

DESIGN MASTERCLASS

GDM grilled the experts behind four inspiring real-home schemes to bring you top ideas for your latest bathroom project *Words Linda Parker*

FACT FILE

Total cost A similar bathroom would be around £15,000

Interior designer Suna Interior Design (020 8544 9350; sunainteriorsdesign.com)

Key buys Igloo WC, £397, No Code (nocode.co.uk). Corian basin, from £250 per sqm. Wall-mounted drawer unit, price on application, Alape (02476 717 129; alape.com). Taps, shower valves and mixers, £840, Vado (01934 744 466 vado-uk.com). Shower tray, £334, Vitra (01235 750 990; uk.vitra.com.tr). Illuminated showerhead, £1,300, Crosswater (0845 873 8840; crosswater.co.uk). Vigo frameless glass shower panels, £900 each, Majestic (01273 413 300; majesticbathrooms.co.uk). Stone-effect wall and floor tiles in grey, £39.50 per sqm; Floreana tiles (in shower), £55 per sqm, both Colchester Tile (01206 849 393; colchestertile.com)

'Spend money on feature items like taps and basins'

This scheme is one of 140 bathrooms and en suites designed by Suna Interior Design for a development in Clerkenwell, London. Designers Rebecca Tucker and Helen Fewster were given the task of creating a look that would work across every bathroom within the complex, although each one is slightly different. 'We ended up designing bespoke-standard items that would work across all the bathrooms,' says Rebecca. 'For example, we worked up a design for the basin and storage and had it made to fit every space; in this way we know that each bathroom has a unique product.'

Economies of scale dictated that each space should be straightforward to fit out, so the team had standard products made to fit each room. However, they have successfully achieved a look that can be replicated in more or less any bathroom or en suite. The challenge was to make each feel bespoke, which was achieved by the luxurious materials used and included a Corian basin and integrated countertop. 'Front-mounted tap controls were really successful, making the scheme look unique, and we also used lots of mirrors to enhance the feeling of space and to create the impression of a floating basin and drawer unit,' says Rebecca.

When creating the bathroom scheme, the team was always mindful of storage. 'We find it incredible that some bathrooms are designed without anywhere to put the toilet rolls and shampoo,' says Rebecca. 'Spend money wisely on feature items like taps and basins, tiling or a beautiful mirror. It's possible to make savings on things like the WC and floor tiles,' she says. 'Don't tile all the walls; leave some room for paint, so you can easily change the colour if you want to refresh the design.' →