

GRAND DESIGNERS



This page, clockwise from left, Naomi Cleaver and dog Larry in the drawing room; the oversized bath is from Aston Matthews; Naomi slightly regrets the dark tiling which is difficult to keep clean when splashed upon by London's hard water



The mysterious bathroom

NAOMI CLEAVER'S BATHROOM

Interior designer and TV presenter Naomi Cleaver is refreshingly frank about the pros and cons of her bathroom. With walls painted dark green and surfaces covered with dark brown slate tiles from Surface (020 7819 2300; surfacetiles.com), the room is original, sumptuous and chic. 'We are accustomed to light colours in the bathroom,' says Naomi, 'but as our house is relatively dark and mysterious, we thought we'd try to match this mood in the bathroom.' The fittings - including a Soho basin, shower, funky taps and Naomi's favourite, the oversized bath - were sourced from Aston Matthews on Essex Road (020 7226 7220; astonmatthews.co.uk). 'I'm not a candles

and Flake in the bath kind of girl, but I do enjoy a good soak,' she laughs.

'If Naomi could design the space again, she would keep the fittings but bin the dark colours. London has very hard water and any wayward drops leave white marks on the tiles. 'Unless you have a daily maid service, which sadly I do not, I'd stick to lighter colours,' she says. Naomi's other piece of advice is to think carefully about proportions, in particular the breadth of your husband's shoulders. 'I would have liked to have given Oliver a little more space to manoeuvre in the shower,' she says. 'People assume that I never make mistakes, but design is about constant investigation and learning all the time.' ■

Photographs: Emma Lee

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