

# UP ON THE

The interior of this penthouse apartment has been completely reimagined with a sumptuous master suite on the lower floor and a slick entertaining space above

Words: **Felicity Borthwick** Photography: **Emma Lewis**



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ith its central London riverside location and charismatic warehouse conversions, Shad Thames has become a very desirable place to live. So when Robert Plowman and his partner – also called Robert – came across this duplex apartment, with amazing views towards The Shard, they knew they'd found their new home. "The property had great potential to be modernised and there was substantial outdoor space in the form of a roof terrace, which was a must for us," recalls Robert. "Plus, one of us already knew and liked the area, having lived here previously; it's very vibrant and has great commuter links."

As soon as the flat was officially theirs, the pair hired interior designer Caz Myers and builder Aiden Garrity to redesign it. "The entire apartment had been built with diagonal-style walls so we decided to take them all down and reinstate them – partly so we could maximise on storage solutions, which was very important to the couple, but also for a cleaner look and finish," explains Caz. "We also designed a new staircase, which leads directly into the open-plan kitchen-dining area on the top floor." The kitchen sits to one side of the staircase and the dining area on the other, and both look out onto the terrace.

The brief for the kitchen was for something striking yet simple with clean lines and ample storage. Thus Caz opted for contemporary bespoke units, sprayed in a warm, dark grey matt finish with a subtle sheen. "The kitchen area can carry this dark colour because the room ▶

**Left:** "The couple wanted to maximise storage space as they love to cook and entertain, so we put this extra peninsula unit in," explains designer Caz Myers.

**Right:** The oven run was taken all the way to the windows to fit in as much kitchen storage as possible. However, so that it's not visible from the terrace Caz had a film applied to the end window panes.



“We took the cupboards higher up towards the ceiling and closer to the window area, which is why we put a film on the end panes, so that they couldn't be seen from the terrace.”

is extremely bright and open,” she says, “plus the dark grey ties in with the exposed steels and columns, which we painted in a gun-metal colour to enhance the warehouse feel on the upper floor.

“The pair love to cook and entertain so we added yet more storage by introducing an extra peninsula unit, which didn't exist in the previous kitchen,” Caz continues. “We also took the cupboards higher up towards the ceiling and closer to the window area, which is why we put a film on the end panes, so that they couldn't be seen from the terrace.”

Maximising space was also a key part of the brief for the master suite, which resides on the floor below. “We wanted to create more space by taking all of the existing built-in wardrobes out of the room and creating a walk-in wardrobe in place of the old ensuite bathroom,” explains Robert. However, thanks to some clever bespoke

designs by Caz, the bedroom still offers ample storage. There's an upholstered storage bed with floating cabinets fitted to the headboard and a large, matching chest of drawers with beautiful spray finish and bronze handles.

The bedroom scheme ties in nicely with the rest of the house with its luxurious, contemporary furniture and sophisticated palette of greys and taupes. However, it is wonderfully cosy and warm as well thanks to the fabrics and accessories used. “We employed a mix of luxurious, textured fabrics and various tones of grey, bronze and orange as Robert wanted to introduce some colour into the room,” Caz elaborates. “The orange also adds warmth, as do the floor-length curtains and the textured wallcovering.”

Two pocket doors lead off from the bedroom. One opens into a sizeable dressing room and the other into an ensuite where a fusion

of mid and dark greys continue the flat's colour scheme. The brief for the bathroom was for something sleek and contemporary with a powerful rainfall shower over the bath, double basins and plenty of storage. The latter is provided by a four-drawer unit in hacienda black, which harmonises with the black mosaic tiles above the basins and in the wall niches, and also with the Meteor Nero porcelain tiles that flow across the floor and shower walls. Completing the look is a range of sleek, contemporary brassware and sanitaryware from CP Hart.

Every room in this penthouse flat is now über-stylish, not to mention impeccably tidy thanks to various clever storage solutions. It's also a fabulous place to entertain in, just as the couple had hoped. The kitchen is open-plan and sociable, there's a generous-sized, connecting roof terrace and spectacular city views pervade the top floor. What more could you ask for? [\[KBB\]](#)

**Below:** “The worktop is a very pale grey Corian. We used this because it's warmer than white but still feels fresh and ties in with the rest of the scheme,” says Caz.



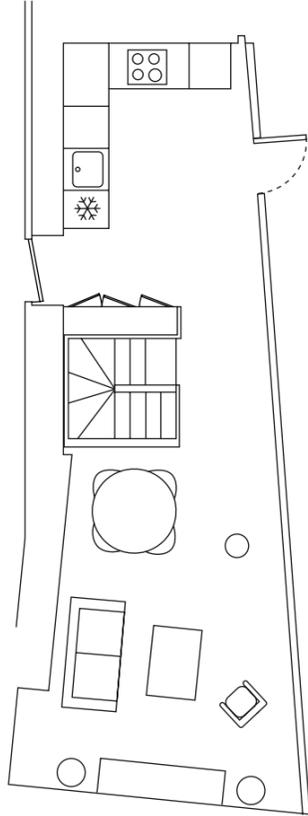
**Below:** The flooring used throughout the flat is a mid-coloured oak, which keeps it feeling light and airy, as does the glass balustrade around the new staircase.



**Right:** Colourful cushions and artworks enliven the neutral furniture in the living area.

**Below:** There is a large structural column in the dining area so a round dining table, which can extend into an oval to seat six, provides a clever solution to space restrictions.

**Opposite page:** "The upper floor gives a real element of surprise as you walk upstairs," says Caz. "We have tried to take it back to more of a warehouse feel, whereas the lower floor is more classic. We put in a brick wall and painted all the steels and column as well as the internal window frames gun-metal grey."





**Above:** “We created an oversized headboard, incorporating an upholstered bed with floating tables either side to fit in with the simple, stylish space,” explains Caz.

**Left:** Caz designed a beautiful chest of drawers to match the bedside units. Orange accessories have been introduced to add warmth and colour.



## Q&A

Owner Robert Plowman says...



**What did you find the most useful research tool when starting this project?**

We found Caz on the website [www.interiordesigners.co.uk](http://www.interiordesigners.co.uk) which matches clients with designers. The lady who runs it was incredibly helpful and put me in contact with three designers based on my budget and brief.

**Where did you find your contractors/installers?**

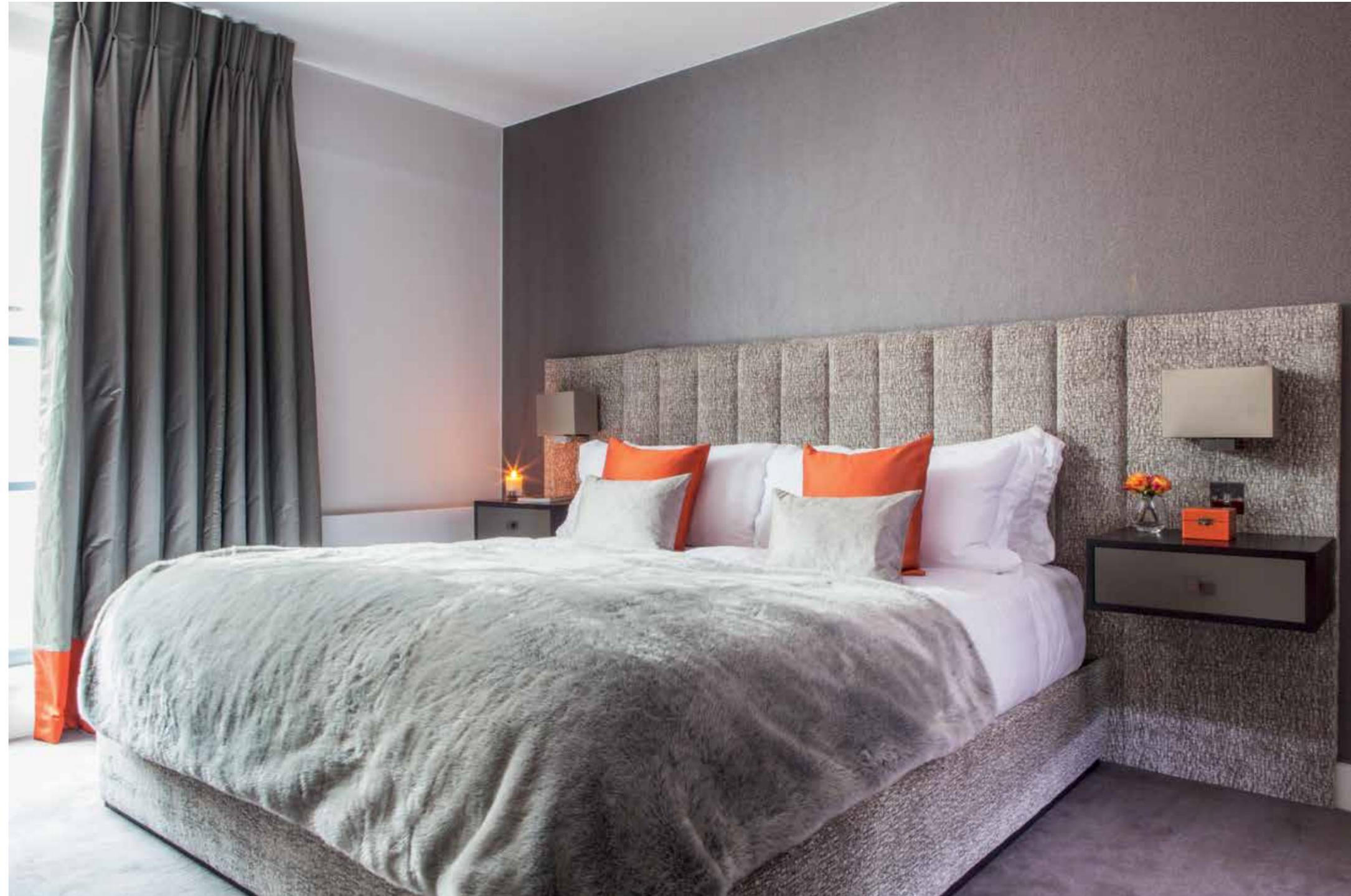
Caz recommended Aiden Garrity, a builder who she had worked with on other projects. We were happy to go with her recommendation.

**What was the biggest expense or budget surprise?**

The overall cost was higher than we had initially anticipated having never renovated a property before. However, Caz was always completely transparent and provided a range of options at different costs. In the end we were happy with the total cost and realised that the finish we wanted meant increasing the budget.

**Any major lesson(s) learnt from this project?**

It's a very time-consuming process. You have to trust the people you have chosen to work with and allow them to run with it!



**Below:** For the master bedroom, Caz designed a bespoke upholstered bed with a lifting mechanism to reveal built-in storage.



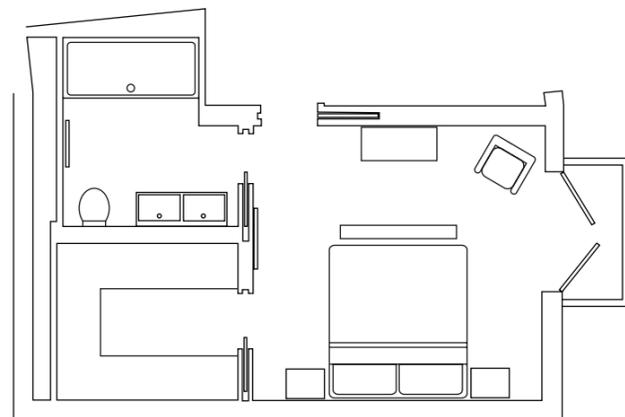
**Above right:** Robert and Robert wanted ample storage in the master ensuite, which has been achieved with a four-drawer vanity unit and mirrored wall cabinet above, both from CP Hart.

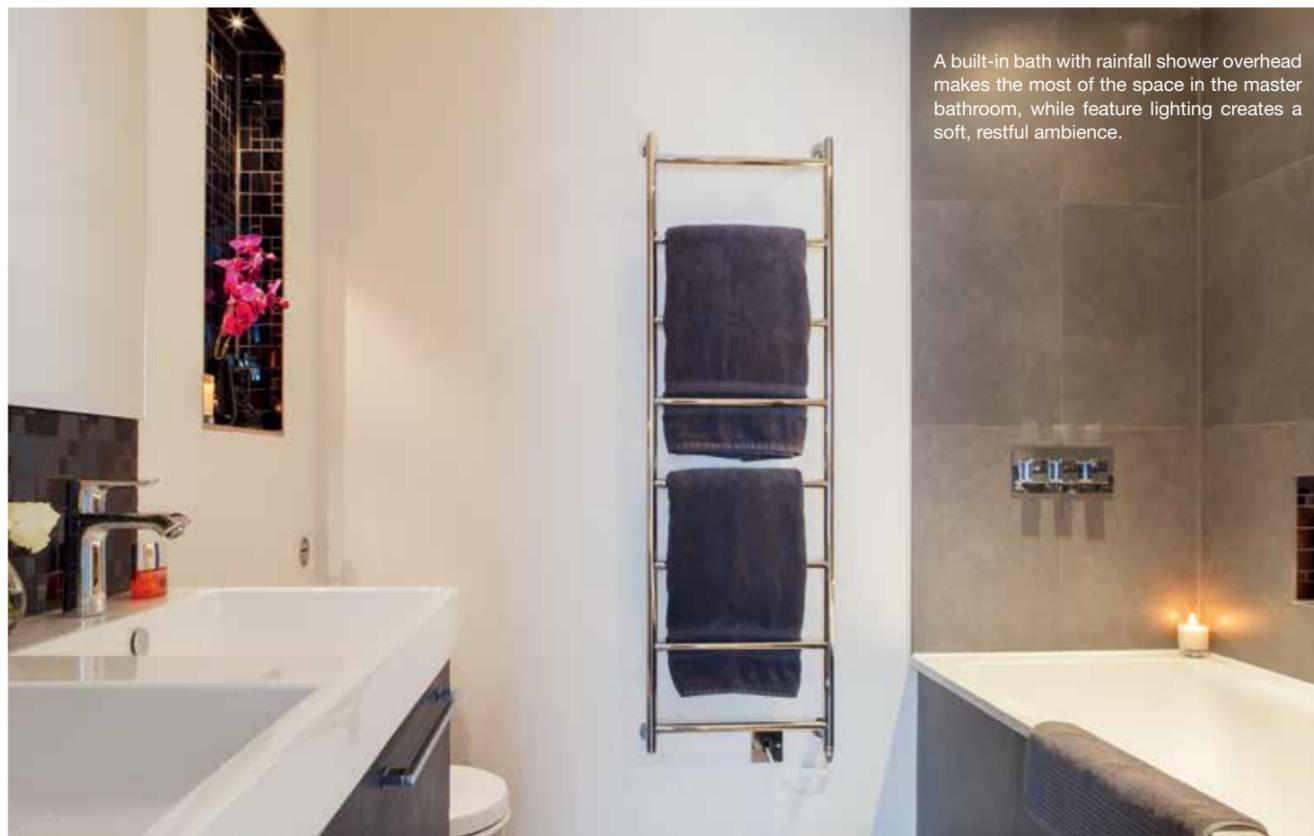
**Above left:** "I created niches where possible in the master bathroom for storage and also to create lovely lighting features and place stylish objects in," explains Caz.

**Left:** The dressing room isn't just a practical space; it also features some feature lighting. "For example, we introduced some concealed lighting below the upper pelmet. It's so lovely to use the dressing room in the evening without it having to be brightly lit," Caz says.

**Opposite page:** The master suite has been entirely reconfigured to include a spacious walk-in wardrobe and ensuite, which are separated from the bedroom by pocket doors. The door leading into the dressing room features a full-length mirror on the wardrobe side.

"We employed a mix of luxurious, textured fabrics and various tones of grey, bronze and orange."





A built-in bath with rainfall shower overhead makes the most of the space in the master bathroom, while feature lighting creates a soft, restful ambience.

## SourceBook

### DESIGN

**Interior design** Caz Myers of Caz Myers Design (020 8348 6464 or [www.cazmyers.com](http://www.cazmyers.com))

**Kitchen** ADG Interiors (020 8881 3808 or [www.adginteriors.co.uk](http://www.adginteriors.co.uk))

### KITCHEN

**Cabinetry** Birch-faced multiplex plywood carcasses with MDF doors sprayed in RAL 7012 low-sheen finish, ADG Interiors, as before

**Worktops** Pearl Grey Corian, Pinnacle Surfaces (01787 828202 or [www.pinnaclesurfacesltd.com](http://www.pinnaclesurfacesltd.com))

**Flooring** Oak, Jordan Andrews (020 8341 9222 or [www.jordanandrews.com](http://www.jordanandrews.com))

**Appliances** Wine storage unit, Maurice Lay (0117 938 1900 or [www.mlay.co.uk](http://www.mlay.co.uk)); Induction hob, fridge-freezer, double oven, dishwasher, microwave and extractor fan, all Appliances Direct (0871 984 4416 or [www.appliancesdirect.co.uk](http://www.appliancesdirect.co.uk))

**Tap and sink** Maurice Lay, as before

**Dining table** Bryant extending table, Porada ([www.porada.it](http://www.porada.it)) available through Denelli Italia (01908 216200 or [www.denelli.co.uk](http://www.denelli.co.uk))

**Dining chairs** Calligaris Easy chair with chrome leg and taupe leather (020 8977 3371 or [www.calligaris.co.uk](http://www.calligaris.co.uk))

**Sofa and round stools** Bespoke design, Caz Myers Design, as before

**Chairs** Cattelan Italia ([www.cattelanitalia.com](http://www.cattelanitalia.com)), available through Denelli Italia, as before

**TV unit** Amode (0845 527 9697 or [www.amode.co.uk](http://www.amode.co.uk))

**Floor lamp** Artisaniti Lewes metal tripod (0345 259 1410 or [www.artisaniti.com](http://www.artisaniti.com))

**Coffee table** Made (0345 450 6118 or [www.made.com](http://www.made.com))

### BEDROOM

**Bed** Upholstered bed with concealed lift mechanism, bespoke design, Caz Myers Design, as before

**Headboard with integrated drawers** Bespoke design, Caz Myers

Design, as before, using fabric by Zimmer+Rohde (020 7351 7115 or [www.zimmer-rohde.com](http://www.zimmer-rohde.com))

**Cushions** Bespoke design, Caz Myers Design, as before, using fabric by Dedar (020 7351 9939 or [www.dedar.com](http://www.dedar.com))

**Curtains** Bespoke design, Caz Myers Design, using fabric by Zimmer+Rohde, as before

**Bedside lamps** Heathfield & Co (01732 350450 or [www.healthfield.co.uk](http://www.healthfield.co.uk))

**Flooring** Wellington Grey carpet from Brocklehurst Carpets (020 8883 6010 or [www.brocklehurstltd.com](http://www.brocklehurstltd.com))

**Chest of drawers** Bespoke design, Caz Myers Design, as before

**Occasional chair** Bespoke design, Caz Myers Design, as before, using Oxyde Argent fabric by Lelievre (020 7352 4798 or [www.lelievre.eu](http://www.lelievre.eu))

**Throw** Brissi (020 7229 2323 or [www.brissi.com](http://www.brissi.com))

### BATHROOM

**Bath** Hart Free inset bath by CP Hart (0845 873 1121 or [www.cphart.co.uk](http://www.cphart.co.uk))

**Vanity unit** Zone four-drawer unit in Hacienda Black with Zone double basin, CP Hart, as before

**WC** Duravit Darling wall-hung pan ([www.duravit.co.uk](http://www.duravit.co.uk)) from CP Hart, as before

**Flooring and shower wall** Meteor Nero porcelain tiles, Checkalow (020 8347 0396 or [www.checkalow.co.uk](http://www.checkalow.co.uk))

**Mosaic tiles** Matrix mosaic 30 x 30cm sheets, Checkalow, as before

**Brassware** Libero thermostatic controls, Hansgrohe Air overhead shower and Metric basin mixer, all CP Hart, as before

**Mirror unit** Plaza recessed mirror cabinet, CP Hart, as before

**Radiator** Vivid electric towel warmer, CP Hart, as before

### COST

A similar kitchen would cost around £24,000 (excluding appliances), a similar bedroom (excluding dressing room) would cost around £12,500 and a similar bathroom would cost around £14,000

