

SEEKING SANCTUARY

A bespoke, marble-clad bathroom provides a peaceful haven away from family life to enjoy the restorative properties of water and steam

The bathroom was originally a Jack and Jill style with two entry doors, but Mike and Lilian decided to block up one door to turn it into a luxurious master ensuite instead

THE owners

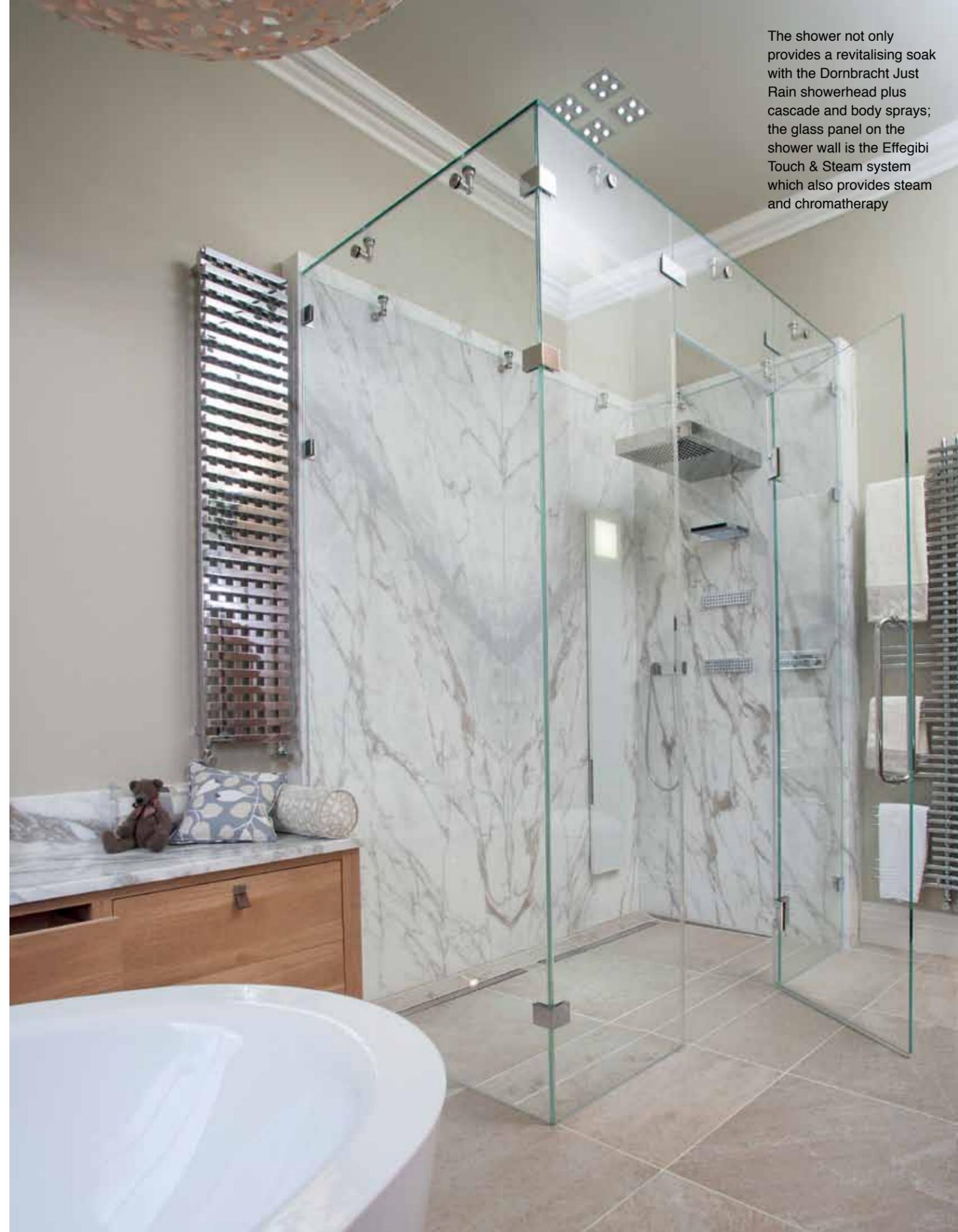
Mike Robins is a successful property developer while his wife Lilian is a full-time mum to their three children. They live in a six-bedroomed Georgian villa in Clackmannanshire, Scotland, which is also home to their Dalmatian.

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ealing with a busy job as a property developer, plus three kids and a dog to keep him occupied at home, Mike Robins can be forgiven for wanting somewhere comfortable and luxurious to retreat to. He and his wife Lilian had been extremely happy with the luxury kitchen that Sculleries of Stockbridge had designed for them a year or two earlier, so it seemed only natural to ask the company back to turn an old-fashioned Jack and Jill bathroom into a spa-like retreat.

“Mike and Lilian were faced with a major dilemma in the design of this room,” explains Brian Minns, managing director of Sculleries of Stockbridge, “as when I first surveyed there were two doors opening into what was an ensuite and family bathroom combined. A tough choice was made and we blocked off one of the doorways to create a master ensuite with all of the proportions required to give them choice and freedom to specify exactly what they wanted the room to be, without compromise.”

The couple needed the room to have space and comfort for them both to relax, so a large freestanding cast iron bath from Bette took centre stage, along with a huge walk-in shower featuring a rainfall shower head, cascade, two bodyjets and a hamman function



The shower not only provides a revitalising soak with the Dornbracht Just Rain showerhead plus cascade and body sprays; the glass panel on the shower wall is the Effegibi Touch & Steam system which also provides steam and chromatherapy



THE designer

“With a big bathroom space zones are important. Split the areas up into importance and work from the top down. If your thing is a major steam shower then consider the position it requires first, followed by your second zone (say the bath) and third (perhaps storage or basins). Once you have the basic zones set out you can backtrack and work on the details.”

**Brian Minns, managing director,
Sculleries of Stockbridge**

Great care has been taken to provide plenty of storage – the lower part of the tall cupboard pulls out to reveal a laundry basket, while towels are stored in the large drawer beneath the honed marble seat



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to produce hot air, steam and chromatherapy. Twin basins, each with storage underneath and a mirror above, were backed with slabs of book-matched marble, matching the finish of the shower area and the top of the bespoke cabinetry.

Fitting such modern equipment into a Georgian building was not without its challenges. “It wasn’t easy to get the shower to work with Mike and Lilian’s existing plumbing,” recalls Brian. “We ended up installing two entirely new drain systems to get the incredible amount of water produced from the Dornbracht shower removed efficiently. In bathroom design, if you want something to work long term then you really need to pay attention to the preparation of the room – there is no use having a drain with a capacity to remove half the water the shower can produce.”

The end result was well worth it. “It works brilliantly,” says Brian. “It’s their own private space, a room where they can escape and use the steam cabin, go for an invigorating shower or dim the lights at night and enjoy a glass of wine in the big tub.”

THE details

Bathroom design by Brian Minns, managing director, Sculleries of Stockbridge, including bespoke Shaker-style cabinets in American oak with hidden laundry bin, double pull-out towel drawers and marble-topped seating area, marble-lined shower and book-matched marble splashbacks sculleriesofstockbridge.com

Dornbracht Just Rain waterfall shower head, WaterSheet cascade, WaterBar body sprays x2, hand-held shower wand, Lulu floor-mounted bath mixer with wand, Lulu basin taps dornbracht.com

Effegibi Touch & Steam 45 hammam panel effegibi.it/en

Bette Bettehome Oval Silhouette bath bette.co.uk

Duravit Starck 1 floorstanding vanity unit x2 in pear wood with basin and glass shelf duravit.co.uk

Laufen Alessi loo laufen.co.uk

Bisque Zanzibar radiator bisque.co.uk

Zehnder Acova Yucca heated towel rail zehnder.co.uk

The bathroom has been designed with a couple in mind. The double-ended BetteHome Oval Silhouette bath is large enough for two people to be able to bathe in comfort, while the shower cubicle has generous space for a shared hammam experience