

| BATHROOM PROJECT |

A natural oasis

HONEYED TERRAZZO AND GREENERY - PLUS AN UP-AND-OVER WINDOW - CONNECT BEN AND GABY'S BATHROOM TO THE GARDEN

'I've loved terrazzo since I was a kid and I didn't want a print, but real stone flecks running through the whole tile,' says Ben. 'I was able to cut and create a smooth polished edge that doesn't need a trim.'

Terrazzo Nouveau matt porcelain tiles in Ivory, from £63.60sq m, Mandarin Stone

HOME NOTES

WHO LIVES HERE?

Ben Hillman, his wife Gaby and their two young children.

THE PROJECT

Gutting a small bathroom and knocking through to the adjoining shower room in a 1930s semi-detached house in West Sussex

TOTAL COST

£8,000

BELOW 'I was looking for an interesting wood vanity and thought the fluted style was perfect for the girls,' says Ben. 'Curves nod to Art Deco and hint at the age of the house and steered my decision to curve the edges of the terrazzo splashback.' Regent curved vanity unit 1200mm in Velvet Beige oak, £1,397; Luxe wall-mounted basin mixer tap V1 in Matt Black, £237, both Lusso. Irena oval backlit heated mirror 800, £119.97, Better Bathrooms



Ben's ideas came together beautifully in the family bathroom

Ben and Gaby Hillman bought their house nine years ago with plans to gut the rooms and extend.

One of the projects was to tackle the family bathroom but the job went on the backburner when building work costs overran. Six months ago the bathroom update came back on the agenda.

'We'd somehow hobbled through with the old bathroom for years,' says Ben, a presenter on Channel 4's *A Place in the Sun* and an interior designer from ITV's *60 Minute Makeover* (@benhillmantv). 'The main issue was lack of space and light. But what bothered me most was opening the door and being faced with a blank wall – the dream was to see right through to the garden.'

The update got going when Ben and Gaby began converting the loft above. As part of the project, Ben designed 3D drawings for the new 2.4x3m family bathroom layout, made bigger by extending into the adjacent shower room. The doorway was moved back onto the landing, an up and over window added above a bath, and a walk-in shower placed on the old shower room footprint.

'We briefly considered an open wet room by tucking the WC into the old shower void,' says Ben. 'But it wasn't really practical in a kids' bathroom.'

Builders gutted the spaces, knocked through, blocked up the side windows, built new internal walls and fitted new windows. A plumber and electrician came on board and Ben used his DIY skills to level the floor, lay underfloor heating and do the tiling. Although terrazzo has experienced a revival in recent years, Ben says the pretty stone had made an impact on him long before.

'I remember being fascinated by a seamless terrazzo staircase in a shop when I was a kid,' he says. 'As my aim was to create a lasting bathroom scheme in a palette with a relationship to the garden, terrazzo with honey brown flecks was perfect as it's timeless and natural.' A fluted oak vanity and a tactile oak window reveal followed, bringing warmth and texture while leafy plants thrive in the light and warmth.

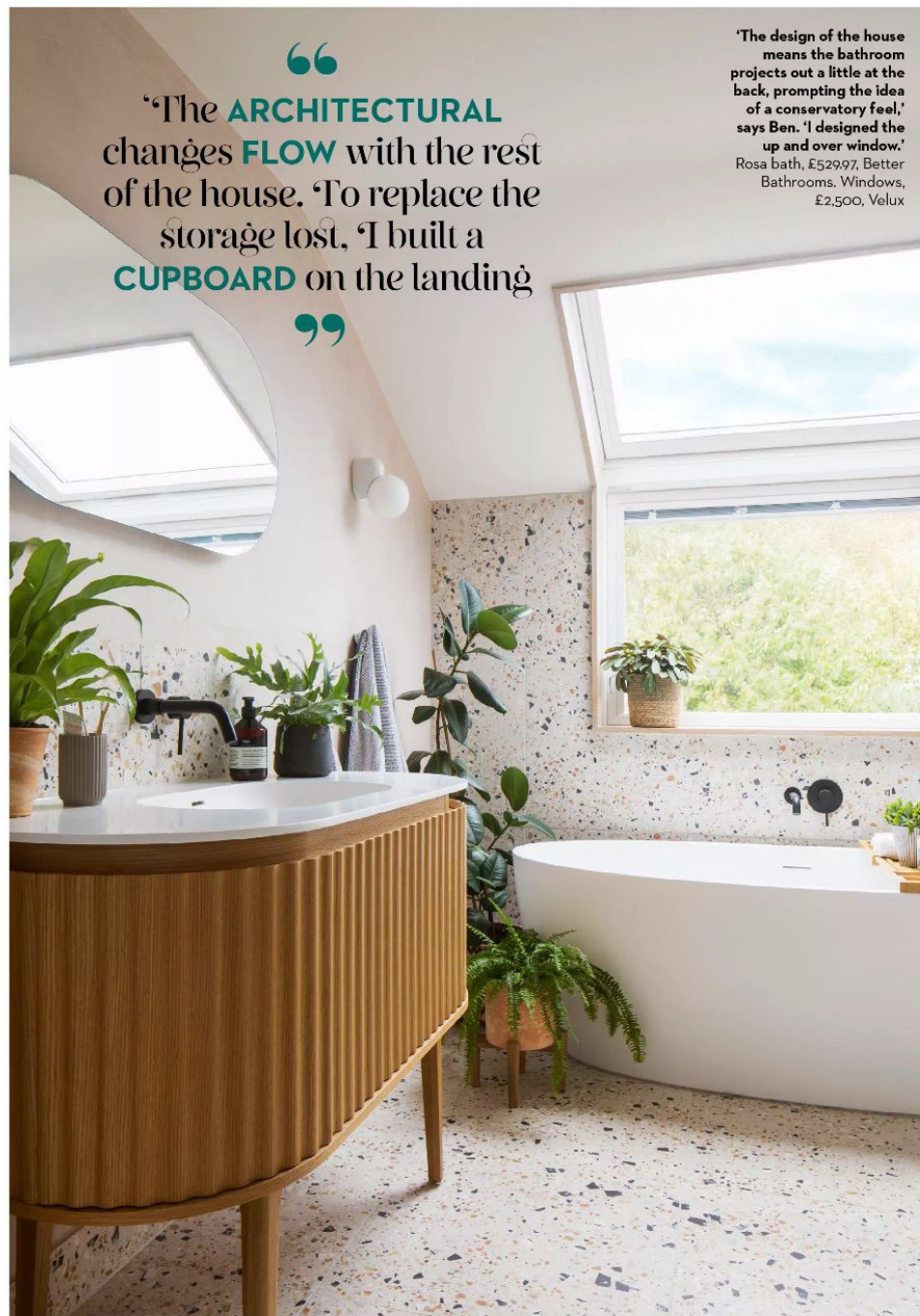
'The whole window wall and the view out is my favourite feature,' says Ben. 'The reality is even better than my ideas.'

'The shower is in almost the same place as when it was a separate room,' says Ben. 'I brought the tiled wall out to conceal the pipework.' Infinity stone shower tray 900x1500mm, £597; Luxe shower set in Matt Black, £497, both Lusso



HANG IT UP Hooks keep towels and accessories in reach of the shower

“I found a **DRAWING** I'd done of the **LAYOUT** when we moved in and it was still **EXACTLY** how I wanted the bathroom to look”



“The **ARCHITECTURAL** changes **FLOW** with the rest of the house. To replace the storage lost, I built a **CUPBOARD** on the landing

'The design of the house means the bathroom projects out a little at the back, prompting the idea of a conservatory feel,' says Ben. 'I designed the up and over window.' Rosa bath, £529.97, Better Bathrooms. Windows, £2,500, Velux



ABOVE Real terrazzo and bare plaster walls ground the room, and wood adds a natural touch, while a variety of plants forge a link to the garden. 'I made the oak reveal as it was an opportunity to add another natural material to the room and I'm really pleased with the detail,' says Ben. Lyra wall light in Gloss Glaze White, £90, Astro Lighting

RIGHT 'A plain white rectangular tile doesn't compete with the terrazzo and the structured vertical arrangement makes a pleasing contrast with the random stone flecks,' says Ben. Linear gloss tiles in White, £26sq m, Topps Tiles



RENOVATION

STAND OUT STYLE
Terrazzo tile in Beige, £25sq m, Porcelain Superstore

LUXE DESIGN
Deuce marble opal glass bathroom wall light IP44, £154.80, Dår Lighting

GRAPHIC LOOK
Apex Matt Black shower pack, £429.99, Sanctuary Bathrooms

STYLE MUST-HAVES
BE INSPIRED BY BEN AND GABY'S BATHROOM

PLASTER PINK
Pointe Silk wall paint, £55.95 for 2.5ltr, Annie Sloan



FLUTED TEXTURE
Linea Curve 900 unit, £578, Scudo Bathrooms



SOFT CURVES
Note double-ended bath 1700, £1,710, Roper Rhodes