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in.Brief: The lofty heights of Parliament Hill
All that glisters... surface design shines on
En-suites: big ambitions in small spaces
A week in the life of Anji Connell

▲ It tends to be the norm to use light colours in a small space, but interior designer Irina Townsend of Keir Townsend doesn't always agree!

"Reflective dark surfaces with a variation of tone create a sense of depth," she said. "Well thought out black schemes can feel more spacious than pale schemes. Black schemes work better in electric light so a bathroom with no natural light can be dramatic," Irina Townsend advises.

A recent master en-suite bathroom project features a bespoke graphite colour sink in recycled glass lit from within with LED lighting fitted with bespoke chrome and black onyx taps above a black lacquered vanity unit. The wall behind the wash basin is clad with bespoke carved wooden panels with Art Deco detail. Textured grey/black mosaic tiles in the shower complement the grey silver floor tiles.

"En-suite bathrooms are very individual spaces and we always try to personalise them for each client's taste by using innovative materials and unusual textures and surfaces," Irina added. "It is all about comfort and how every client interprets it, as well as a touch of luxury, as this is the space to get pampered and relax.

"We designed a basin in recycled glass in one of our recent projects. It is a unique material, which comes in eight different colours and is environmentally friendly. At the same time looks like a precious stone, especially when back lit with LEDs. The LEDs can be dimmed according to mood and time of the day, creating a soft 'halo' effect."

So en-suites may well be small in size, but no reason not to be huge on impact!



Thomas Griem carves out a solution