

BATHROOM  
PROFILE

Teaming warm dark grey hues with soft shades of teal creates a cocooning effect in this indulgent master bedroom suite. An elegant freestanding enamel bath with Burnished Iron exterior – together with touches of vintage texture and a thoughtful combination of natural materials – create an inviting and interesting mix.

‘The freestanding bath creates a striking focal point and accentuates the indulgent mood of the room’

**BATHING BEAUTY**  
The Geminus Plinth freestanding bath has a Burnished Iron finish

**NEAT TOUCH**

The half-height wall conceals pipework for the wall-mounted taps and provides a shelf for accessories and these weathered copper buoys



# Her dark MATERIALS

Interior designer Pippa Paton uses a sophisticated combination of shades to create a luxuriously inviting and cocooning master suite

PHOTOS *Paul Craig* | FEATURE *Amelia Thorpe*





**MIXING IT UP**

The classic chrome Amie bath shower mixer adds further elegance to the Germinus Plinth roll top bath

**W**

hen interior designer Pippa Paton was asked to create an elegant master suite in a converted barn in the Cotswolds, she proposed a dramatically dark and cocooning scheme. 'When a room doesn't have a huge amount of natural light, there's a tendency to choose pale colours and white walls to make the room seem brighter,' she says. 'But that can actually make a room seem bland and rather sterile, while doing the opposite can inject personality and warmth.'

Dating back to the early 19th century, the traditional Cotswold stone barn near Cirencester was being restored to be Bibury Farm Barns, a four-bedroom luxury retreat. Situated on the first floor, this spacious master suite had but one window, so Pippa developed a mood board for the room with a backdrop of dark grey paint and carpet, offset by accents of verdigris. 'I was inspired by some old copper buoys that I found in an antique shop one day,' explains Pippa. 'I fell in love with their light blue-green patina and weathered texture, and they complement the rich darkness of the greys beautifully.'

Known for her clever layering of textures, Pippa combined natural materials – including linen, dark-stained oak, leather and wool – to create a supremely comfortable suite. The freestanding bath, set at an angle underneath the original oak beams, creates a striking focal point while accentuating the indulgent mood of the room. And the main reason for the success of the scheme? According to Pippa, 'there's a real sense of enveloping comfort and a feeling of being able to truly relax away from it all'.

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**Q&A**  
**PIPPA PATON**

FOUNDER & DESIGN DIRECTOR AT PIPPA PATON DESIGN

**How did you create the layout?**

As in any bedroom, the position of the bed, as the largest item, is usually the starting point, and so it was here. It slots neatly opposite the window, with room for side tables. The half-height wall around the staircase dictated the position of the dressing table, leaving a wide corner of the room for the bath, which we set at an angle to highlight its grandeur.

**Can you tell us more about the en suite?**

The walls and floor are clad in the same Verdigris porcelain tiles, which bring richness and interest to the room and also complement the bedroom scheme. The basin on metal legs was found

at a reclamation yard and, seen from the bedroom, it makes an eye-catching feature. The shower enclosure is tucked to one side, the WC to the other.

**How did you bring the whole scheme together?**

Using the same palette throughout helps accentuate the strength of the colour scheme, down to the mix of shades on the bed and its cushions and covers. Oak furniture blends well with the original beams of the barn, while touches of burnished metal – from the pendant lights to the mirror frame in the en suite – add another layer of interest and echo the burnished iron exterior of the bath.

**ON THE TILES**

Verdigris tiles are large format, for minimal grout lines, and made of durable, non-porous porcelain for easy maintenance



**GREEN LIGHT**

The use of Verdigris tiles in the bathroom extends throughout the master suite, thanks to the full-height mirror

## PROJECT DETAILS

**DESIGN** Pippa Paton Design.

### FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

**Bed, stool, bedside tables, bed cover, cushion** and **trestle table**, all sourced by Pippa Paton Design. **Mayfair Urban carpet**, from £19.65 per sq. m, Clarendon Carpets. **Dark Lead Colour Intelligent matt emulsion wall paint**, £50 per 2.5L, Little Greene. **Similar Old Factory brass pendant lights**, £59 each, Industville. **Similar Breeze Persian overdyed rug**, £370, Lilla Rugs. **Geminus Plinth roll top bath** in Burnished Iron, from £2,316; **Amie bath and shower mixer** in chrome, £583; both Albion Bath Company. **Reclaimed basin**, Beeston Reclamation. **M206 wall-mounted basin mixer**, £169, MM2. **Similar shower door**, £POA, Cameo Glass. **JT Fusion shower tray**, from £225, Just Trays. **Avento wall-hung WC**, £570, Villeroy & Boch. **Verdigris porcelain wall and floor tiles**, from £53.93 per sq. m, Mandarin Stone. **Corian shelf** in Deep Sable, from £735 per linear m, CDUK. **Titouan mirror**, £154, Maisons du Monde. **Bloc LED wall lights**, £101.56 each, Astro. **Vintage copper buoys**, £POA, Brownrigg.

*For stockists and contact details, see page 144*

‘The dramatically dark and cocooning colour scheme injects both personality and warmth’

### KNOCK ON WOOD

The beams of this former Cotswold barn are echoed by the choice of complementary oak furniture