

CASE STUDY

SIMPLY

RED

Photography Mikhail Loskutov Words Aemilia Ross

BRIEF Creating a balance between a relaxing haven that allowed the clients – a young family – to get away from it all, while giving the design an experimental twist.

WORKS REQUIRED It was a complete house renovation. O&A Design needed to overhaul the entire bathroom.

DIMENSIONS 6 square metres

BUDGET Around £25,000

SUPPLIER O&A Design,
www.oa-design.com

Balance is the key to a happy home, and trying to find that sense of harmony between old and new, traditional and modern, bold and neutral, was at the heart of the entire design for this impressive renovation project. Despite these challenges, however, the clients were intent on having some fun with ideas: “They are both busy lawyers and wanted a haven for relaxing in, where they could get back to nature and spend time together with their children,” explains Anna Agapova, one half of O&A Design, which was the leading force behind tackling this vast renovation project. “They were already familiar with our traditional style, which they loved, but they wanted us to join them in an experiment.”

That playfulness was particularly prevalent in one of the downstairs bathrooms. Despite it only extending to six square metres, Agapova was determined to give it a sense of luxury, and for that there was only one choice: red. “I think there’s nothing more opulent than the colour red. We wanted to give the bathroom a touch of glamour, and such a bold colour choice does just that.” The vibrant decadence of the wood-panelled walls proves her point – this pillarbox red shade from Pittsburgh Paints was chosen for its warm, vivid tones. The top portion of the walls and the ceiling were kept cool with a neutral white.

That juxtaposition of bold and calm can be seen throughout the bathroom, especially when it comes to its style inspirations: “For the overall scheme we looked at everything from Art Deco to ’60s modernism, with added touches of contemporary classics,” says Agapova. “The main aim was to create a timeless interior which feels as though it has been around for a few generations, and with this bathroom we wanted to merge traditional and contemporary English style. There are some Victorian elements present such as the Topcer tiles, while the raised panels and bright colours reflect a more modern taste.”

Choosing the sanitaryware was an equally measured decision, with Devon & Devon’s more traditional Art Deco sink contrasting against the sleeker Hansgrohe taps. Even the lights had to strike the right tone, straddling the line between classic and modern: “We used a single, central source of light – an exquisite pendant from Woka that calls to mind the early designs of Josef Hoffmann. It features a handmade brass frame and hand-cut faceted crystal glass.” The chandelier is the standout performer, but there are also two beautiful wall lights from Artemis Lights on either side of the mirror.

Through meticulous attention to detail, the harmonious effect of carefully mixing styles without tipping into pastiche has resulted in a bathroom that balances that sought-after haven with a more powerful, glamorous alter-ego.



The Victorian geometric tiles from Topcer are the perfect partner for the bright red wood panelling, while Devon & Devon’s period-style sink and Hansgrohe taps in metallic finish tie the look of the room together.