest of the house. During this time, Shaun worked out they could afford to lose some space in the spare bedroom to create a corridor leading to the bathroom. He built the stud walls and then, towards the end of 2019, the couple began preparing for the project.

'We'd spent so long waiting to start we knew exactly what we wanted,' says Nicola.

**WARMTH WITH WOOD** The engineered oak floor and oak shelf – an off-cut from the couple's kitchen worktop – warm up the all-white scheme



'As the room is long and narrow, we took out the chimney breast and changed the layout to create a much better flow through the room. I wanted a shower, but also a free-standing bath beneath the window.'

At first, Nicola didn't think both would be possible, but Shaun found a solution. He placed the bath on a plinth and fitted a

walk-in shower in front. 'Shaun spent ages planning and measuring,' says Nicola. 'I was also keen on a wall-hung toilet and wall-hung taps, and he worked out there was enough space to build a stud wall to hide the plumbing.' Shaun added his own essential accessory too: bathroom speakers. 'I wasn't sold on the idea of built-in audio, but Shaun was keen,' says Nicola. 'Now, I love putting on a chilled playlist.'

Nicola loves the minimalist, Scandi look, so she stuck to a white palette with a touch of wood. 'Our bathroom has turned out exactly as we wanted and that's down to Shaun's planning,' Nicola says. 'It feels bigger, lighter and more open – we love it.'



**ELEVATE THE LOOK** Placing the bath on a tiled plinth brings a luxury feel to the room and is also a practical way to cover the pipework



**FORM AND FUNCTION** The couple added a recessed shelf into a wall that cleverly hides the tap and shower pipes. Shaun finished it with white Corian for a sleek look

**HIGH END, LOW SPEND** The couple recreated an expensive wet-room look with an enclosed space incorporating both bath and shower

**SHOPPING LIST**

For a similar bath try **Affine Montbel free-standing bath 1,700mm**, £1,349, Plumbworld. **Crosswater Simpsons 1,600 x 800 x 25mm stone resin shower tray**, £336; for a similar shower head try **Crosswater Fusion 250mm**, £52.45; for a similar toilet try **Nuie Solace back-to-wall toilet**, £189.95; **Geberit Sigma01 Gloss Chrome dual flush plate**, £65, all Victorian Plumbing. **Aquadart shower screen**, £165, UK Bathroom Store. **Countertop Trieste basin value range**, 45 x 36cm, £249, ClickBasin. **Gladstone wall-mounted bath mixer**, £72; **Gladstone wall-mounted basin mixer**, £52, both Platinum Taps and Bathrooms. **Hexagonal matt white tiles**, 32 x 28cm, £3.29 per sheet; **Metro brick gloss white**, £10 per sq m, both Tiles Direct. **The Heating Co Santa Fe traditional radiator**, 952 x 659mm, £159, Victoria Plum. **Moduleo Midland Oak flooring**, £40 per sq m, Best4Flooring. **iStar wireless compact ceiling speaker**, £100, Screwfix. **Black Tamworth accent mirror**, £62, Wayfair

**TOTAL COST: £2,350**