



# 'IT HAS A HINT OF THE ORIENT EXPRESS'

A trip of a lifetime inspired Eilis Dolan to bring some Art Deco glamour into her scheme

Feature **NATALIE OSBORN** Photographer **COLIN POOLE**



BEFORE

## Fact file...

### Meet the renovators

Eilis Dolan, a housewife, and her husband Richard Scott, an insurance broker

### Makeover brief

To redesign the layout to fit a larger shower and create a 1920s-inspired theme with a modern twist

### Project costs

**Sanitaryware** £2,712 **Taps and showerhead** £1,400  
**Tiling** £1,400 **Flooring** £750 **Radiator** £195

**Total spend**  
£6,457



Dimensions W2.5 x L3m



▲ *New layout* The main focus of Eilis' brief was to make space to include a large walk-in shower, complete with a frameless pane of glass

◀ *Bespoke cabinet* Fiona Duke Interiors, who came up with the new bathroom concept, upcycled a retro cabinet into a striking vanity unit, using a bright teal for a pop of colour in the otherwise subtle scheme

### WHAT WAS WRONG WITH YOUR ORIGINAL BATHROOM?

I never hated my old bathroom, but I knew it was time for an upgrade! The tiles were starting to crack and the paintwork was in desperate need of a fresh coat. The colour scheme was also very mundane, and I really wanted a softer, warmer tone for the space.

### DID YOU HAVE ANY BIG IDEAS FOR THE NEW DESIGN?

My partner and I had recently returned from a wonderful trip on the Orient Express, and we were both inspired by the Art Deco design – a style that we have always loved. My eye was then drawn to brass-effect elements, which I wanted to incorporate within the vanity unit and both the shower and bath. I was also after a bigger shower, and to do that I knew we had to change the whole layout, which actually worked perfectly in the end, as the bath now sits closer to the window. ➤



#### HOW DID YOU MAKE YOUR BUDGET WORK FOR YOU?

We worked with Fiona Duke Interiors to pull the whole project together, and she was wonderful at showing us a range of different prices and quality of products.

**ARE YOU PLEASED WITH THE RESULT?** I absolutely love it. It feels so much warmer, but still has great light. I would say that my favourite element is the vanity unit – I love the teal colour, which goes perfectly with the brass taps. The tile design we chose has a great honeycomb effect, so are a beautiful feature in their own right.

**WOULD YOU DO ANYTHING DIFFERENTLY?** I don't think I would change anything. Fiona was such a great designer to work with, and knew exactly what I wanted – nothing was too much trouble, and her attention to detail on the design was marvellous, which made the task of getting it right so much easier. 🍷



▲ *Embossed tiles* The Bera & Beren design from Domus Tiles contrasts beautifully against the sleek white sanitaryware

◀ *Natural grout* Blending the grout colour with the tiles brings warmth and lets Eillis' coveted brass fixtures sing

*Shopping basket* **Sanitaryware** Kudos shower enclosure, £376, City Plumbing. 1700x900mm modern low profile polished stone resin shower tray, £434, Lusso Stone. Bespoke vanity unit, £POA, Fiona Duke Interiors. Bauhaus Balboa countertop basin, £266.99; Charlotte Edwards Belgravia freestanding bath, £899.99; Imex Arco wall-hung WC, £235, all Drench **Brassware** Showerhead and mixer, bath and basin taps, £1,400, Bespoke Taps **Tiles** (Around shower and bath) Bera & Beren Six wall tiles in natural, £84 per sqm, Domus Tiles (Above vanity) Artisanau gloss pink wall tiles, £54.40 per sqm, Topps Tiles **Radiator** Bauhaus Edge anthracite flat panel heated towel rail, £195, Drench **Flooring** Chesil plank porcelain tiles, £75 per sqm, Ca' Pietra **Lighting** Brooklyn glass funnel lights, £79 each, Industville