



# Space, Light and Balance

A look inside a modern bathroom within a Victorian house that manages to marry old and new thanks to some clever design techniques

**MANAGING** the design of a room with different floor levels and unusual – and varied – wall heights is no easy task, but when done well, the result can be a space full of character and appeal.

The owners of this Surrey home approached Alice Poole Architects to design a side extension at the rear of the ground floor level and to rework the bathrooms. The house had an existing original two-story rear extension which was on a lower level and had lower ceilings than the rest of the house.

To open up the space at ground floor level into a proposed extension, a network of supporting beams was required and Poole suggested demolishing the extension to allow greater flexibility in space planning.

The new family bathroom is housed within the first floor section of the extension

and the space was previously used as a bedroom with a separate WC and lined cupboard directly off the staircase.

Externally, the building at first floor level had to be the same as the original as the property is within a conservation area and needs to match the neighbouring 'other half' of the semi-detached property. However, rebuilding allowed the interior to be completely opened up and the bathroom ceiling follows the roof shape which gives a certain sense of grandeur to the space.

The house is Victorian and a modern play of the Victorian bathroom was achieved with a free-standing bath in the middle of the room.

The WC was sited in its own alcove with a waist-height wall acting as a modesty panel and balustrade to the steps up to the new floor level which was elevated in order →





# “A MODERN PLAY OF THE VICTORIAN BATHROOM WAS ACHIEVED WITH A FREE-STANDING BATH IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM”

to give enough height to the room below. This cubicle was replicated on the opposite side with a large walk-in shower.

To provide contrast, walnut was used with white tiles and walls. The wall incorporating the basin was designed as a feature wall, built out to allow for recesses which were tiled with mirror mosaic to give a greater sense of depth.

A full height cupboard and vanity unit were made of walnut by a joiner with the basins sitting on the walnut unit and the mirror behind it sitting directly on the unit. Fitted over the basin is a roof light which gives light, height and symmetry to what is a highly functional, yet extremely appealing space. **designer**

Alice Poole Architects  
Email: [info@alicepoole.co.uk](mailto:info@alicepoole.co.uk)



Above: The ensuite bathroom in the house was designed in the same style as the main family bathroom, including tiles from Bibliotheque and sanitaryware by Duravit