



CASE STUDY

PROJECT DETAILS

Location Bedfordshire

Style of property

Barn conversion

Length of project

Around four weeks

What they did

Bathroom revamp

Size Approx 9.5sqm

Cost Bespoke vanity and mirrored cabinet, Quartzforms surfaces, WC, fixtures and installation, £10,200, Barbara Genda (020 7978 2349; barbara-genda.com)

Bespoke DESIGN

A large piece of furniture has been created to fit the space available and provide much-needed storage

BEFORE



Janet and Simon Johnson's converted barn property in Bedfordshire might have been in an ideal location; but inside, the finishing left a lot to be desired. After moving from London to be closer to their grandchildren, the semi-retired couple began a whole-house revamp of the structure, which had been remodelled by a developer five years earlier. Looking for inspiration, they discovered Barbara Genda's work in a magazine and loved the style that was shown in the featured property, which was minimalist, grey and white. Janet and Simon knew that she was the right person to help them

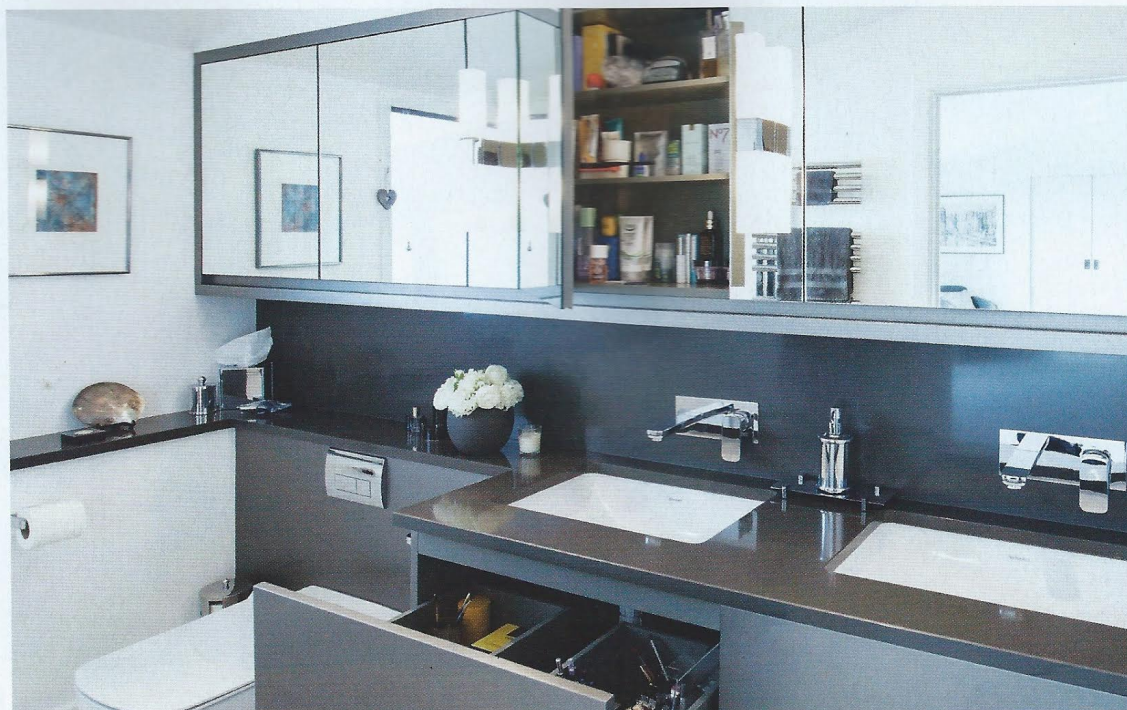
transform their new home into comfortable, useful accommodation.

'The couple's bathrooms had poor fittings,' explains Genda, founder and principal designer at Barbara Genda Bespoke Furniture. 'For example, an old vanity unit had surface-mounted sinks, was water damaged and lacked necessary places to put things away.' Genda started by going through the couple's requirements in detail with them, establishing exactly what they needed and what their washing habits were to ensure every item had its own place.

Next, she began to plan a scheme that would incorporate everything on

left Dark colours, together with eye-catching design, help draw attention away from the bathroom's sloping ceiling

right Taps on the wall mean they take up no space on the stone worktop and plumbing can be routed out of the way

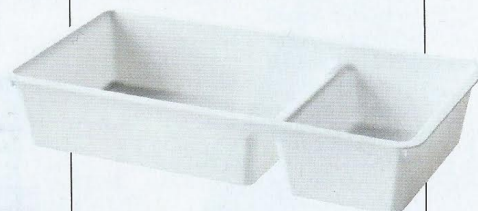


With just one window, natural light needed enhancement from overhead plus subtle wall lighting and mirrored cabinets

IDEA TO STEAL

Divide and rule

Well-organised drawers are a great way to conquer clutter. Tackle yours with retro-fitting inserts, such as Billigen, £0.80, Ikea (020 3645 0000; ikea.co.uk)



their wish list, as well as feel spacious and ordered. 'First, we swapped the WC for a wall-hung model and a concealed cistern, and replaced the shower panel,' she recalls. 'Then we built a vanity unit with a stone top, matching splashback and inset basins, with taps mounted above to help maintain a sleek look.'

While many bathrooms have only a small medicine cabinet, Genda decided that this one required a larger statement piece, both to boost the amount of space for items to be put away and to up light levels in the room. This was achieved by a design that runs the full width of a wall,

incorporating three doors along with subtle but essential extra illumination on the mirrors.

'This solution really stands out and makes the room appear larger than it is,' says Genda. 'I also ensured there was plentiful space in both the vanity cabinet and mirrored cupboards.'

Janet and Simon decided to keep the existing wall and floor tiles, which were power cleaned to bring them back to life, and also provided the inspiration for the colour of the bespoke pieces. 'I added a metallic paint finish to the furniture that I colour-matched to co-ordinate with the wall tiles to create a feature,'

recalls Genda. The resulting scheme has created a smart look that gives Janet and Simon acres of useful, accessible shelves and drawers. 'Handleless cabinetry works really hard here and the dividers inside the drawers make sure that it's always easy to find what you need,' says Genda. Janet and Simon ended up with almost completely new, contemporary bathroom fittings without a major refurbishment. This was more of a thoughtful and creative update with remodelling at a fraction of the cost that a full refit would have been. We turned an awkward room into one with storage galore.' **GD**