

Wendy Valliere

A dramatic bathroom has been transformed into a glamorous retreat with striking black accents and luxury statement furniture



American interior designer, Wendy Valliere, prides her work on attention to detail. It's with this dedication throughout her 20 years in the industry, that has seen her travel and work across America and throughout Europe. In 1999, she founded her own company, Seldom Scene Interiors, to which she brings her full range of expertise and advises clients with her invaluable design sense.

Choosing a monochrome colour palette has created a stunning contrast in this indulgent bathroom which exudes a seductive allure. Oversized furniture pieces are complemented by ornamental shapes to give this space a truly memorable style.

Where does your inspiration come from?

My inspiration comes from life experience and the feel of the project. Each project has its own unique influences that drive the design direction.

Did the architecture of the house influence your design?

Yes and no, the exterior architecture is traditional four square Georgian, reconstructed in the style of the original manor house while the interiors are mid-century, Hollywood regency. The interior architectural elements were designed to be classical and current feeling. I used non-traditional colors on the walls to give the large spaces intimacy and warmth resulting in a youthful, livable feeling.

Do you have a signature style that you adapt to the client's brief?

My signature style would probably be best described as 'looking as though the house has always been

there.' All these elements make a room feel as if it has evolved over many years of family life.

What are your favourite features in this bathroom?

I would have to say the floor. It turned out just as I imagined (like an exquisite rug) artfully crafted in black and white marble.

How would you advise a client to create an intimate feel in a large bathroom space?

Use fabrics and surfaces with varying scales of pattern and texture, don't be afraid of color. Furniture pieces such as vanities and benches that don't have a traditional 'bathroom' design to them are always interesting.

How do you get a sense of the client's personality and incorporate it in your design?

When an existing client starts a new project with us it's both a comfort and a challenge. I ask new clients to pull together images of rooms and products they like and dislike. The dislikes seem to be easier for them to identify, while likes can be more subjective. I then pull together a complete scheme of the rooms with drapery, rugs, soft furnishings and present to the client. It's uncanny how often they comment, 'it's like you were inside my head, I love it.'

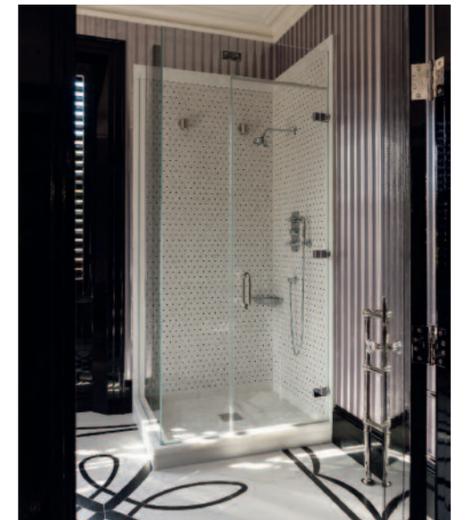


'Use unexpected furniture pieces, choose great lighting and look beyond the traditional choices'

The custom tile mosaic design by Seldom Scene Interiors was fabricated and installed by Paris Ceramics. The 1940's Vintage Art Deco glass and polished nickel light fixture is by Carlton Davidson Antiques



Above The Le Bateau Grand bath tub from Catchpole & Rye is double ended and made from 100 per cent cast iron. Its polished finish in silver gives it a contemporary air of sophisticated glamour



Above The bespoke glass walk-in shower enclosure by Meronden Designs has been created with all the essential fixtures and fitting for an enjoyable, luxury showering experience at any time of day



Above An over-sized, black antique French mirror takes pride of place above the decorative vanity unit with basin adding detail and drama to the scheme for an elegant touch and an intimate feel