

Case Study Four

Emily Todhunter, co-founder of Todhunter Earle



Thoughtful composition and a restful balance of colour, textiles and pieces create a master bedroom and en-suite bathroom with a timeless feel.

The brief

"This is our bedroom in the country – my husband and I and our three children live in a very pretty Georgian farmhouse in Wiltshire, where the bedroom and bathroom face south with stunning views of the Wiltshire Downs. I wanted the bedroom to be a calm sanctuary – we both work in London, so we particularly appreciate the peace of the countryside. As both rooms have lovely proportions and features, including beams in the bedroom, fireplaces in both rooms and old panelling in the bathroom, we wanted to retain the charm and character of the house."

Balancing colour and pieces

"The bedroom has an old gentle pink brick fireplace, so I painted the walls to work with that. When I'm choosing colours I don't think about it too hard – I just follow my instinct. As in any room, the colours have to balance. These rooms have lovely light and beautiful views, so I just wanted very restful colours and nothing that would shout, or look too clever or thought-out. I just wanted to keep it natural. Someone once said that our [Todhunter Earle] interiors don't shout, they whisper. I think that's important."

"The mix of pieces was chosen to add character to the rooms. The bathroom armchair and the chair at the bedroom dressing table are both made by us (the armchair is the Kate, and the dressing room table chair the Misha), and were created in response to clients who wanted something really special."

Textile choices

"The curtains in the bedroom are recycled from another house and are a plain cream fabric which accentuates the view and the lovely sash windows. In the bathroom, the blinds are in a fabric called Ultimate Floppy Linen that I developed with O EcoTextiles – it is organic and is wonderfully soft. I love the window seats in both the bedroom and the bathroom. They're covered in a linen that has faded



beautifully and which is such a gentle colour that it doesn't stop your eye from looking at the view."

Creating a sanctuary

"I like the fact that the bathroom isn't just a bathroom – it's a room which you can sit in, read in, relax in, even work in. It's multifunctional, doubling as a dressing room, sitting room and sanctuary. Elements such as the cupboard, armchair, mantelpiece and lamp (you don't usually expect to see lamps in bathrooms) add to this welcoming feel."

"The freestanding bath in the centre of the bathroom was already there, and I'm a great believer in not changing too much – it leaves the architecture of the room as it is and the panelling intact. This would not have been a bathroom in Georgian times, so I suppose, instinctively, I wanted the room to feel as if it always has done." ■

TOP The window seats in both the bedroom and the bathroom are a favourite spot for quiet contemplation.

ABOVE The freestanding bath in the centre of the bathroom was a pre-existing fixture which has been left as it was to best preserve the feel and architecture of the room.