



WHITE OPEN SPACE

An easy to use, "rush through in the morning room" with a bit of luxury thrown in for good measure was the brief given to Paul and Tony of PT Ranson Bathrooms when recruited to help a couple with a bathroom refurbishment in Jesmond.



IN COLLABORATION with client, architect and project manager, the resulting room proved to be a triumph of teamwork. The light and modern, practical yet luxurious treatment of a period space was a daring venture, but the sure touch of the professionals involved ensured the realisation of one couple's design dream.

A glass wall, an egg-shaped bath, Starck taps and a wall mounted plasma TV are not usual bathroom features in leafy suburbs, but from the outset this project was never going to bow to the conventional. As the refurbishment involved stripping the house back to a shell, the homeowners and their architect had free rein to create an original, light flooded en-suite in what was once an oddly proportioned bedroom. Looking at the finished space, it is hard to imagine that earlier this year the house was without a roof, let alone a bath. Once the original concept and design had been taken care of by Warren Barnett of Browne, Smith, Baker Architects in Newcastle, it was up to Project Manager Mark Bowman of MSB Projects to coordinate the project, no mean feat when the space you're dealing with has no roof or floor. Bowman was glad to be able to send his clients down to PT Ranson's showroom where, guided by Tony Jackson and Paul Randall, they could see and touch possible bathroom fittings and materials before making a decision. "I went over and spent a lot of time with Tony at the showroom," says the homeowner. "Everything is on site, so we could look at the actual piece of marble or bath we wanted in our bathroom." Ranson's input was particularly valuable to the Project Manager. "When the roof was off it was very difficult to visualise what the final room would look like," Bowman says. "Ranson's were extremely helpful, helping (the homeowners) with ideas. It's really useful to be able to send people down to the showroom to look around not just sanitaryware, but tiles, lighting and furniture."

The homeowner agrees: "PT Ranson were absolutely fantastic," she says. A sleek, modern, walk in shower corridor, flush to the floor was in the brief. As the bathroom is on the second floor of the building, careful planning was essential to avoid plumbing catastrophes. "Tony and Paul were incredibly helpful, liaising with the builders. We just had to make decisions on how we wanted



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things to look. I can honestly say we had no hiccups,” she says. A practical but beautiful bathroom was the desired outcome and the choice of curvaceous freestanding bath by Victoria and Albert exemplifies the ‘function with flair’ ethos of this project. The egg-shaped ‘Napoli’ bath won the ‘I Love my Bath’ competition at the Daily Telegraph House and Garden Fair last year. Searching for a high gloss storage solution to eliminate bathroom clutter, the couple were steered by Tony and Paul in the direction of bespoke Italian cabinetry by ‘Idea’. The smooth curves of the lavatory and twin basins echo the voluptuous lines of the bath while the sculpturally elegant Starck taps add chrome contours to the space.

Always on the frontline of contemporary bathroom design, Tony and Paul were able to suggest some hi-tech solutions to make morning ablutions a streamlined operation. A Grohe remote control allows the homeowner to turn the shower on from her bed, easing the transition into the world of work. The shower

corridor with its grey marble floor and sweep of tinted glass means the room remains open, light and calming – the perfect place to start the day – while a subtle lighting scheme builds in the potential to change the ambience at a moment’s notice. If a long evening soak in front of the wall mounted TV is required, lighting can be adjusted to accommodate the mood change. All the glass was locally sourced and while the opaque wall was a design departure for a period property, it makes maximum use of available light. A traditional sash window further illuminates the room and gives a nod to the house’s roots. There is nothing conventional or ordinary about this bathroom and the fact that it works on both aesthetic and practical levels is testament to the collaborative efforts of all involved. From technology to tiling and lavatories to lighting schemes, a trip to PT Ranson in Gateshead will ensure your new bathroom, like this one, can realise its potential.

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