

# NEW ADDITION

Add comfort, convenience and value  
to your home with an ensuite

Report: Ros Anderson



**Previous page (p53):** The highlights of this ensuite bathroom are the clean lines of the composite La Mancha bath from Colourwash Bathrooms and the bespoke double basin unit, designed by Clare Pascoe of Pascoe Interiors and made by Andrew Morton of AMF Ltd. Two Eos basins from Porcelanosa complement the La Mancha bath. The floor is poured concrete to continue the owners' desired gallery feel throughout the house. The slot window by the bath, meanwhile, has been specifically placed at a height that allows users to enjoy the view.

**Right:** This ensuite, created in her own home by designer Charlotte Crosland, demonstrates an ingenious use of space. Sliding doors lend a sense of flow between the two spaces, and storage and heating have been cleverly incorporated into the iroko wood bath surround. A full-height mirror further maximises the sense of space. The ensuite cost around £15,000.

**Opposite page:** Burgbad's RC40 range is a fully flexible collection of components that allows architects and interior designers to design multifunctional living spaces. The configuration in the picture starts from £18,000, depending on specification, finish and sizes. The RC40 range from Burgbad is available from Day True.

If you're longing for an addition that will transform your bedroom into a luxurious master suite, or you're looking to enhance a guest room, with careful planning you might be surprised where you can fit in an extra bathroom. The majority of UK bathrooms have the same footprint as a king-sized bed, so there is no reason why you can't carve a great ensuite or second bathroom out of even the smallest corner of space.

Creating an ensuite in the corner of a large bedroom is the standard course, but you can also take space from an adjacent room, unused wardrobe or cupboard or the end of a corridor. There is also the option of devising an open-plan bedroom and bathroom, with a dividing wall screening the majority of the sanitaryware, but no door. If space is tight this can be a great solution, as it will prevent the bathroom from feeling claustrophobic.

### Plan ahead

Before you settle on where to put your ensuite, it's essential to consider the practicalities of plumbing. The perfect spot for an ensuite or extra bathroom is as close as possible to existing water and drainage pipes, so backing on to an existing bathroom is ideal. If the new room is not within easy access of the main soil pipe you will need to install a macerator at extra cost.

Whether you're lucky enough to be creating a generous ensuite from a spare bedroom, or have much less space to play with, an effective layout is essential. Start by carefully measuring and then sketching out the space, including all windows and doors as well as access to the aforementioned plumbing on your plan. From here you can check the measurements of



bathroom fittings you are considering and play around with where everything will go.

When you are planning the layout think about who will be using the room. If you're adding an ensuite to a master bedroom might a double or extra-wide basin be a priority for busy mornings? For an infrequently used guest ensuite your priorities – especially for things like storage – will be different. Think about what you put close to the door. Ideally the WC should be concealed when the door is open, and the wet area around the shower kept from being too close to the entrance as well. If space is especially tight then look at all the options offered by small space and cloakroom sanitaryware ranges. Also consider ceiling height – a compact tub could fit under a sloping area of roof for example – and also the door itself. A sliding door of frosted glass, or a matching bank of built-in wardrobes, can provide a sleek and discreet alternative to a standard door, and means you don't have to leave room for it to swing open.



### Extra essentials

To keep your room looking streamlined make sure that all pipework and electrics are hidden under the floor and ceiling, and don't forget that Building Regulations stipulate that you must install adequate ventilation. Electrical work – including installing a ventilation fan or an electric shower – will need to be undertaken by a qualified electrician.

### Design ideas

A basic design tip for maximising a feeling of space in a small bathroom is to keep things off the floor. Wall-mounted WCs and basins, storage on legs and even a freestanding bath instead of a built-in tub will all increase the amount of floor that you can see, and so make the room feel more spacious.

A mirror is an essential part of any bathroom, and in such a compact space is even more important. Look for mirrors with built-in lighting to save space, or opt for an unframed mirror panel that takes up the majority of

a whole wall. Consider flooring too – similar colours or materials for bedroom and bathroom flooring can help the sense of flow. Adding some sort of lip to divide the bedroom carpet from the ensuite itself is also a good idea, as it will protect your room in case of spilled water.

If you're really pushed for space then check out the numerous sanitaryware solutions for small bathrooms. Many bathroom manufacturers make a cloakroom version of their most popular basins – try Space by Ideal Standard. Also look for short-projection WCs, where the pan protrudes into the room less than a standard WC, slimline cisterns, and even corner WCs – using up an awkward corner could make a huge difference to your layout.

There are lots of shower enclosures on the market designed for small spaces; think carefully about what impact the swing of the shower door will have on your layout and perhaps consider a bi-fold door. Alternatively enjoy the best of both worlds by opting for a bath and shower combination – try Bette or Ideal Standard. [KBB](#)



## Managing your budget

**Keep your figures under control by making sure you've factored in all the costs before starting work.**

- ✓ You can design your own space, or get assistance from a high-street retail design team. That being so, if you are remodelling or want a one-off solution then you may want to use an architect or designer. Preferably, look for a local company so that site and showroom visits are easy, and you could even request to visit other projects they've completed in the area.
- ✓ You can ask your contractor to source the sanitaryware, fittings and building materials for you. They may be able to get trade discounts and so in theory you should be able to get a good price. However, the tradesman's mark-up may well cancel this out, and you may feel you have less control over the finished result.
- ✓ Sourcing your own products will help you maintain control over the project. Online stores often offer great discounts on showrooms prices, but it's worth going and looking at the items you wish to buy in the flesh first. Independent retailers will offer the best service in terms of advice, but if you are confident of what you want then head to a plumbers' merchant for the best prices.
- ✓ Creating an ensuite will probably involve builders, plumbers, electricians and decorators. For all these trades get clear quotes in writing before work starts, and get two or three quotes before committing to one. You can find trades by asking locally for recommendations, or asking a local showroom. Online recommendation sites like Myhammer ([www.myhammer.co.uk](http://www.myhammer.co.uk)) and Rated People ([www.ratedpeople.com](http://www.ratedpeople.com)) let you find affordable quotes and check out ratings from previous customers.
- ✓ It's always sensible on any project to have a contingency fund of around 10-15% on top of your total budget to cover unforeseen costs.

**Above:** This layout shows how to design a discreet room and pick sanitaryware that maximises space. A WC and bidet with concealed cisterns are hidden away from the entrance, while a wall-mounted basin enjoys natural light from the area beyond. The M-Line wall-hung WC pan, from £300, M-Line wall-hung bidet, from £230, and M-Line washbasin, from £200, are all from VitrA.

**Below:** A sleek, simple shower room design makes for a functional, easy-to-maintain ensuite. This design by Alternative Bathroom Company features full-height mirrored storage with built-in lighting and a simple fixed shower screen, both of which help light flow around the small space. Fittings include Duravit's Vero basin, £364.80, and X-Large vanity unit in white gloss lacquer, £798. The shower screen is made to measure and priced £1056.





**Above:** This ensuite belonging to a teenage girl is simply decorated with white wall tiles and white painted bespoke storage units designed by Clare Pascoe of Pascoe Interiors and made by Andrew Morton of AMF Ltd. To reflect her personality, it features a shocking pink glass panel in the shower that pops against the white. A similar bathroom would cost around £4000.



**Right:** In an ensuite that will be used every morning, it can be well worth planning in a double basin. A long, slim basin unit will work well in a narrow space, and if you go for a design with storage built in below you can keep the other surfaces of the ensuite streamlined and clutter-free. The ergonomic wall-hung washbasin is made from Corian with doors in elm wood, with prices from £5922.



**Right:** Where space is tight, creating a wetroom can be an effective solution, as the flat floor and lack of shower door will keep the whole room feeling more spacious. This room contains a Fairfield showerhead with arm in chrome plate, from £490, concealed shower mixer in chrome plate, from £360, and Fairfield lever mixer taps in chrome plate, from £820, all from Samuel Heath.

**Left:** Sheer glamour combines with an eclectic mix of materials in this unique Woodstock Furniture ensuite bathroom, which embraces modern design influences. This bespoke, luxury design features rich wenge detailing on the walls and bath surround for a distinctive finish, while a wall of mirrors hides ample storage. Bathrooms cost from £10,000.

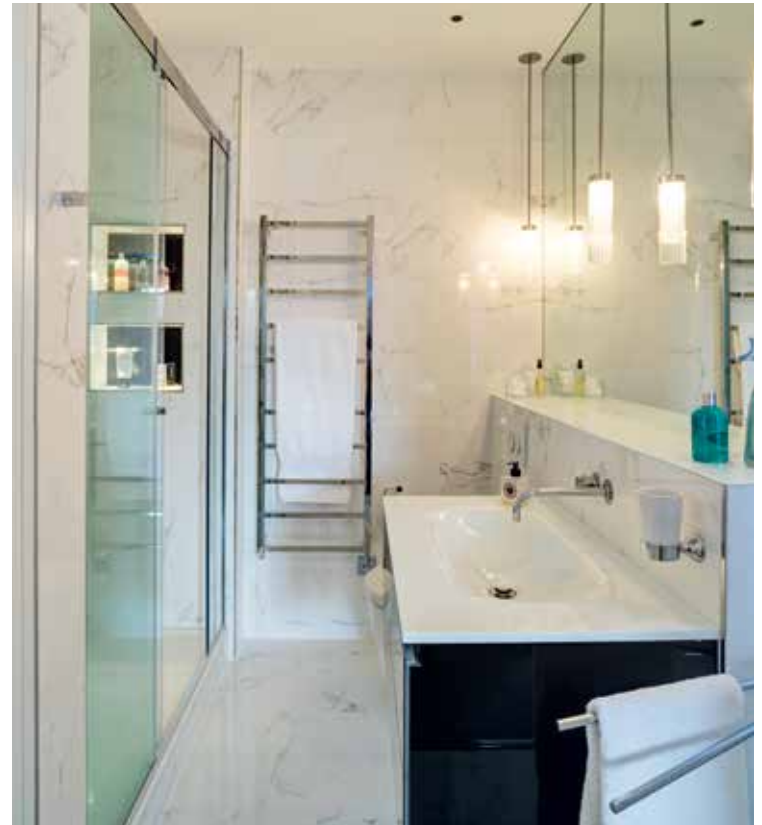




**Above:** For a cohesive look between bedroom and bathroom you might want to choose bathroom fittings with a strong 'furniture' feel. This bathroom by Devon & Devon features a Dancer's Cabinet, from £2910, Epoque Console in marble with pyramid-shaped legs in aluminium, £3162, Black Harold mirror, £816 and Draycott

bath, £1770. The Élite Marble Tile flooring costs from £239 per sq m.

**Below:** Eye-catching tiles work well in long spaces. Here, Made a Mano lavastone tiles feature on the floor, walls and countertop, priced from £494 per sq m. Made a Mano is available in the UK from Laurence Pidgeon.



### Case study



**Designer:** Simon Taylor.

**The client:**  
A design-conscious couple.

**Location:** Hertfordshire.

**The brief:** To create a contemporary, stylish ensuite within an historic home that respects existing details like the oak beams.

An old, beamed house made for a challenging space to work with for designers at Simon Taylor Furniture. The most striking feature of the scheme is the wooden-framed, bi-folding doors with tinted black glass that divide the space, and which, when closed, look just like a bank of wardrobes. The ensuite itself features cherry wood cabinetry and dark slate surfaces that echo the look of the doors. Because the old, beamed space was unique and not at all square or standard, Simon Taylor's handmade furniture, including built-in open shelving, has been designed to fit around awkward beams and corners to make the space practical too. A similar bathroom would cost around £12,000, with similar bedroom furniture and sliding doors costing around £15,000.



**Opposite page, top right:** Highlights of this London pied à terre ensuite by Diana Trower of At Home Interiors include a black gloss vanity with integrated white glass basin by Artlinea and large 1m-wide marble-effect Porcelanosa porcelain tiles. Another talking point is the niches in the shower that feature black glass backs for visual interest. The fluted etched glass pendants are from John Cullen. Price on application.

**Left:** More than any other room, an ensuite is a room linked to another, so consider how to make the bedroom and bathroom flow together. An effective solution is to use tiles to create a décor effect, echoing the style of the bedroom beyond. These tiles are from the WILD series by Ceracasa, priced from £35 per sq m from Ceramic Tile Agency.





**Below:** Glass and other light-reflecting surfaces make this ensuite bathroom feel spacious. The room is divided from the bedroom by a partially frosted glass wall and door. The resulting light is then doubled with ceiling-height mirrored storage. The basin is from Wetstyle, the brassware is the Citerio M range from Axor Hansgrohe and the bath screen is from Matki's Eauzone collection. A similar ensuite by CP Hart would cost around £8000.



## SourceBook

### ALTERNATIVE BATHROOM COMPANY

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