

'Our indulgent new ensuite is my happy place'

Shimmering pink walls and a rolltop bath ensure this space feels relaxing and luxurious

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Vix Brenninkmeijer, an interior stylist at Vixstarella and radio presenter, lives with her husband Don and their four children in a five-bedroom Arts & Crafts house in Surrey



Before

'Our ensuite sits in the roof space above the kitchen in an extended part of the house and had an awkward layout, as one side of the eaves sloped down to the floor'



SYMMETRY

The round mirrors echo the basins and the curve of the countertop on the bespoke vanity



SHOWER ENCLOSURE

A black frame ties in with the Crittall-style windows

Why did you update the ensuite? The project was part of our whole house renovation. After years renting as expats in Mexico, China, Brazil and Germany, this was the first house we'd owned and it gave us the chance to bring together everything we'd bought when we were abroad.

What were your ideas for the room?

I'd always dreamed of having a freestanding bath with a chandelier above, but it was the bathrooms at Annabel's nightclub in London that caught my eye. The interiors are by Swedish designer Martin Brudnizki, who's a maximalist like me. I love the scalloped floor tiles, leopard-print velvet walls and dusty-pink decoration and wanted to recreate that eclectic, feminine feel.

How did you plan the layout?

When Jo Calver at Isla James Interiors suggested we construct an internal wall to hide the eaves and square off the room, I was against losing the space. But, as she pointed out, tucking a bath under the eaves would be impractical as I'd keep banging my head. Of course, she was right, as once the wall went up, the room became symmetrical. That meant the bath

could be the main focus next to the window, and we had somewhere to position our double vanity and mirrors, with eaves storage accessed through a small door.

You used tadelakt on the walls...

Yes – I was inspired by seeing it on Instagram in designer Abigail Ahern's bathroom. It's a traditional Moroccan waterproof plaster and has a gorgeous textured sheen that glimmers in the light. I chose a soft pink – similar to Farrow & Ball's Setting Plaster – as it has a warm, flattering glow that's exactly what you need in a bathroom.

Are there any influences from your time abroad?

One or two. The cupboard is from Shanghai, and since a pair of pineapples is a sign of hospitality in Brazil, I've included them all around our home; even the wall lights above the vanity are pineapple shaped!

Your favourite element?

The bath area is a mash-up of earthy Mexican-style tiles, a glamorous chandelier and the soft sheen of the tadelakt. I don't know if it should work, but it does for me! This is a retreat, where I can escape the craziness of family life – I adore it.

OUR SOURCEBOOK Interior design, vixstarella.com; Burlington Admiral bath, justbaths.co.uk. For a similar Calder shower kit and basin taps, try castironbath.co.uk. For a similar Arrezzo shower screen, try victorianplumbing.co.uk. **WC**, burlingtonbathrooms.com; **Vanity**, rolandwoodward.co.uk; For similar tadelakt walls, tadelakt.co.uk; **Scintilla tiles**, walsandfloors.co.uk; **Lighting design**, isla-jamesinteriors.com; **Chandelier**, pooky.com; **Elstead wall lights**, castlegatelights.co.uk; **Mirrors**, coxandcox.co.uk

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

'I'm glad I listened to advice about squaring off the room, as it has given us a much more usable space than we had before'

CHANDELIER

A love of disco balls drew Vix to the chandelier's spherical shape – it's on a dimmer switch so the effect can be changed

WALLS

Soft pink tadelakt – a traditional Moroccan waterproof plaster – adds a warm feel

TILES

The raised plinth, which conceals the pipework, is covered in a striking design that makes the bath the focus of the room

WHAT WE SPENT

- BATH £1,762
- SHOWER KIT £1,195
- BASIN TAPS £575
- SHOWER SCREEN £300
- WC £370
- VANITY £2,250
- TADELAKT £3,500
- TILES £180
- CHANDELIER £640
- WALL LIGHTS £246
- MIRRORS £350
- TOTAL £11,368