



Nickel Lartigue
chandelier
Portaromana

Suite success

Interior designer Susan Bottomley of Blackheath-based Jane Bottomley Interiors talks us through the creation of this beautiful master bedroom and bathroom suite

‘Create a sanctuary,’ was the request made of Jane Bottomley Interiors for this master bedroom and bathroom project. ‘A relaxing place of refuge from the rigours of the day, sumptuous and inviting, yet calm and uncluttered – intimate and undemanding.’

So where to start? The room is all about the windows and the incredible view, so for interior designer Susan Bottomley, the first decision for the rooms was the curtains. These were the springboard from which all other decisions flowed.

The fabric was a pivotal choice. In the bedroom almost the entire wall is window so when the curtains are closed there are acres of fabric.

“The balance had to be perfect,” says Susan. “Soft yet sophisticated; gentle yet with enough presence to keep up with the architecture. The final choice was a very luxurious silk from Zimmer & Rohde. It gave us the perfect balance – enough strength to keep up with the grandeur of the rooms without being overpowering, which could easily happen purely by sheer quantity and scale.”

The curtain fabric and therefore the curtains win centre stage in the bedroom, yet the muted colours work in perfect harmony. Exquisitely made in the Jane Bottomley Interiors workroom, the deep box-pleated valances cleverly maximise the design in the fabric and are underlined with a subtle yet defining fringe. The valance gives the window a fresh, up-to-date appeal while keeping the proportions

perfectly balanced and in keeping with the date and splendour of the house.

Everything then flowed from this first major decision. The wallpaper was chosen as a calm backdrop that doesn’t demand your attention but has enough presence to reflect the gentle variation of colour in the fabric around the walls. A plain colour on the walls would have framed the windows, giving them more prominence, which they don’t need.

These rooms are very tactile, as well as visual experiences. Beautiful wooden floors have bespoke rugs made in Sylka col. Ivory bound in Linen col. Mink, and on the end of the bed is a fur throw that’s fabulously soft and strokeable. The



Cortina Crystal Table Lamp from Vaughana

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Chamber / Bottomley

patterned marble is used to define the shower area.

“This definition allowed us to create a composed space for the shower with strong form into which we have been able to place a very contemporary – and very big – shower,” says Susan. “The thing you look at is the traditional marble and the huge contemporary shower just floats in front of it, almost unnoticed.

“The strength of the darker marble marries in with the strength and design statement of the cast iron bath sitting in the middle of the room, wearing its beautiful silver ball and claw feet like jewellery. The taupe paint colour on the bath (the only place where taupe paint is used) sits happily against the marble floor, drawing just enough attention to itself, while letting the pretty-legged vanity units with gentle marble tops have their share of the limelight.”

Chamber Furniture, with whom Jane Bottomley Interiors has a long and happy history of collaborating with, made all the beautiful wooden furniture in both rooms, and also fitted the bathroom. }

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Chamber / Bottomley

armchairs are deep and covered in irresistibly inviting silk velvet. It's simple and sumptuous.

The bed is very high, making a definite design statement in the centre of the room and is a nod at the tradition of grand old bedroom. The height has the added advantage of making the ceiling seem less distant without ruining the proportions of the room. There are two chandeliers in the bedroom and one in the bathroom, all with silk soft mink-coloured shades that bring the eye down from the ceiling and adds gentle colour to the central spaces. The same colour silk has been used for the shades on the glass lamps either side of the bed for continuity.

The bathroom

All the colours spark from the bedroom curtain fabric – again, the first decision to be made. This is a different fabric to the bedroom, but the colours are constant. Then comes the mixing of the elements: marbles, glass, a silver mirror, wood, porcelain, paint and metals in cast iron, chrome and painted traditional radiators. The bathroom uses two marbles: the calmer marble is used on the vanity top, the floor and most of the wall; the darker, more detailed



Chamber / Bottomley