

PEACE CORPS

Natural materials and minimal fittings define a space created for the wellbeing of body and mind



The mixer tap, a Dornbracht 'Tara Meta' from CP Hart, complements the rectangular basin. RIGHT Cumbrian slate sets a serene tone. FAR RIGHT A period fireplace was retained



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM LEIGHTON

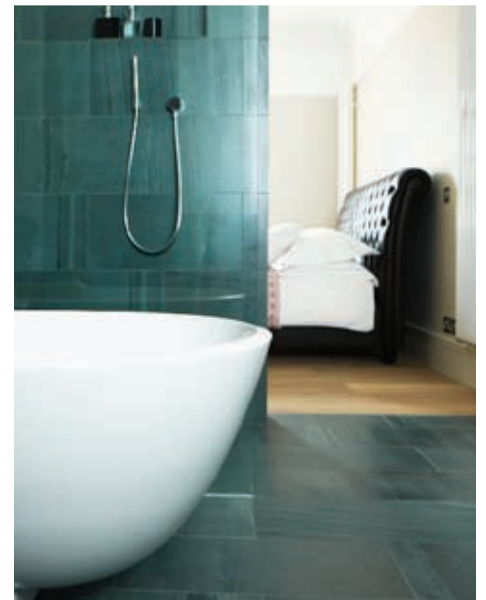


A curious thing has happened to bathrooms over the past few decades. Once considered purely functional spaces, this most unassuming of rooms has enjoyed something of an image transformation. It has become a space in which to dwell, with interiors expertly contrived to encourage lingering, pampering and reflection. Evidence for the trend can be found in the popularity of extra-spacious bath tubs, hydrotherapy mechanisms, cleverly created mood lighting and steam-room-like shower cubicles large enough to accommodate several occupants at once.

Working from a plan by 3s Architects & Designers (and with input from the project manager, Analytic Building Contractors), designers from C.P. Hart helped create an

interior that is at once luxurious and understated. The owners of the house, a busy professional couple with two children, wanted a modern yet peaceful space that retained the house's period character. It is a light-filled and serene refuge – its minimal design and abundance of natural materials reflecting its owners' penchant, perhaps, for spas around the world and their appreciation of fine, natural finishes.

Hayley Tarrington, Senior Designer at C.P. Hart, considers the bathroom's role to be an important aspect of a home's function and character: 'The bathroom is now such an important part of people's homes, from a lifestyle point of view,' she says. 'We were inspired by this beautiful home and wanted >



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT A single sheet of glass divides the shower area from the rest of the bathroom. Fittings are minimal throughout the scheme. The bathroom adjoins the bedroom. Slate, from Kirkstone, is used on the counter-top, mirroring its use on the floor and walls

to create an imposing sanctuary that is also a use-able space for the family.' The room, with its high ceilings and large windows, lent itself perfectly to this vision.

The resultant design is consistently clean and uncluttered throughout: there are no doors from the bathroom through to the adjoining bedroom (the spaces are simply divided by a partial wall, around which one can walk unobstructed), nor are there doors leading into the shower 'cubicle'. Instead it is enclosed on one side by a pleasingly unobtrusive frameless wall of glass.

Shelves are eschewed in favour of a recessed platform on which to perch bottles. There is no shower tray, either; the water simply falls to the cleverly contoured 'Silver Green' Cumbrian slate (which is also used to form the counter-top

around the basin) and flows down a flush drain.

The appliances and fittings conform to the pure aesthetic. The shower paraphernalia – an Axor Starck 2 hand-shower set and thermostatic mixer and a plate-sized Raindance shower head (all from Hansgrohe) – are elegant in their simplicity. The rectangular Duravit Vero 'Grinded' basin contrasts with the oval 'Crono' bath from Burg. The room's spaced-out arrangement gives the impression of plentiful space.

In its totality, the scheme is effortlessly coherent. 'We are delighted with the finished article, says Hayley. 'It is always a pleasure to inspire a design which is both beautiful to behold and perfectly in tune with the expectations of its owners.' □ MARK TAYLOR
C.P. Hart (0845-600 1950; www.cphart.co.uk)

