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Divide and Rule

Visual rather than physical barriers were the design key to delivering the multi-use bathroom that the owners of this Midlands home wanted

A difficult skill to master is how to create separate 'zones' to a room without literally marking them out with walls, which ultimately serve to make the space feel smaller and more closed in.

That dilemma was the one presented by this project brief, which in most other respects was an open one. The client wanted a tranquil space that could be used as a washroom and dressing room as well as a space to relax in.

To maintain the calm flow of the room, an open layout was needed for the space. James Ellis and Stephen Roulstone, designers at Nottinghamshire-based bespoke furniture manufacturers Charles Yorke, decided that visual rather than physical barriers were needed in order to create this feel, so floating mirrors were incorporated into the design. These serve a functional as well as aesthetic purpose in dividing the areas and enabling the flow of the design to be maintained. ▶

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The furniture is all made by Charles Yorke, with sanitaryware specified from Duravit.

Hidden storage was built-in to allow the storage of items close to hand and yet be kept out of sight. A lift-up lid in the dressing area worktop reveals sectioned jewellery storage with velveteen lining, whilst cupboards in the mirrors hide away lotions and potions.

Maple wood was used for the furniture and was contrasted with walnut details to add visual depth. The light maple helps to ensure an open and light feel to the room whilst the walnut adds a warmth to the furniture in particular.

Mood lighting was important in this scheme, and is used to up-light various elements for dramatic effect as well as enabling the user to choose ambient lighting for a welcoming and relaxing space. ◀

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