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NO.2 : TIMELESS GRANDEUR

Restoring glory

VIRGINIA CLARK is transported to Twenties America by the old world glamour of this bright and airy bathroom in a Spanish Colonial house in California, revived by design collective BAMO

There are myriad beautiful houses in the Californian city of Palo Alto, many of them built in the early decades of the 20th century, when the area was growing in wealth and in popularity. This Spanish Colonial house is one such example – though, over the years, its architectural and decorative integrity had sadly been compromised. But, when San Francisco-based design studio BAMO were called in to renovate the property, this bathroom regained a hint of the Twenties glamour it had once possessed.

There is an unexpected richness to the decoration of the room, which harks back to the house's glory days, beginning with the 'Style Moderne' fittings in an unlacquered brass finish by Samuel Heath, many of which were custom-made for the space. A double 'Industrial' brass washstand from Urban Archaeology, a bathtub from Waterworks with a burnished exterior, and a shower with a brass-framed American Shower Door all add to the sense of chic sophistication.

The hand-painted 'Fishes' wallcovering from de Gournay is not only a charming backdrop, but a distinctive feature in its own right. It catches the eye during the day, but the pearlescent design comes to life in the evening when illuminated. The lighting has been carefully chosen to enhance the scheme – a traditional pendant from Vaughan serves as a simple, elegant centrepiece, and is complemented by smart Ann-Morris wall sconces attached to the mirrored panels above the washstand.

A cool white palette balances the more luxurious touches, with a combination of subway tiles, marble borders and a mosaic floor by Sisis featuring patterns inspired by Twenties motifs. The effect is clean and contemporary, yet with an appealing timelessness. The room's generous size allows for additional pieces that are both functional and decorative, such as the BAMO-designed teak cabinets built by James Starr Metal-smithing and a quirky John Reed Dickinson plaster stool, which holds bathing essentials. bamo.com | samuel-heath.com

THIS PAGE FROM TOP The brass-framed door from American Shower Door's 'Vintage' series ties in with the Samuel Heath fittings elsewhere. The burnished exterior of the Waterworks' 'Candide' bathtub complements de Gournay's 'Fishes' wallcovering. **OPPOSITE** A pale mosaic floor and Statuario marble borders create a restful effect



MICHELE LEE WILLSON