



# Bathroom transformations

When the Yasin family approached Room 100 to do major works on their bathrooms, they couldn't have been happier with the results

**IT WAS A** lucky strike to find Room 100 through a friend's recommendation, which invariably tends to be the best in Bath.

We had clearly researched other companies in and around Bath but ultimately none seemed to offer the combination of personal attention, can-do approach, allied to a high level of professional competence and reasonable costs.

It seems Mark and Beverley have become constant companions over the past two years as we have successfully completed two main projects with them.

The first was in mid 2007 when we remodelled our top floor, effectively creating a flexible master suite. The main focus on the top floor was to create a cool, relaxing and spacious wet room adjacent to the new master bedroom and we were not disappointed. The fittings were kept simple and sleek but of high quality. The shower head was a bespoke design and the area provides ample space for the whole family. The gym area works well adjacent to the wet room and of course under-floor heating has been especially welcome this winter.

After a period recuperating from these major works we decided, just nine months later to return to Room 100 to embark upon our second bathroom project on the middle floor. Here we had two bathrooms one an en-suite which we originally planned to refurbish and keep as separate bathrooms.

After numerous designs – one as an en-suite wet room the other as a conventional, yet updated main bathroom – we still didn't feel that we had achieved the look and the effect we wanted. Finally in a Eureka moment we came up with an idea which led to the final design; to create a single open space around 15m<sup>2</sup> which would return the room to its original dimensions. It also liberated the two large central sash windows which would flood south-facing light into the room and the central staircase.

Given the new space and light we were hopeful of creating a luxurious space which could also serve as a

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retreat after a stressful day. Part of that plan was to create an atmospheric steam room, a comfortable bathing room, and a sense of serenity and calm. You can make up your own mind on the effect, but it seems to reflect accurately what we had hoped for. It's a cross between a Turkish bath and a sleek Starck design with the cool elegance of the Edwardian dimensions.

Mark and his craftsmen also came back with their own ideas to help bring this idea to life: The steam room with its undulating wave stainless steel ceiling is unique. It also comes equipped with mood lighting, a custom stainless-steel bench and incorporates a custom rain shower. It's a great de-stressor, every home should have one!

The kids love their boat bath, which could easily swallow a baby elephant, so a special thanks to Mark and the crew for lugging up a 170kg bath.

The floors and walls gave us the most reason to reflect and did cause the most difficulty: We wanted a luxurious finish and chose a dark 'marron marble' which we previously had when we lived in Singapore. The concern was that it would be too dark so we tried to lighten the effect by inserting large pale limestone tiles in the floor. Their final position, which frames the bath just about works, but perhaps we could have done without that complication.

Our only real setback was that we sourced our own tiles via a local monopoly supplier, these arrived on site as second grade limestone and not the first grade we had been expecting. It was the only part of the job not entirely controlled by Room 100 and herein lies the secret of such builds – ensure that you try and limit external suppliers in a big job and seek them through your main contractor.

The custom-made wooden blinds were supplied by The Pole Company with whom we have also worked successfully these past few years, and they work well to complement the overall walnut and stone effect.

The overall result has certainly contributed to a general sense of well-being: It's a great sensation to emerge from a toxin-reducing, scented steam session and then lie on the heating, heated marble floor with the added ambience of the mood lighting to soothe away another tough day.

The saddest part will be leaving this painstakingly created haven behind as we leave Bath for the next few years. We hope our prospective tenants will appreciate our efforts while we are away. We hope to return reenergised



to commence the final ground-floor extension and complete our grand project on Landsdown. No doubt Mark and Room 100 will be involved again – if he can bear to cope with our constantly changing demands as we search for that elusive 'perfect' effect. ■

# ROOM 100

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