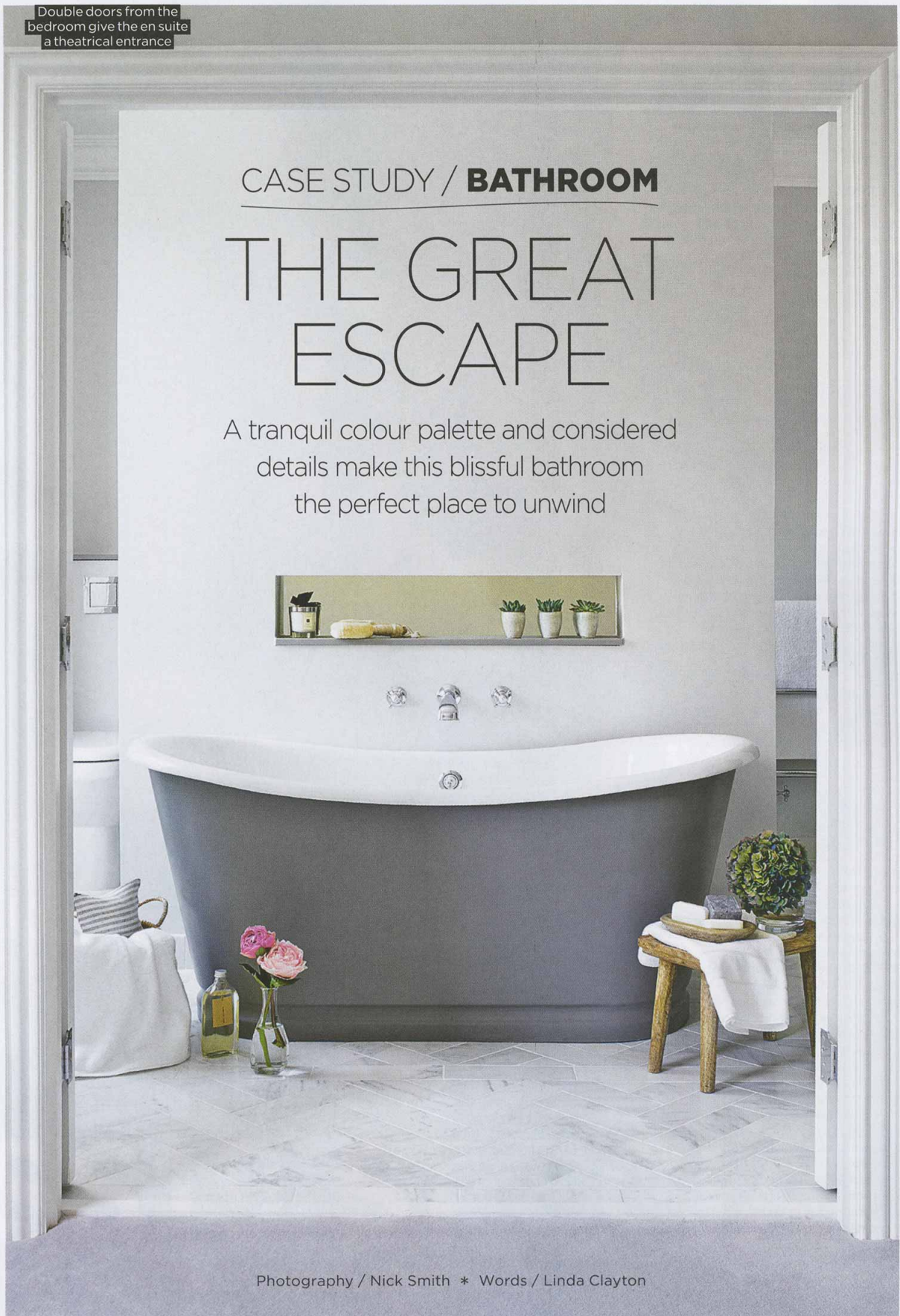


Double doors from the bedroom give the en suite a theatrical entrance

CASE STUDY / **BATHROOM**

THE GREAT ESCAPE

A tranquil colour palette and considered details make this blissful bathroom the perfect place to unwind



Photography / Nick Smith * Words / Linda Clayton

INSIDE STORY

THE PROPERTY An elegant five-bedroom house built between the late Georgian and early Victorian eras in leafy Surbiton, and the home of Edward Foy – founder of juice company Press London.

THE PROJECT The bathroom was originally two bedrooms, which have been converted into a master suite with a walk-in dressing room and generous en suite.

BATHROOM SIZE 4x7m.

THE DESIGNER Rebecca Leivars of Leivars.

DESIGN BRIEF 'Edward wanted a retreat to escape to after long, busy days. He didn't require lots of gadgets or to be enticed by any form of media that might hinder his ability to switch off,' explains Rebecca. The bathroom has wide, double doors into the bedroom, which are mainly designed to be left open. The feel was about relaxed elegance with a contemporary twist. 'It is designed so you can sit in bed and chat with whoever is in the bath but equally, from the bath, you can see the textures from the bedroom so the large, tall space doesn't feel cold,' says Rebecca. The rest of the en suite is zoned into a wash area, with the WC tucked in the corner, and the shower is encased in a walk-in area that's long enough to retain water without needing a door.

SURFACES 'We wanted a detailed herringbone floor design but didn't want it to appear too busy,' says Rebecca. A rug-like border effect highlights key areas like the bath, which helps break up the large surface expanse. The borders also add a considered detail. 'The wall colour is a wonderful soft grey hue with a hint of pink that allows warm tones to come through.' Edward also asked for a neutral backdrop that would work equally well with both clean-line contemporary or traditional furniture. 'That way the fittings could be changed without requiring a total overhaul.'

FURNITURE While the space is neutral, subtle details keep it interesting. 'The beading detail on the vanity unit doors add definition to what would otherwise be an unremarkable flat surface,' explains Rebecca.

FITTINGS The bath is one Rebecca has used a few times in previous projects. 'Clients love its high back for reading and its timeless look – it's a cosy, cast-iron roll-top. You can also custom colour the exterior – in this instance, we used Farrow & Ball's Mole's Breath – so it's a great way to get a little punch into a design scheme,' she explains.

STYLE TAKEAWAY The wall behind the bath performs a number of roles. 'It provides privacy when getting dressed and helps achieve a smooth flow through the space,' says Rebecca. 'A really large bathroom can feel a little impersonal, so we used the wall to create small pockets of cosiness. The wall also accommodates a softly-lit niche detail, which acts as a great focal point in the evening when viewed from the bedroom. Finally, it conceals essential plumbing pipework – the not so glamorous side of our work!'



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
A neutral backdrop works with contemporary and classic fittings; a dividing wall zones the space, enhancing the sense of relaxation



[Where to buy]

- * **Fittings** La Rochelle cast-iron bateau bath, £1,995, The Cast Iron Bath Company. Crosshead wall-mounted bath taps, £215; bath spout, £85; crosshead three-hole basin taps, £275 each; crosshead thermostatic shower valve with two-way diverter, £525; showerhead, £279; shower handset, £149, all Belgravia range, Crosswater. Vero undermounted basins, £172.80 each, Duravit.
- * **Surfaces** Flooring in East Hampton marble 30.5x9.9cm tiles, £114.84sqm; shower tiled in East Hampton marble diamond sawn 15x7.3cm tiles, £114.82sqm, both Fired Earth. Walls painted in Blackened estate emulsion, £46.50

for 2.5L, Farrow&Ball.

* **Furniture** Bespoke vanity, £4,600, Leivars.

* **Accessories** S4H Cleves towel rail in chrome, £270, Heat&Plumb.com. Victorian four cast-iron radiator in Graphite, £720, Period House Store. Rectangular carved stool, £39.99, Zara Home.