

# GET CONNECTED

Mary Gannon and Kirsty McMorron have designed master bedroom-bathroom suites that add style and sophistication to a detached 1980s home

Words: Hayley Gilbert

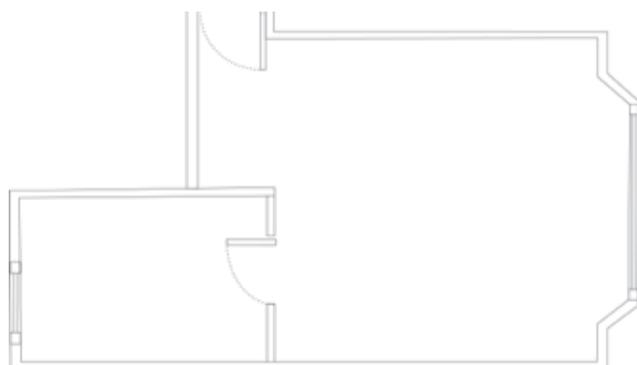
## THE CLIENTS

Amanda and Richard Austin live in a 1980s detached house in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Richard is a senior finance manager and Amanda is a badminton coach. They have two children – one at university and the other playing cricket in Australia. When they moved into the house in 2008, it was a repossession and in a neglected state.

## THE BRIEF

The couple would like some help with the master bedroom and ensuite, which is outdated and impractical. “The bedroom has 35 drawers and hardly any full-length hanging space,” explains Amanda. “The bathroom is pink, the shower’s tiny and the lighting makes it seem dull and dreary.” They would like the room to feel like a suite with more usable space in the bedroom and an ensuite with large walk-in shower, ‘his and hers’ basins, a feature bath and plenty of storage. “We will also require flooring as well as wallcoverings, lighting and heating,” adds Amanda, “with a common theme in both rooms.”

## THE SPACE

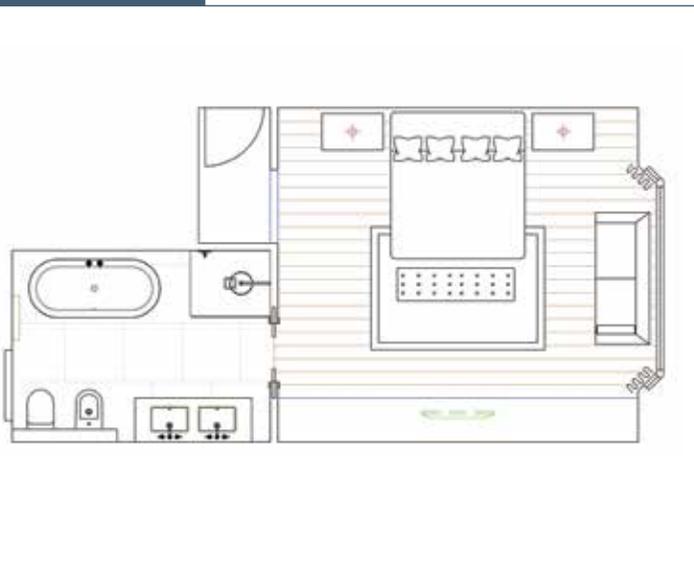


The bedroom measures 5.18 x 4.57m, the bathroom 3.53 x 2.62m and the small inner landing 2.72 x 0.98m. There is a large window in the bedroom and a smaller one in the bathroom with a door into the bathroom. “We are keen to make the two areas more integrated,” says Amanda. “We have a king-size bed to incorporate and I would like more hanging space, while Richard would love a TV so he can watch *Match of the Day!*”

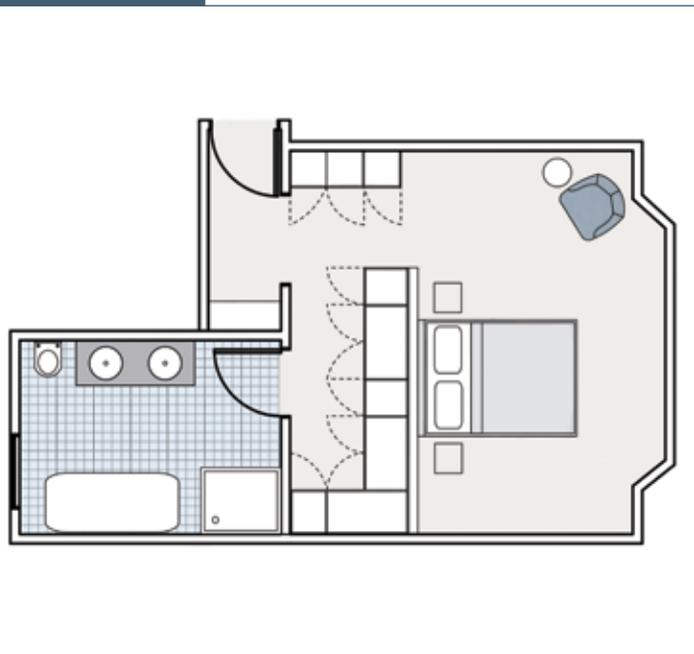
## THE BUDGET

£25,000 including installation.

## Solution one



## Solution two



## YOUR PROJECTS

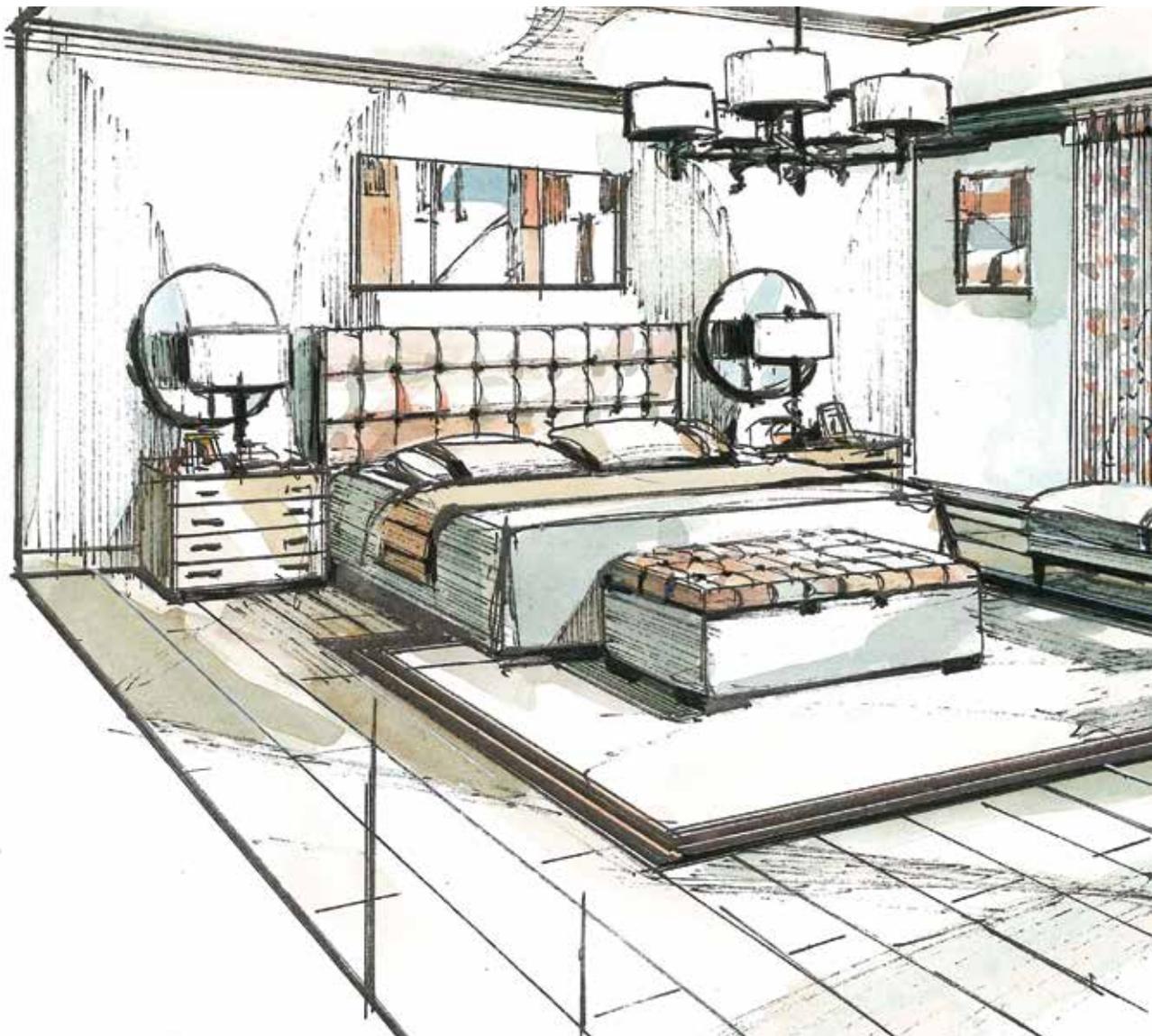
Do you have a kitchen, bedroom or bathroom project in the pipeline? If you'd like to put it to our Drawing Board designers, email [sophiebaylis@taylistmedia.com](mailto:sophiebaylis@taylistmedia.com) and tell us more.

## Solution one

## The designer



Mary Gannon was an interior designer for Harrods before setting up her own company in 2005. Her wealth of experience spans everything from refurbishing period properties to designing luxury apartments for leading developers.



As Amanda and Richard prefer simple designs, Mary has made a softly patterned ikat-inspired linen fabric the focal point of the bedroom. The Lewis & Wood Bukhara design has a muted palette that includes duck egg, pink sugar almond and nutmeg. Mary also used French pleated curtains, a blue/grey Rock Dove fabric for the ottoman and a Zoffany velvet – Rose Quartz – on the deep-buttoned headboard with a gorgeous dusky tea rose colour. “The chaise is covered in Lewis & Wood’s plain Kemble linen in French Grey,” adds Mary, “and we have painted the walls in Paint Library’s Lead IV with wardrobes in Lead I.”

Engineered oak flooring is paired with a cream 100% wool Weston Hammer Supreme Boucle rug bound in contrasting linen to add softness underfoot. “On the bed, we added Josephine Home 100% Egyptian satin cotton bed linen for a luxurious feel,” adds Mary, “while a run of bespoke panelled wardrobes, which we have made with Chloe Alberry porcelain knobs, faces the bed and houses the TV.” The round mirrors behind the bedside tables have a burnt silver surround and are from Porta Romana and the ceiling light is by Heathfield & Co.

For the ensuite, Mary has used I Bianchi polished tiles for the walls and floor from Surface Tiles – the soft cream colour matches the background colour of the curtain fabric in the bedroom for a continuous look. The remaining wall area is painted in Paint Library’s Lead I, while an underlit shelf provides mood lighting and ambience after dark as well as making it easier to see during the night.

“The hand-painted double vanity unit from Porter Handmade Vanities is in a style that echoes the wardrobe panelling,” explains Mary, “and has a marble stone top with chrome handles. We have added inset shelving for storage above the WC and bidet, or the bidet could be removed if Amanda and Richard wanted, allowing for a tall, slim unit instead, but this would take away some of the current symmetry. The bath and large walk-in shower are by Kaldewei. We have also added sliding doors between the bedroom and ensuite to make the best use of the space. A finishing touch is the oversized white bath mats and fluffy towels from Josephine Home.”

**Mary Gannon Design 020 7823 3355 or  
www.marygannondesign.co.uk**



### The verdict

"We really like the transition between the two areas," says Amanda, "as well as the layouts of both the bedroom and bathroom and this certainly gives us the wow factor we were after. The bedroom layout is the opposite way round to what we have now and we can see a number of advantages. The bathroom has everything we want, particularly the large walk-in shower. We would want some additional storage in the bedroom, so maybe this could be incorporated on one of the other walls? Otherwise, this design meets all our needs. We like the idea of the furniture in both rooms matching. Fabrics and paint colours are not ones we would have picked ourselves, but they have certainly given us food for thought."

### The specifications

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Bespoke furniture including installation | <b>£12,500</b> |
| Upholstery                               | <b>£2900</b>   |
| Curtains                                 | <b>£2800</b>   |
| Rug                                      | <b>£850</b>    |
| Flooring                                 | <b>£3100</b>   |
| Sanitaryware                             | <b>£1500</b>   |
| Lighting                                 | <b>£1200</b>   |

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>£24,850</b> |
|--------------|----------------|

### CONTACTS

CHLOE ALBERRY 020 7727 0707 or [www.chloealberry.com](http://www.chloealberry.com)  
 HEATHFIELD & CO 01732 350450 or [www.heathfield.co.uk](http://www.heathfield.co.uk)  
 JOSEPHINE HOME 020 7751 0100 or [www.josephinehome.co.uk](http://www.josephinehome.co.uk)  
 KALDEWEI 01480 498053 or [www.kaldewei.co.uk](http://www.kaldewei.co.uk)  
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All other products available from  
 Mary Gannon Design.



## Solution two

## The designer



Kirsty McMorrison is creative director at Absolute Abode, a concept lifestyle store, interior design practice and café in Wimbledon, London. Designer Bronwyn Loucks and junior designer Georgia Richards also worked on the design.



Kirsty's design is inspired by the coastal views that the Austins enjoy, providing a peaceful master suite with a seaside colour palette, fabric patterns that reference nature and a variety of soft textures.

"Four separate zones have been created," explains Kirsty. "The first is the hallway, which acts as a threshold or transitional space and gives the bedroom privacy. While it is currently outside of the budget, at the end of this hallway it would be nice to have a closed shoe storage unit and hang a beautiful painting.

"Upon entering the bedroom, you pass through a walk-in wardrobe area. The brief called for a large amount of storage space with room to hang suits and jackets. We have placed simple white Ikea wardrobes here to keep within budget. Closed storage was also used so that clothes could be hidden away, and the variety of textures and colours found within wouldn't become overbearing and detract from the calm colour palette.

"The large bay window in the main bedroom area is the focal point of this third zone and it was important to ensure that the bed faces the window, as it allows for a pleasant view while lying in bed. Wave curtains in Jessica Zoob's Breathe Lichen fabric fall romantically to the floor, while a curved Lloyd chair from The

Sofa & Chair Company in a blue linen fabric from Colefax & Fowler creates a nice juxtaposition with the rectilinear table leg of the Fractal side table from Niche London."

Kirsty and her team have also added a large, sumptuous headboard from The Sofa & Chair Company with Philippe Starck's Ghost Buster night table by Kartell on either side of the bed for lightness. "The wall behind the bed is papered in Wintertree 11 by Colefax & Fowler. The brief called for an area to watch TV so we have also added a wall-mounted TV to the right-hand side of the bed, with an adjustable bracket. Vita's feathered Eos pendant light also hangs above the bed as a gentle and playful statement piece.

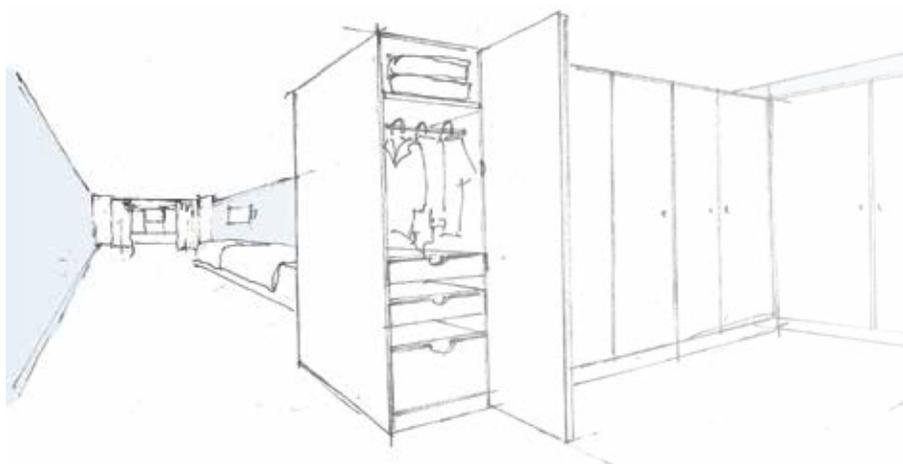
"We wanted to make sure that the ensuite felt luxurious and did so by adding elegant patterned floor tiles from Solus, beautiful Dornbracht taps for the basin, shower and bathtub, and a lovely grey wood-effect unit with sensuously curved basins from Alape. The WC has been placed carefully alongside the basin unit so that it is tucked away out of sight when you enter the bathroom. The Roman blind, though currently outside of budget, is Fontane by Colefax & Fowler."

**Absolute Abode 020 8090 3212 or  
www.absoluteabode.com**



“We wanted to make sure that the ensuite felt luxurious and did so by adding elegant patterned floor tiles from Solus”

**KIRSTY McMORRON**  
ABSOLUTE ABODE



### The specifications

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Bedroom furniture                  | £4602.92 |
| Curtains                           | £2150.40 |
| Wallpaper                          | £140.80  |
| Sanitaryware and ensuite furniture | £9423.44 |
| Wall and shower tiles              | £839.17  |
| Building work and decoration       | £7950    |

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**Total** **£25,106.73**

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### CONTACTS

ALAPE 024 7671 7129 or [www.alape.com](http://www.alape.com)  
 BATHSTORE 0800 023 2323 or [www.bathstore.com](http://www.bathstore.com)  
 DORNBRACHT 024 7671 7129 or [www.dornbracht.com](http://www.dornbracht.com)  
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 NICHE LONDON [www.nichelondon.com](http://www.nichelondon.com)  
 ROMO BLACK 01623 756699 or [www.romoblack.com](http://www.romoblack.com)

All other products available from Absolute Abode.



### The verdict

“The idea of a walk-in wardrobe initially came across as a great idea,” Amanda explains, “particularly as Richard sometimes gets dressed in the dark during the winter. However, then we measured it out and thought that this design may lose us the wow factor that we originally got by walking into the large bedroom as is. The bathroom design is amazing and has everything we would want. We particularly like the large shower, the ‘his and hers’ basins and storage area. The colours in the fabrics are not ones we would have initially chosen, but we actually really like them and would certainly consider these. We love the shoe storage idea!”