



The Tatami shower tray in the walk-in shower area helps to create the feel of a wetroom

Happy shopper

The owner of this Docklands flat visited countless bathroom showrooms and luxury spas in order to make the right buys for her glossy new shower room

Report and styling: Heather Powell Photography: Nick Keane Illustration: Peter Davies



Two sections of the main facing wall were brought forward to provide niche shelving and to house the plumbing for the shower room



The large fixed showerhead gives a luxurious feel to the shower room

Shopping comes easily to Camilla Simpson. So easily in fact that, when she decided to update her guest bathroom with a new lick of paint and shiny new taps, she saw so many things she liked that the quick makeover swiftly developed into a full-scale project; to create a shower room with maximum impact.

Camilla moved into a one-bedroom flat in this first generation Docklands development 12 years ago, but when a two-bedroom apartment overlooking the river became available she snapped it up. As her plans for the bathroom grew, she realised she was going to need expert help. Camilla had met Davina, of Space Alchemy Interior Design, on the residents' committee and Davina's design experience was just what was called for.

The dark and dingy bathroom only had a single alcove mirror above the basin. "This meant that there was only one shelf for storing toiletries," says Davina. Camilla wanted a white or neutral palette, plenty of storage, and the very best products. Davina says, "She had already decided on top-end products which made it a really exciting project to work on."

Structurally there was not much scope for change in the flat. Faced with a box-shaped room, Davina brought two sections of the main facing wall forward to create niches that could be lit and used for storage. The added bonus was that all the plumbing could be concealed here as well.

The ceiling also came down to accommodate light fittings and speakers. "As everything was up when the underfloor heating was fitted, we put in the cabling for an integrated audio system at the same time. It's amazing what you can do with heating and lighting controls – it's like a James Bond house," says Camilla.

The biggest challenge for compulsive shopper Camilla was shortlisting a huge number of interesting products down to a final line-up. "I saw so much I liked I would have needed six bathrooms to accommodate everything I wanted," she says. Davina and Camilla spent months doing thorough homework, so that in the end, Camilla was absolutely happy with every choice that she made.

The look of the shower room came from pictures Davina had seen of the Ice Hotel in Sweden. "Camilla had stressed that she wanted a neutral

Coloured glass was chosen for its reflective qualities, and the icy colour helps achieve a look of the Ice Hotel in Sweden



Q&A: HOMEOWNER

How did you decide which products to choose?

"I went to a huge range of places from the bottom of the market right up to the top. I spent hours looking at taps and I ended up getting really geeky about it."

Did you have any worrying moments?

"It was nerve-racking when the glass panels arrived. Davina had checked that everything would fit ok, but I was still really anxious."

Would you change anything about the finished result?

"I would love to have a bathroom that was twice the size, but this is a very good alternative."

What's your advice for someone starting a similar project?

"Get a designer. There's so much technical information to take into account – there's no way I could have done it on my own."

The niche shelves provide much-needed storage space, but are also lit so that they become a striking visual feature of the room.





Above: Davina employed the space-saving trick of keeping everything raised to keep the floor space as free as possible **Below:** The Bisque radiator is slightly bowed to add interest to the classic ladder shape



palette but I felt it needed some colour," says Davina. The green-hued reflective surface of ice inspired the glass panels that clad the wall and centre block behind the basin. The porcelain tiles in the shower area have a slight sparkle in them and were also chosen for their reflective quality.

As underfloor heating was installed in the concrete floor, the shower tray system could not be laid flush, so a raised platform was built. "We'd only seen pictures of it sunken, but I think it looks good raised up," says Davina. A frameless glass screen ensures that nothing interrupts the feeling of space.

Camilla is really pleased with the lighting and the reflections in the room. "I like the whole thing but it's the lighting that really makes it," she says. Davina takes a more practical approach: "I'm really happy with the

COST

A similar bathroom would cost around £15,000

CONTACTS

DESIGN

Davina Merola of Space Alchemy Ltd (020 7987 1622 or www.space-alchemy.com)

SHOWER ROOM

Shower tray Tatami by Flaminia from Original Bathrooms (020 8940 7554)

Basin and WC Duravit (0870 730 7787 or www.duravit.com)

Hand-held shower Starck 2 from Hansgrohe, available from CP Hart (020 7902 1000 or www.cphart.co.uk)

Taps and thermostat Dornbracht (01444 473355 or www.dornbracht.com)

Fixed shower head Raindance by Hansgrohe (0870 770 1972 or www.hansgrohe.co.uk)

Radiator Bisque (01225 478500 or www.bisque.co.uk)

Coloured glass wall panels, basin shelf, shower panel and shelving Preedy Glass (020 8965 1323 or www.preedyglass.com)

Wall tiles Stone & Ceramic Warehouse (020 8993 5545)

Flooring Amtico (0800 667766 or www.amtico.com)

Accessories all from The Conran Shop (020 7559 1140)

storage solutions – Camilla's got concealed storage and elegant open shelves," she says.

The size of the room presented the most restrictions for Davina. "Trying to make a spa-like space out of a tiny room was difficult," she says. Both Davina and Camilla have little that they would change however. "I wish I'd done it sooner," says Camilla, "but I'm glad I kept the old bathroom long enough to grow to really hate it first." ■

