

# The ENGLISH HOME

*Celebrating the essence of English style*

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BATHROOM  
INSPIRATION

## Modern Classic

Creating the perfect blend of period and contemporary style

### Elegant effects

- Handblocked fabrics
- Sophisticated lighting
- New coral hues

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Insights from  
the design legend

### Beautiful bathrooms

Dreamy looks  
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Specialist resources

## SENSE OF HARMONY

Using subtle symmetry for interiors that feel balanced and calm



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# *Sweet* SANCTUARY

Bathroom experts offer their advice for achieving a functional yet elegant and tranquil space to suit every need





**RIGHT** This elegant en-suite bathroom combines modern and classic ingredients, such as a period-style bath with a chic washstand. Hoxton Satin Walnut basin, £2,255; Greenwich Boat bath, from £4,651.20; Arc bath/shower mixer, £1,160.40, all CP Hart

**BELOW** This free-standing bath is positioned facing the window to make the most of the view. Bath, £2,999; tiles, Palace Carrara, £105 a square metre; taps Axor Massaud bath/shower mixer, £2,868, all from Ripples

**OPPOSITE** The use of marble and mirrors combine to glamorous effect in this room. Double vanity basins, Hebden with Arabescato marble, £6,540, Drummonds



## DESIGN INSIGHTS FOR AN EN SUITE

Dan Cook, designer, CP Hart

"A great approach to achieve flow between a bedroom and an en-suite bathroom is to

work with the walls and finishes. Using the same colour on the walls in the bedroom and the bathroom will help with the flow.

This is also true of woodwork for furniture units and metal fixtures and fittings. An often overlooked element when planning a bathroom is the lighting, which is key to achieving a visual flow. Work with similar light fittings and colour-temperature lamps between the bedroom and the bathroom. Mirrors will help to enhance what natural light there may already be.

When considering an en suite, it is important to think about the privacy between the two spaces. Soundproofing involves a more sectioned approach to design and layout, such as building a steam room or enclosing the lavatory. Using tiled-on stud walls is perhaps the most effective method of soundproofing, but it will certainly make the room feel more enclosed and smaller. It might be preferable to install glass partitions with etched vanity sections or even fully sandblasted opaque panels, to provide privacy and still keep an open feeling."



## WHERE TO LOCATE A FREESTANDING BATH

Lisa Hammond, owner, Ripples, Solihull

"A free-standing bath creates a perfect focal

point in a bathroom. It is an ideal feature piece as one walks in. I like to position a beautiful bath under a window if possible – especially if there are gorgeous views to be appreciated.

A free-standing bath ideally needs space around it. The amount of space depends on the design and size of the bathroom, but if there is room, free-standing taps look stunning and styles range from simple spouts to options with shower attachments. If a free-standing bath is positioned close to a wall then wall-mounted taps may be a better option.

I would advise thinking about leaving space around the bath for cleaning, to try not to position it between three walls with little circulation space. It is also worth considering investing in a small table or stool to have next to the bath for resting a glass of wine on for the perfect relaxation experience." ▶





**ABOVE** This Mark Wilkinson design features Milan furniture in maple. A similar scheme would cost from £20,000.

**RIGHT** Maintain the same materials and finishes throughout for a sleek, seamless approach. Bespoke hand-painted bathroom, from £19,000, Smallbone of Devizes



### FULLY FITTED DESIGNS

Mark Wilkinson OBE, designer,  
Mark Wilkinson Furniture

"A fully fitted bathroom offering all the facilities required in our modern homes can look absolutely beautiful, no matter the architectural challenges. The first consideration when designing a fully fitted bathroom has to be access to the plumbing, should that ever become necessary, so ease of removal of the bath panel is a main consideration.

A pull-out drawer under the washbasin is great for making any stored items easily accessible, and if this can be removed in one piece, then access to wastes and water supply for the taps is maximised and very simple to achieve. Unlike in a kitchen, there is no need to worry about reducing cabinet depths as there is very little surface work taking place, so cabinets of 300mm or even 200mm in depth are perfectly OK – and sometimes better – for storing smaller items such as shaving creams, bathing gels, shampoos and deodorants.

Fitted cabinets can make a bathroom look superb, especially if it is open to a bedroom, walk-in wardrobe or changing room. Break-fronted cabinets can also discreetly shield the loo.

To ensure the furniture retains its look, use an appropriate paint finish or, on woods, a moisture-tolerant lacquer. Marble and granite are the perfect materials for setting a bath into and for cladding walls and showers.

A complete room design, including entrance door, flooring, lighting and heating, should all be co-ordinated to create a perfectly fitted bathroom."



### ZONING THE LAYOUT

Drummond Shaw,  
chairman, Drummonds

"Whatever the size of the bathroom, the key to getting it right is good planning. With a large space, there is more choice about where to position all the elements and room to incorporate every conceivable luxury.

There are some simple guidelines for a dream layout. Generally, aim to position the bath to take advantage of the best possible views. Likewise, the ideal position for the lavatory is somewhere where it will not dominate the room – but will be easy to get to when 'sleepwalking' across the room at night. The shower needs its own space, with an area for drying off next to it and heated towel rails close by. Double basins are another must-have if the space is available.

With smaller bathrooms, there are always hard choices about what can fit in. This may mean positioning a shower over the bath or replacing a bath with a shower enclosure. Make sure that every distinct function has enough elbow room and consider false walls to divide space up or create storage.

Lighting is very important and should be controllable. Plan a system with different ambient settings to match the mood and, always, excellent close-up lighting for basin mirrors."







### CREATING A SLEEK & CHIC BATHROOM

Andrew Hays, creative director,  
Smallbone of Devizes

"To transform the bathroom  
into a chic and calming

sanctuary, use bespoke fitted cabinetry,  
tailored to work with the family's lifestyle.

Streamline a space with hand-crafted storage  
that conceals unsightly bathroom essentials and  
keeps the sight line clutter-free. Choose fitted  
furniture inspired by neo-classical architecture  
and pair with contemporary accents to create  
a timeless scheme with an enduring simplicity.

A neutral colour palette used throughout  
the room will unite the space and make the  
most of natural light, particularly when paired  
with sophisticated mirrored detailing. Focus on  
relaxation and well-being by opting for a large,  
built-in bath with an extensive surround – ideal  
for displaying scented candles – to create a luxurious  
centrepiece to the room." ▶

**ABOVE** Here, clever  
structured zoning  
avoids the obvious  
layout options, and  
hides the loo from  
immediate view.

*Tamar bath, polished  
and lacquered finish,  
from £3,510; Classic  
wall-mounted bath  
and shower mixer in  
nickel with wooden  
lever, £1,434; Carron  
shower, £3,024;  
double vanity basins,  
Hebden with  
Arabescato marble,  
£6,540, all  
Drummonds*





**LEFT** Here, an overhead shower with a wide spray pattern is teamed with a hand shower *Raindance Royale overhead shower, £2,037; Raindance Classic 100 hand shower, £216; Talis Classic mixer with diverter, £312, all Hansgrohe*

**ABOVE** The shower door with decorative etching in the corners works well

in a period-style bathroom with a contemporary feel. *Exclusive Solutions ES220 bow-top recess shower door £1,202, Aqata*

**RIGHT** Inspired by a teardrop, this statement shower will look beautiful in any setting. *Dalby Shower with Ceramic Tear Drop shower rose in brass, £2,250, Drummonds*



**W**hatever the size and shape of a bathroom, there will be a shower solution to suit. Compact rooms will benefit from space-enhancing quadrant, sliding-door, recessed or corner enclosures, whilst larger schemes will work well with a walk-in wet-room style.

When it comes to styling, the appeal of period charm is perennial. "After the incredible popularity of minimalist showers, we are now seeing a real move back towards simple, classic designs," reveals Drummond Shaw, chairman of Drummonds. "Their proportions suit British houses very well and they have an ageless quality, which makes them a great investment."

#### ELEGANT ENCLOSURES

Unless an open wet room is required, the bathroom will need a suitable shower enclosure. The standard shower door height is 2,000mm, with the main options being fixed panels – hinged or sliding – or corner enclosures, including square, pentagonal, quadrant or rectangular. Bespoke designs are available and can work perfectly with sloping ceilings and pitched roofs.

"Within shower enclosures, finishes are big this year," explains Dan Cook, designer at CP Hart, "as are truly bespoke frameless glass designs with UV-bonded joints. Flush-to-floor trays which can be colour-matched to tiles or floorcovering are becoming more popular. This seamless look is a great way to make the bathroom feel a lot bigger."

Leanna Fry, design executive at West One Bathrooms, concurs with this view. "I love wet-room style, flush-to-floor shower trays," she says. "They make the floor space appear larger, and when tiled over with floor tiles, give continuity to a space – something which works particularly well in a small bathroom. There are many different options for shower trays; the majority can be set at different heights, to suit all types of plumbing, whether sitting flush to the floor or raised on legs."

If space is not an issue, an 1,800mm by 900mm shower would be the ideal size, according to Ripples designer Dena Kirby. "This size will allow for an entrance on both sides and double shower heads," Kirby explains. "I would choose a 900mm depth, as it provides enough elbow space without feeling cramped." ▶



Two shower heads allow for switching between a drencher for a home spa experience and an adjustable hand shower for a quick refresh. *Dream dual control valve shower, £690, Aqualisa*