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# A NEW VISION

Georgian elegance meets vintage style in a scheme that breaks all the design rules



**DESIGNER**  
Anna Burles, creative director,  
Run For The Hills, 020 3735  
8599, [runforthehills.com](http://runforthehills.com).

## Can you describe the project?

The property is a Grade II-listed Georgian terraced townhouse in north London and this space was originally the first-floor drawing room and office/play room. The brief was to fashion the entire floor into a sizeable main bedroom and adjoining, but not enclosed, en suite. The clients asked us to push them beyond their comfort zone by coming up with something braver and more exciting than what they might have conceived.

## Did you face any challenges?

We were very restricted by listed building constraints. In short, nothing could be fixed to any original walls, coving or panelling and we also had to work with the wonky old wooden floor, which undulates wildly across the rooms. The solution involved a steady dialogue with conservation officers and the building of false walls, invisible supports and customised furniture with uneven feet.

## Can you tell us about the shower design?

We discussed the clients' likes and dislikes – which were sometimes divergent, as with most couples – and the final design melds their shared aesthetics. The utilitarian steel-framed Crittall-style shower enclosure, juxtaposed with beautiful artisanal tiling and lovely antiqued brass controls, makes it wonderfully feminine and masculine at the same time, creating a justifiable focal point for the suite.

## What influenced the choice of vanity unit?

We decided to repurpose a mid-century Danish rosewood sideboard; we felt that a natural material was needed to soften the effect of the steel shower enclosure. The sideboard had to be strengthened to support the incredibly heavy marble basins, and a frame was built for the 'floating' mirrors. It took days to find



A mid-century Danish sideboard has been repurposed to create a beautiful vanity unit that doesn't detract from the room's elegant Grade II-listed features.





**ABOVE** The bespoke Crittall-style shower enclosure has reeded glass on one side to provide privacy for the WC. **BELOW** A pair of matching mirrors neatly frames the tiles, handmade by Smink Things, on the shower wall beyond. Antiqued brassware creates an authentic and elegant vintage mood throughout.



mirrors that were in the perfect aged brass and that also looked as good from the back and were high enough for our very tall clients. Amazingly, we found the mirrors at John Lewis, and for great value, too.

**Can you tell us about the taps and fixtures?**

They are all in antiqued dark brass – no chrome in sight. We toyed with the idea of a matt black finish but felt that the aged dark brass better complemented the artisan tiles inside the shower enclosure, which are beautifully made by Smink Things. Aged brass towel holders have been fixed to either side of the vanity unit, while the bronze tone of the vintage lotus flower ceiling pendant suspended above helps link all of the metallic finishes.

**How would you describe the result?**

If we had to name the style it might be Georgian Urban meets Vintage Luxe, which involves a confident mix of modern industrial pieces and antique finds, and a successful interplay between hard and soft materials, finishes and architectural lines. This bathroom remains true to its Georgian roots, without diminishing its contemporary feel.

**WHERE TO BUY**

**FURNITURE** Vintage Danish sideboard, around £1,000, [Lovely & Co, lovelyandco.co.uk](http://lovelyandco.co.uk). **Bespoke repurposing work on sideboard**, including a new slate top and metal framework, around £2,000, [Run For The Hills, runforthehills.com](http://runforthehills.com).

**FITTINGS** Carrara marble vessel basins, £265 each, [Living 'ROC, livingroc.co.uk](http://LivingROC.com). **EVO078 basin mixer taps** in Grottesco finish, from £412 each, [Tapwell, tapwell.com](http://Tapwell.com). **Bespoke shower enclosure**, around £7,000, [Fabco Sanctuary, fabcosanctuary.com](http://FabcoSanctuary.com). **London wall-mounted thermostatic shower** with crosshead handle control, £1,879; **London Deluge showerhead and wall-mounted arm** in Vintage Brass, £1,247, both [The Watermark Collection, thewatermarkcollection.eu](http://TheWatermarkCollection.eu).

**Heritage Granley high-level WC and gold flush pack**, £751, [Victorian Plumbing, victorianplumbing.co.uk](http://VictorianPlumbing.com). **SURFACES** After Lowry handmade tiles, from £420sq m, [Smink Things, sminkthings.co.uk](http://SminkThings.com). **Walls** in Great White estate emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5L, [Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com](http://Farrow&Ball.com). **ACCESSORIES** Rectangle iron mirrors in Brass, £65 each, [John Lewis, johnlewis.com](http://JohnLewis.com). **Antique-brass lotus flower ceiling pendant**, £600, [1st Dibs, 1stdibs.com](http://1stDibs.com). **Shower storage tray** in Antique Brass, £70, [Living House, livinghouse.co.uk](http://LivingHouse.com). **Shanxi antique stool** in reclaimed elm, £95, [Lombok, lombok.co.uk](http://Lombok.com). **Shorthair Icelandic sheepskin seat cover**, £52, [Nordic House, nordichouse.co.uk](http://NordicHouse.com). **Double sheepskin rug**, £135, [Graham and Green, grahamandgreen.co.uk](http://GrahamandGreen.com).

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