

living | **RENOVATION**

KISSED BY **HOLLYWOOD**

A DIVINE BATHROOM
RENOVATION BY **DEBBIE TRAVIS**

THIS SOAKER TUB IS THE
DESIGNER'S FAVOURITE PLACE
TO END THE DAY.

STORY | LYDIA MCNUTT

THE SECRET BEHIND every great interior is infusing the space with what you really love.

This is what makes a home unique, and truly “yours.” It is also the design philosophy behind the work of British-Canadian style guru, television personality and entrepreneur Debbie Travis.

The self-taught decorator recently renovated a bathroom in her own historic 19th-century townhouse located in Wandsworth, London. One of the last rooms to be completed in the historic home, the master bathroom posed a real challenge: how to bring spa-style luxury to a cramped space?

“A successful bathroom makeover, when it comes down to it, is about how it makes you feel. “While I love to bathe, it was important to include a luxurious shower area, too. The way it turned out...is it is a gorgeous place to start the day. But even better, it is an incredible place to end the day, soaking in this tub with a glass of champagne,” Travis said.

Bubbly aside, here are a few of Travis's favourite elements that make this bathroom makeover worth toasting. ➤





DEBBIE TRAVIS'S TOP 3

THE FIRST THING YOU'LL NOTICE when you walk into any great bathroom is an **EXCEPTIONAL BATHTUB**. It's got to be beautiful yet practical, and proportion

is an important factor to both criteria. For her small bathroom, Travis was captured by the Victoria + Albert sculptural Mozzano 2 freestanding tub.

"It worked perfectly because it's not too high, it's not too long, and it has this incredible organic shape," Travis says. The freestanding piece also came out on top in the space-efficient category, freeing up valuable wall and floor area, and creating the illusion of openness in the small space.

What makes this bathroom really stand out is the **ARTWORK**. While Travis usually goes wild with colour, this time she played it cool with a larger-than-life black-and-white Sophia Loren canvas – an instant focal point. "There's something about this image," Travis says. "I think it's her smile." Travis had this adored image enlarged and printed onto a durable canvas. Aside from being beautiful, the greyscale palette of the image provides the perfect backdrop to make the bright white bathtub really "pop."

And because good things come in threes, rounding out the trifecta of Travis's favourite elements is what she refers to as the "jewels of the bathroom" – the **HARDWARE**. She selected the Victoria + Albert Tubo 21 wall-mounted tub mixer and the Tubo 20 shower fixture. The sparkle and shine comes in the form of modern, minimal profiles, which are complemented by a high-polished chrome finish, adding sparkle and drama to the space.

Good design can't be made in haste. "Don't rush the job," says Travis of tackling a renovation. "Play with that space over and over again, until you get the image that you want." ■





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