



TAKING A BOUGH

A statement tree trunk all the way from New York was the ideal finishing touch for this unusual suite.

PHOTOS JAMES BALSTON WORDS AMELIA THORPE

A tree trunk is not a typical souvenir of a trip to New York. But it was Mandy Stewart's prize purchase when visiting the Big Apple with husband John and sons Harry, 10, and George, five. 'We saw it in a showroom and immediately thought it would make a fantastic shower screen for our new bathroom,' recalls Mandy. 'We love the look and feel of wood and thought it would be a great, striking addition to the

room.' It certainly was something a little bit different, which suited the couple perfectly as they were hoping to create a unique look.

Halfway through the renovation of their Victorian home in south west London, Mandy presented the tree idea to interior designer Brenda Gibson, of Complete Interior Co., who had been busy drawing up plans to create their new master bedroom, dressing area and en suite. 'She took my news in her stride, which ➤

KITCHEN PROFILE

Rich textures and warm colours add luxury to this contemporary en suite. A mix of natural timbers, glamorous bronze mosaics and touches of orange and chocolate create a truly tasty, bespoke scheme.

Complete Interior Co., 18 White Hart Lane, London, SW13 0PY. Tel: 020 8878 2282, completeinterior.co.uk.

Interior design services cost from £100 per hour.

The giant trunk, believed to be from a banyan tree, makes for a contemporary yet rustic shower screen.



‘I mixed in bronze and rich textures against a clean white backdrop.’

was such a great relief smiles Mandy.

Brenda’s calm response was a mark of her professionalism in redesigning the new space. It was once a small bedroom with a tiny ensuite shower room and a study with a bulky water tank. After the internal walls were demolished and the water tank repositioned to the ground floor, the area was totally remodelled to become a larger, user-friendly boudoir and spacious bathing zone.

‘My brief was to create a luxurious interior,’ says Brenda. ‘Mandy and John loved the dark chocolate and burnt orange, so I worked with those colours, mixing in bronze and rich textures against a white backdrop in the bathroom. We also discussed practical issues, such as storage, so that the whole place would be highly functional, too.’

While the freestanding bath is the main focal point of the room, it is the tree trunk that really catches the eye. It was a fairly big challenge to get it installed safely and the floor also had to be strengthened. The timber was coated in yacht varnish to make it water-resistant, while lights inserted into the floor ensure that the wood grain is shown off to perfection. A bespoke vanity unit in burnt orange lacquer with chocolate brown glass and bronze mosaics sits in the wall niches. ‘We kept the rest of the place quite clean, to avoid competing features,’ says Mandy.

‘I’m so pleased with the end result that I’m going to set to work with Brenda on redesigning the rest of the house,’ she laughs. ‘And this palette of colours makes a fabulous starting point for the other rooms, too.’ ■

Above Generous twin basins are mounted on a bespoke burnt orange lacquer unit that brings out the tones of the painting placed behind it.

Right The modern freestanding bath shower mixer is sleek and elegant, in stark contrast to the rugged surface of the stylish wood.



STOCKISTS INFORMATION

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Axor Starck single lever basin mixers, £320 each; Duravit Vero basins, £271 each; Axor Starck bath shower mixer, £1,035; Axor Starck shower column with Raindance head, £1,927, all at C. P. Hart; JIS ADUR towel radiators, £409 each; Villeroy & Boch Subway WC, £375, at Burge & Gunson; Similar bath, Trend, £599, at Bathstore; Bisazza Bronze mosaics; Classic Travertine floor and wall tiles; custom-made Travertine shower tray; £POA, Castelnau tiles; Bespoke cabinet and back-painted glass worktop, £POA, both at the Complete Interior Company.

*All prices are approximate.

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