



'Small can be beautiful!'

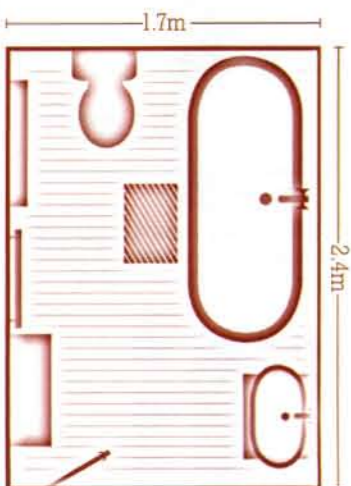
She may have had only a tiny space and a modest budget to work with, but Sam Pewter still managed to create a bathroom that looks big, beautiful and unique

bathroom makeover

£3,100



Before
The room was a red, white and blue disaster. The startling colour scheme overpowered the small room and everything needed ripping out as the walls were damp and the floors rotten



THE NEW LAYOUT Sam kept to the original layout as it was the best use of the narrow room, but she did manage to fit in a small cupboard and wall unit behind the door for extra storage. She also put up a floor-to-ceiling mirror on the wall opposite the bath to increase the sense of space

Sam Pewter loves period style, so it didn't matter to her that the flat she bought in a grade II listed Georgian house in East London two years ago was dark, dingy and dilapidated. What mattered was that it was packed with plenty of original features. 'The flat had been neglected, but I could see its potential,' she says. The most neglected room was the bathroom with its damp walls and rotting floorboards. It was also very small with a shocking deep red and bright blue colour scheme, so Sam had a big project on her hands.

Where did you begin?

As I had to sort out the damp and rotting floorboards, the only option I had was to rip everything out and start again. This ended up being a blessing in disguise as I discovered there was a false ceiling. Taking this out gave the room height and made it look bigger.

Did you change the layout to get more space?

No. The room is very narrow, and I thought the layout actually worked well in the space, but the new all-white scheme makes it feel much more spacious. I also put up a floor-to-ceiling mirror on the wall across from the bath and this makes the room look bigger, too.

Why all the tongue-and-groove panelling?

I wanted a shabby-chic look and



Mixing not matching has ensured Sam's bathroom has individual style – the modern basin with wall-mounted taps provides a striking contrast to the antique mirror and distressed-finish cupboard

the panelling is perfect for this. It also makes a great backdrop for all the antique French furniture and ornaments that I've picked up from antiques fairs here and in France over the years. Most of the ornaments were bargains, but there are a few high-quality items, like the antique mirror over the basin, so the overall look of the room is luxurious. »

What it cost

Bath, basin & loo.....	£1,110
Taps	£268
Basin cabinet	£95
Shower	£449
Panelling	£645
Flooring	£500
Total	£3,067



After

Going for an all-white scheme has completely opened up the small room. The tongue-and-groove panelling, which was the base for Sam's charming vintage look, creates an illusion of height, also making the bathroom feel bigger

VINTAGE BUYS

Sam didn't have to spend a fortune accessorising her bathroom – many of the pieces were bargains picked up at antiques fairs, such as this metal rack she uses as a soap holder

PERIOD-STYLE FITTINGS

The roll-top bath and loo with high-level cistern may have all the charm of original period features, but they were replicas bought at Bathstore

What is your favourite feature?

Definitely the roll-top bath with claw feet – it looks fabulous and is so luxurious to bathe in. I've also fitted small inset LED lights around the room so that soft light filters up from the floor and streams off the walls to create the perfect relaxing atmosphere for when I'm soaking in the tub at night. Sometimes I feel like I'm in my very own spa.

What has worked best?

I love the original sash window, but the view from it was ugly because you could see the iron security bars. I bought some Brume film covering which creates a frosted effect to hide the view but still lets daylight in.

Would you change anything?

Not a thing. Even though the bathroom was very small, I didn't want to compromise on style and I think I've managed to give it plenty of character. ■



In a small room, every inch of space should be used wisely. Sam keeps all her toiletries tucked away in these cupboards slotted behind the door

IDEAS TO STEAL



WINDOW FILM Sam used a pretty translucent film from Brume to cover the windowpanes – it provides privacy without blocking out natural light



ROUND SHOWER CURTAIN RAIL To turn the freestanding bath into a showering space, a wall-mounted shower curtain ring was fitted above it



FEATURE LIGHTING The row of LED lights inset into one of the walls creates a stunning blue glow for a spa-like atmosphere at night

£3,100 bathroom makeover



Sam chose pale pink and soft blue as accent colours to lift the all-white scheme

WHERE TO BUY IT ALL

Cambridge bath, £449; Bensham bath **two-way diverter**, £109; Grand Edwardian **shower system**, £449; Urban **basin**, £189; Bensham wall-mounted **bath spout** (over Urban basin), £159; Savoy Victorian high level **loo**, £423; Madrid white **loo seat**, £49; Kent chrome **towel radiator**, £399; all Bathstore. **Tongue-and-groove panelling**, from a selection, B&Q; painted in All White oil eggshell, £34.99 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. **Flooring**, from a selection, local timber merchant. Myson 24-in circular **shower curtain rail**, £153.94, Heatandplumb.com. **Shower curtain**, £22, Bhs. **Roller blind**, £90, Hillarys. Hand-painted **cabinet** with rose motif (used as basin base), £95, Bones. Vintage **hooks**, £47.50, Bombay Duck. Antique oval **mirror**, £150, Andrew Sorrell Antiques. **LED lights**, find similar at Lighting-Direct. C030 **window film**, £50, Brume. **Towels**, from £3 each, Christy