

HOMES & GARDENS[®]

MARCH 2015

INSPIRING STYLE

PARED-BACK HOMES FOR
MODERN LIVING

DREAM SCHEMES
CHIC LONDON BEDROOM
ON-TREND BATHROOM
COUNTRY CONSERVATORY

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NEW SOFAS
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**DECORATIVE
FLOORING**
IDEAS FOR CARPETS,
TILES & WOOD

Colour confidence

BOLD LOOKS FOR EVERY SPACE

PERFECTLY COMPOSED



DESIGNER
Rebekah Caudwell,
rebekahcaudwelldesign.com

Original architecture and a striking rug were the inspiration behind bold pattern and elegant shades of blue in this listed townhouse in London

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE SPACE? This is the master bedroom of a Georgian townhouse in Bloomsbury that my husband and I bought from a developer several years ago. Although it had been recently renovated, the interiors were very plain and its blandness helped us appreciate the beauty of the architecture. Seeing the original ceiling in this room when we first viewed the property was a real wow moment.

WHAT WAS YOUR STARTING POINT? My inspiration almost always comes from one item that I love. For this space, it was the Martyn Lawrence Bullard rug – the blue silk really sings out on the wool. I then established a palette of six or so blue tones that would work well together. It's hard to find exact matches of one shade across fabrics and furnishings, unless you pay handsomely for bespoke pieces, and the scheme can end up looking forced and messy. By layering colours you can achieve more richness, and it's one of the loveliest games to play.

HOW DID YOU PLAN THE LAYOUT? I used to teach art history and I often think about the placement of furnishings in terms of composition and how the eye will be led around the room. Here, I placed the bed centrally against the far wall with the sofa in front, graduating the height of the furniture from the low seating to the tall headboard. This created a symmetrical effect vertically, as well as horizontally, which can be especially important when you have really high ceilings.

PATTERN CAN BE OVERPOWERING – HOW DID YOU AVOID THIS? Opting for designs of different scales but with similar shapes helps. So although the rug and wallpaper don't match, they both mimic the decorations in the ceiling plasterwork. Using block colour, for example for the sofa and curtains, also has a balancing effect. Remember, too, that when you're in the room you never look at all three patterns at the same time.

HOW DID YOU SELECT THE FURNITURE? My aim was to work with the scale of the room. So the bed is 2m wide and I used chests of drawers as bedside tables. Anything smaller would have been lost in this large space.

TELL US ABOUT THE LIGHTING. The ceiling is listed so we couldn't have spotlights or pendants, but I rather like the softer effect of the uplighting. The Jonathan Adler Georgia table lamp is covered with tiny boobs, each with a nipple, which makes me laugh. Spaces have to make you happy. I enjoy injecting a sense of humour and playfulness into my designs. □

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SOURCES

Optical wallpaper 83/8035, price on request, Cole & Son, 020 7376 4628, cole-and-son.com. Rosette plaster casts (on wall), £85 each, Pentreath & Hall, 020 7430 2526, pentreath-hall.com. Woodhouse bed from £1,786. Channing consoles, £2,950 each. Georgia tall lamp, £550, all Jonathan Adler, 020 7589 9563, uk.jonathanadler.com. 18th-century Swedish sofa, £11,000. Rougier lamps, £7,200 a pair, all Talisman, 020 7731 4686, talismanlondon.com.

Philippe I small table, £357, Casamania at Made in Design, 020 7692 4001, madeindesign.co.uk. Mamounia Sky rug, £1,535sq m, Martyn Lawrence Bullard at The Rug Company, 020 7243 7342, therugcompany.com. Curtains in Antoinette in Aquamarine 10047-002, cotton, £177m, Donghia Textiles at Rubelli, 020 7349 1590, rubelli.com. Feathers small cushions (on sofa), £149 each, Harrods, 020 7730 1234, harrods.com.

“
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FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON PHOTOGRAPHY ALEXANDER JAMES



INDUSTRIAL METAL



DESIGNER Rebecca James, Interior Desires, 020 8613 9400, interiordesiresuk.com

Gleaming copper and bronze shine in the setting of a spacious en suite in which the traditional features have made a comeback.

SOURCES

Bathtub with Patina finish, £4,800, William Holland, 01 400 812000, williamholland.com. V6K6 shower from £4,541, V6K17 basin filler from £1,036, V23R standpipes from £1,150, V6K30 bath/shower mixer from £2,575, all Style Moderne, 1000 in Country House by Samuel Heath, 0121 766 4000, samuelheath.com. Gotham double vanity stand in Bronze, £2,999, Bathroom, 020 8831 9364, bathroom.co.uk. IP44 Pixer light in Weathered Brass, £385, Davy Lighting, 020 7351 2130, davy-lighting.co.uk. Breccia Rosata floor tiles 60cm sq, £215sq m, and mosaic tiles 50cm sq, £245sq m, all Via Arca, 020 7351 7057, via-arca.co.uk.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE PROPERTY? The house, a Victorian terrace in Fulham, hadn't been touched for 40 years when my clients bought it. The décor was terribly decadent; the house looked like it was being worn by the furnishings. I prefer the architecture to take the leading role. This room offered generous proportions, allowing us to reintroduce traditional features such as a fireplace and decorative plasterwork.

WHAT WAS THE STARTING POINT FOR THE DESIGN? I dislike en suites that have a separate identity to the bedroom – it is just too jarring – so I came up with the idea of using warm metal throughout the house, including in the master bedroom and en suite. The shower enclosure has a bronzed frame and was inspired by the traditional British telephone box. It looks imposing but, as it's in a corner, it doesn't dominate.

HOW DID YOU PLAN THE LAYOUT? The room is wider at the front than at the back. To disguise the lack of symmetry, I created horizontal and vertical focal points using the bath and shower enclosure. When viewed from the bedroom, the eye is drawn to these fittings and you don't notice the room isn't square. This solution meant I could tuck the WC behind the bath. I have a pet hate of layouts where the WC is the first thing you see.

TELL US ABOUT THE FINISHES. I chose the bronze fittings from Samuel Heath to complement the vanity stand and shower enclosure. The bath was originally going to have a shiny copper exterior, but then William Holland brought out this aged, rust-like finish and I changed my mind. I love the way the firelight reflects on the matt copper. The Breccia Rosata natural stone tiles have a soft look that offsets the masculinity of the metals. To break up the run of stone, I used 60cm square tiles on the floor, mosaics in the shower and large slabs on the vanity stand.

HOW IS THE SPACE LIT? We wanted to make the room look cosy and inviting, so we had mood lights set flush in the floor around the bath. These cast a warm, coppery glow.

DID YOU FACE ANY CHALLENGES? There's not a straight line in the room, so we had to do a lot of preparation such as templating for the stone tiling. The company that made the shower enclosure wanted a lot of money at first but, after I explained how it would look, they became really enthusiastic and lowered the price. I love it when everyone gets behind a project – it really shows in the end result. □

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“The bronzed frame of the shower enclosure is inspired by a British telephone box.”

PHOTOGRAPHY: LINDA CLAYTON; STYLING: MICHAEL DODDING