



**It's a challenge** when renovating any older home to seamlessly include modern amenities. When Wellington architect Clare Bush redesigned her own home, she ambitiously included three bathrooms. This ensuite was designed to capture wide city views and to cater for the very high 3.6m ceiling.

All of the bathrooms were deliberately kept simple because the high ceilings and the proportions of the house provide enough character by themselves. While none of the bathrooms are identical they all have some elements in common, such as the timber floors and brick-laid subway tiles.

That simple approach to each bathroom's aesthetics included a clean yet interesting colour scheme of black, grey and white, punctuated with the warmth of oak vanities and matai timber floors.

For the ensuite, Clare chose Resene Raven for the walls; it's a timeless grey with a twist of blue. "I like that while it's neutral, it's also just on the edge of being a colour." The ceiling and trim are painted in

classic Resene Double Alabaster.

Clare introduced a series of circular or curved visual elements to soften the look of the ensuite, and counterbalance the long lines of the full-width wall-hung oak vanity.

The curvy free-standing porcelain Bette bath was found at Franklin's and sits in front of the gracious old window. Clare searched for and found a Catalano basin at Plumblin: "the only basin I could find that echoed the shape of the bath."

A strikingly large round mirror hangs above the vanity, and the light fitting is a globe shape. Even the Duravit toilet was chosen for its rounder profile.

Clare finished the renovation of the grand villa last year, and it subsequently won a top spot in the Master Builders House of the Year awards as National Supreme Renovation for building company Planit Construction.

And Clare's advice for renovators? "Choose durable fittings, like porcelain, and not everything in a bathroom needs to be tiled!" H

Resene Raven walls create a dramatic backdrop for this elegant ensuite. The trims and ceiling are in Resene Double Alabaster.

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■ Resene Raven

□ Resene Double Alabaster

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