

*No.3: Todhunter Earle*

TIMELESS STYLE

LISA FREEDMAN discovers the many thoughtful and elegant details in Kate Earle's fresh, feminine scheme for this generously proportioned bathroom, which combines practicality and indulgence

FACT FILE

LOCATION:

Surrey

DESIGN BRIEF:

To bring a sense of Hollywood glamour to the main bathroom of an Arts and Crafts manor

OPPOSITE The 'Arctander Chair' was designed by Philip Arctander in 1944. Calacatta Oro marble from Cullifords was used for the flooring. Halstock built the bespoke joinery. **THIS PAGE** The bath is from The Water Monopoly. Balineum's 'Agatha Wall Mirror' tones with unvarnished brass fittings from Lefroy Brooks. The pendant light and 'Scrolling Fern Frond' wallpaper are both from Soane

'I like a bathroom to be comfortable,' says Kate Earle. 'It should be somewhere to relax, not just a functional space.' Co-founder of the interior design studio Todhunter Earle, Kate is known for her magic touch with country living, and the main bathroom she created for an Arts and Crafts manor house in Surrey is the perfect illustration of this philosophy – a room that is as indulgent as it is practical. Perhaps the most striking thing about the bathroom is its size, which rivals that of the bedroom next door. 'This was an existing bathroom, but in newbuild projects, we try to make the bathroom as generous as possible, including plenty of natural light.'

In this house, the husband had his own shower and dressing room, so Kate concentrated on creating a glamorous, feminine space. The mood is set by the free-standing, soak-forever bath from The Water Monopoly, positioned centre stage to capture the panoramic views framed by west- and south-facing windows. The honed marble floor, Forties-inspired mirror, and unvarnished brass fittings contribute to a Hollywood feel. Kate also likes to use 'proper furniture' – here, a mid-century armchair and rustic milking stool to suit the modern-meets-traditional design – and wallpaper. 'Wallpaper always makes a bathroom more room-like. Though people hesitate to use it in a smaller space, it can be coated in a clear lacquer varnish.'

The practicalities have been equally considered, and the bespoke vanity unit conceals tailor-made fittings, while the wall of painted oak cupboards neatly address the room's double duty as a dressing room. The lighting, too, mixes statement pieces, such as 'The Rattan Daisy Hanging Light' from Soane, with a pragmatic sprinkling of downlighters. 'One light positioned above the bath can add sparkle as it bounces off the bubbles,' says Kate. Ultimately, it's attention to details like these that make any room truly relaxing. todhunterearle.com □