

# 'Our favourite place INSPIRED OUR BATHROOM!'

Chloe gave her dated bathroom a new lease of life with a simple, contemporary suite and wow-factor wallpaper

## COME ON IN!



**ABOUT ME** I'm Chloe Birkett, 39, a retail assistant. I live with my husband, Rob, who is a sales manager, and our daughters, Emily, nine, and Esme, seven, in our four-bedroom Thirties semi-detached house in Hampton, Middlesex, which we bought in July 2009.

**MY CHALLENGE** When we moved in, the house wasn't in great condition. In fact, the bathroom was probably the best room in the house, compared with the overall look of the place, which was mismatched and tired and very much in need of a revamp.

**MY WISH LIST** I really wanted the bathroom to have a more contemporary look. I love bold, botanical prints and was keen to include an element of this style to create a room that would be both family friendly and spa-like at the same time.



### CLEVER ACCENTS

'Fuchsia pink towels pick out the parrot design and bring in a lovely pop of contrasting colour'

**TOTAL  
£2,988**

**TURN OVER FOR  
MY SHOPPING  
LIST**

### IDEA TO STEAL

'Bring colour to undressed windows with accessories that continue the overall scheme'

### SPA EFFECT

'Pale green brick tiles create a calming atmosphere, ideal for a relaxing evening bath'

**B**efore moving here, me, my husband Rob, and daughter Emily were living in a two-bedroom Sixties house, but with Emily toddling we needed more space,' says Chloe. 'But getting a bigger house in the area we wanted meant taking on a project.

We could see this house had loads of potential. It had a tired galley kitchen and was generally in need of redecorating, but we bit the bullet and took on the challenge. As soon as we moved in, I became pregnant with Esme, which accelerated the need for the planned kitchen extension, and the building work was completed just before she was born.

When Emily was three we decided to go ahead with a loft extension, so that

both the girls could have good-sized bedrooms, and finally we tackled the bathroom in the spring of 2017.

### Personal touch

Rob had proposed to me in Kew Gardens and we were given life membership as a wedding present. Kew is a very special place for us, and was the inspiration for our bathroom scheme. With botanicals being so on-trend, there was plenty to chose from, and I thought it would be a different approach to a bathroom which reflected something very personal to us.

### Decorating the room

As a starting point, I researched banana leaf wallpapers online and called in a number of samples from >>

## Make it! FABRIC ZIP POUCH

- 1 Cut out two 18x10cm fabric pieces. Pin, then sew a 15cm zip face down on the right side of one.
- 2 Place the fabric pieces right sides together and sew the zip onto the second piece. Open the zip and use your machine to sew around the three sides.
- 3 Clip the bottom corners and turn the pouch out so it's the correct way around.



**ON THE EDGE**

'The wallpapered walls were given a co-ordinating skirting with a line of tiles'

» Wallpaperdirect. Although initially I was thinking primarily botanicals, when the sample with the parrots came through, I really liked the colour pops of pink and turquoise within the green. To contrast with the busy pattern on the wallpaper, I decided on plain tiles in a pale green from Tons of Tiles, for a restful feel.

**Choosing the suite**

I was keen to find a wall-hung basin and loo to open up the space as much as possible. Looking for a neat simple design that incorporated storage, I was taken by the E100 range by Twyford Bathrooms, because it incorporated the grey ash finish, which worked well alongside the botanical elements. Rob spotted the concrete-effect tiles at an end-of-line outlet, Domus Tiles Warehouse, and, as we just needed three square metres, there was enough in stock and it only cost £120.

**The hard work**

A good friend recommended a local builders, Preet Building and their quote of £2,900 to include removing the old suite, fitting the new one, tiling and wallpapering was a great all-in price. Overall, the work took three weeks and although it was disruptive with the dust and upheaval, we weren't inconvenienced too much, as we had the en suite upstairs.

**Finishing touches**

The wallpaper gives the room the brilliant wow factor I had in mind, with the simple suite working beautifully alongside it. I chose hot pink bath towels to pick out the fuchsia parrots and plants to mirror the ones in the design. While I was choosing them I came across the perfect pink pots in my local garden centre! I am super pleased with the room - my only regret is that we didn't do it sooner!

**Buy it**  
Get a taste of the tropics with bold buys  
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**IDEA TO STEAL**

'The wall-hung vanity unit keeps the room clutter-free, and increases the feeling of space'

**WELL BALANCED**

'We used the wallpaper on the two walls that didn't need tiles, bringing wow factor without overpowering the space'

**Do it!**  
**WALLPAPER A BATHROOM**

- 1 Choose a suitable wall to be papered and measure the area to calculate how much wallpaper you will need. Avoid walls that are next to the shower or directly behind the bath or basin, as water splashes could cause damage.
- 2 Take care when hanging the paper to smooth out any air bubbles that form beneath the surface as you go. Use a squeegee, to get rid of these imperfections as they will make the paper more likely to peel over time.
- 3 Once you have finished hanging the wallpaper, leave to dry fully before sealing with strong varnish to give a layer of protection against the humid bathroom conditions. Try Decorators Varnish by Polyvine, £10.63 for 500ml, for a durable overcoat that is available in glossy or matt finishes.

**LUSH LEVELS**

'Plants arranged at varying heights echo the trailing greenery in the wallpaper'



**'TO ACHIEVE THIS LOOK, COMBINE BOLD BOTANICALS WITH MORE SUBTLE MATERIALS IN PALER SHADES TO CREATE BALANCE'**

**GET IT RIGHT**

'John Lewis has such a great range of towels - I took a sample of the wallpaper and found a perfect colour match'

**Style Maker**

LAUREN SAYS



'Chloe's use of the standout botanical wallpaper not only adds stunning pops of colour, but the vibrant hues takes the familiar metro tiled bathroom to a whole new magnificent level.'

**Buy her style**

£100 bath, £821.44; screen, £371.76; basin with Grey Ash basin unit, £3,472.6; mirrored cabinet, £177.23; wall-hung WC, £392, all Twyford Bathrooms. Mayfair Series C4 bath taps, £155.75, Tap Warehouse. Alexa shower set, £243, Victoria Plum. Crackle glaze Hyde Park Green tiles, £1.62 each, Tons of Tiles. Parrots & Palms wallpaper in Exotic Pink, £12 a roll, Albany Wow! 2015 collection, Wallpaper Direct. Concrete-effect tiles, £40sq m, Domus Tiles. Fuchsia bath towels, £16 each; Pink Palm wash bag, £12, both John Lewis. Turquoise glass pots, from, £7.50 each, Urban Suburban. Ruben Pink pots, from £3.49 each; plants, from £3.99, all Squires.



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