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# CHARACTER BUILDING



**DESIGNER** Sophie Rogerson, RFR, 020 7349 1770, [rfrproperty.com](http://rfrproperty.com).  
**BUDGET** Around £20,000.

Individual touches, such as bespoke floral-patterned tiles, out-sized fittings and a tealight chandelier, add personality and charm to this classically elegant bathroom

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE PROPERTY?** We actually found this home as part of our property search service – it's a semi-detached Victorian town house overlooking Wandsworth Common in London. The owners are a couple with five young children and, as we'd built up a good working relationship, they asked us to design the interior, too.

**WHERE IS THIS BATHROOM IN THE HOUSE?** Originally, the first floor had two large bedrooms, but we turned the rear one into this bathroom, with a dressing area linking it to the main bedroom at the front. Big, solid pocket doors between the dressing area and bedroom allow the entire first floor to be opened up, so the space really flows.

**WHAT WAS YOUR MAIN BRIEF?** The owner is very tall and requested the largest walk-in shower possible. He liked Drummonds' oversized sanitaryware, and also picked out the double marble vanity unit. The couple wanted a haven from their busy lives, so the challenge was to get everything to fit in while maintaining the serenity of the space.

**HOW DID YOU ESTABLISH THE COLOUR PALETTE?** Strong shades have been used elsewhere in the house, but the bathroom and bedroom required a calmer, more muted feel. We used Farrow & Ball's Elephant's Breath on the bedroom furniture and took it one degree lighter in the bathroom by painting the walls in Skimming Stone. The exterior of the bath is painted in Farrow & Ball's Dove Tale.

**CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE TILES IN THE SHOWER?** On a visit to Retrouvius we looked at Emery & Cie's amazing cement tiles and had the design created to order. There's one tile on the back wall with a little frog on it, which is a cute touch.

**WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE LIGHTING?** The owners originally fell in love with a stunning chandelier, but it cost nearly £4,000, which they just couldn't justify, and there are also strict building regulations regarding bathroom lighting. The solution, an iron tealight holder, was inexpensive and looks great. The electric lighting is on dimmers, with discreet ceiling spotlights and bronze wall lights.

**WHAT MAKES THIS BATHROOM SO SPECIAL?** We didn't lose sight of the room's architectural character. The tall skirting boards were matched to others in the house and the sash windows were minimally treated with half-height shutters. The room features strong key pieces, but overall the feel is very serene. □

## SOURCES

**Humber bath** with overflow hole and painted finish, £4,980. **Classic bath mixer taps** with Skye heads, £1,500. **Double Lowther vanity unit**, £6,540. **Classic basin taps** with Skye heads, £1,170. **Eden WC suite**, £1,776. all Drummonds, 020 7376 4499, [drummonds-uk.com](http://drummonds-uk.com). **Plain cement tiles**, £75sq m. **Rosiers patterned cement tiles**, £96sq m; both Emery & Cie, 020 8969 0222, [emeryetcie.com](http://emeryetcie.com). **Walls** in Skimming Stone, Estate Emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, [farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com). **Marco mitred wall mirrors**, £225 each, Oka, 0844 815 7380, [okadirect.com](http://okadirect.com). **Effies Jupiter hanging tealight chandelier**, £54.99, Black Country Metalworks, 0800 975 5717, [blackcountrymetalworks.co.uk](http://blackcountrymetalworks.co.uk).

FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON PHOTOGRAPHS MATT CLAYTON





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