

WINTER WONDERLAND

Embrace the sparkle of the season and indulge in some sophisticated glamour.

PHOTOS DARREN CHUNG WORDS AMELIA THORPE





Heavy glass doors open onto the stunning kitchen where daughter Malehha plays with the ice blue decorations.



The chic and seamless white kitchen sets a contemporary note and was designed to allow for a seamless flow into the open-plan ground floor.

'Relaxed entertaining over the festive season and new year holiday makes this our favourite time of the year.'



Above and right A sleek and contemporary finish was the order of the day as ice cool cabinets open to reveal hidden appliances and important storage.

Opposite The curve in the kitchen allows for easy communication with family and guests in the impressive dining area.



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It wasn't the house that appealed to Rizz and Sabiha Patel, but the garden. Its rambling roses and pretty, winding pathways prompted the couple to snap up the property in Essex, even though the house was too small for family life with children Humza, 10, Sufi, nine, and Maleeha, five. 'We always knew we'd have to do something with the house – it was the garden that we initially fell in love with,' admits Rizz.

Their first plans for an extension were rejected out of hand by the local authority, as were two more schemes. But Rizz, a managing director of a housing firm, decided to have one more go, this time after meeting the Huf Haus team at a property show. He was inspired by the minimalist timber-framed and glass designs with their eco-friendly, energy efficient credentials and pre-fabricated construction. 'The houses have a fantastic look and, coming from Germany, I knew they would be built well,' he explains. The same things that appealed to Rizz and Sabiha were clearly appreciated by the local authority, too: this time the plans were approved without delay.

And so, down came the old bungalow-style property and then the ground was prepared to greet the trucks arriving from Germany with the new house on board. 'It was put together like a big jigsaw puzzle,' says Rizz. 'Quite amazing to see your house going up in

DESIGN PROFILE

He likes minimalism, she likes glamour, and cleverly the two are made to meet in this sleekly elegant home with its cool white surfaces, glass walls and contrasting dark floors with their subtle sheen. A sweeping, glass topped curve forms the contemporary all-white kitchen, which leads onto a dramatic, double-height dining area. Upstairs in the master bedroom, the look is similarly sparkling, with layered textures of gold in silk, satin and leather, while a shimmering mosaic wall catches the eye in the luxurious en suite. Interior design by Wells & Trembath. Tel: 020 8444 0121. wells-trembath.com Design fees from £1,000 per room. Huf Haus. Tel: 01932 586550. huf-haus.com Pedini UK. 25 Wigmore Street, London, W1U 1PN. Tel: 020 74191 4021. pedini.co.uk.





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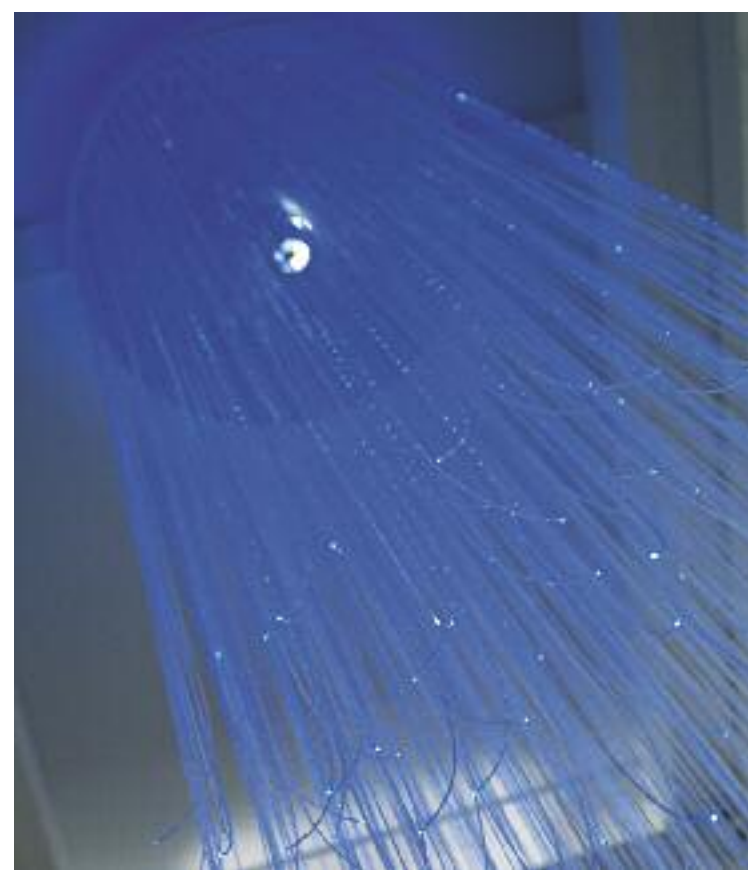
what seems like minutes!’ A crane carefully manoeuvred each panel from the trucks into position, where a team of men screwed it all together. ‘It really was astonishing to watch,’ he continues. ‘Each truck would pull up, offload its panels and then another would appear behind it within seconds. It was incredibly well organized.’ In a mere fifteen days, the five bedroom house was completely up, watertight and ready for decoration.

Then things got complicated. ‘Sabiha likes opulence, I like minimalism and clean lines, so we had a bit of a clash,’ laughs Rizz. ‘We needed an interior designer to help us sort out what to do.’ A recommendation led the couple to Vicki Wells of Wells & Tremblath, who was, says Rizz, was worth her weight in gold. ‘Vicki brought all our ideas together, and helped us create a house which feels right for both of us,’ he adds. Tile specialist Bibliotheque was a good find, too. ‘All the floor finishes really do make a difference,’ he says. So much so that Rizz had one freshly installed floor from another supplier ripped up (at the cost of £15,000), so that he could have something ➤

Above and right The dining area with its double-height ceiling is the image of opulence, where the children add their final touches to the stylish dining table with silver and sparkly decorations.

Far right The centrepiece of the room is a jaw-dropping chandelier which changes colour, creating a cool ambience.

Opposite Perfect for evening entertaining, the dining room leads out onto an inviting terrace where party guests can relax in the moonlight after a meal.

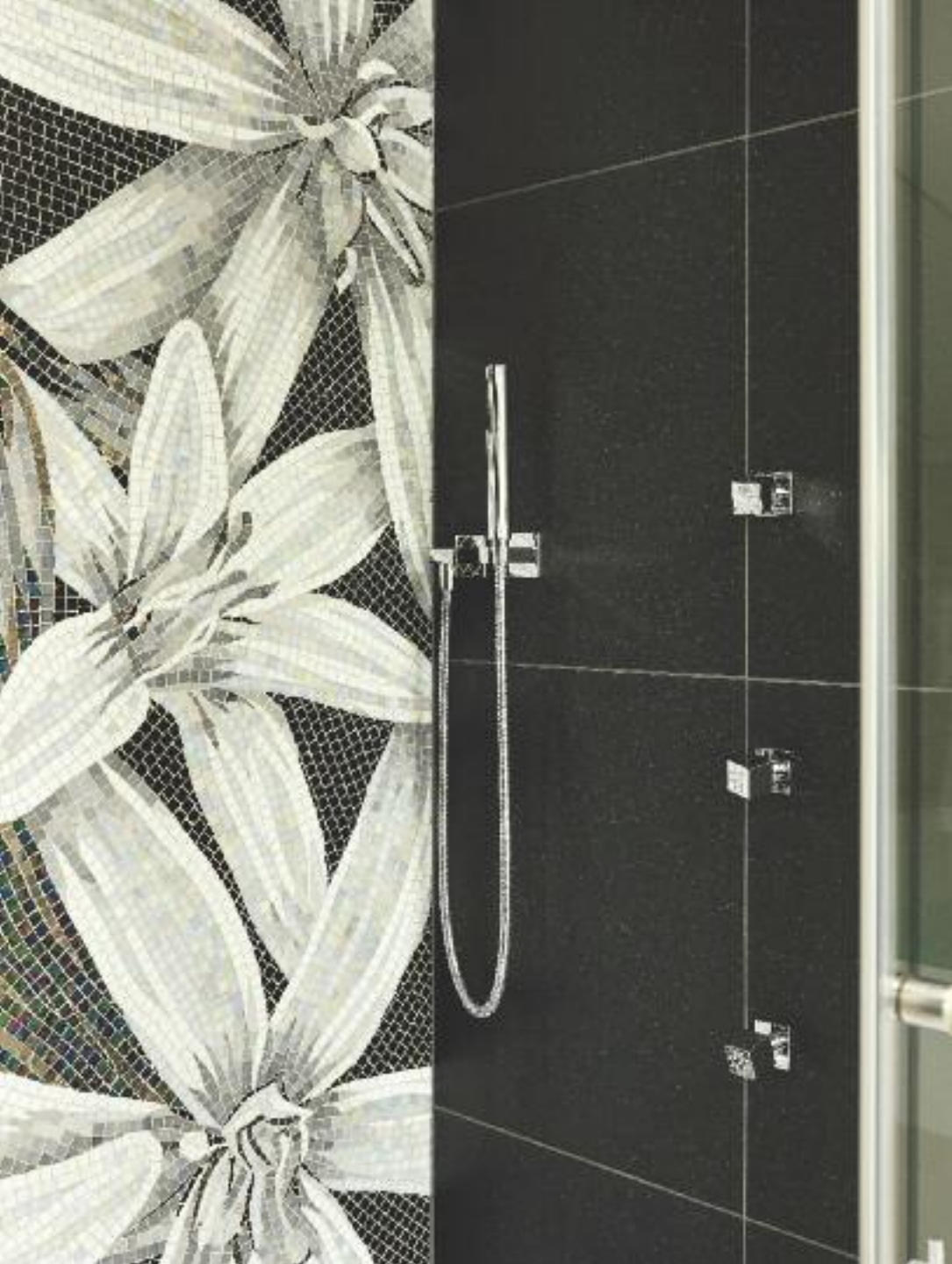


*'It was put together like a
big jigsaw puzzle-quite amazing to
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At night, this elegant
home comes into its
own and is nothing short
of breathtaking. Far right
is a stunning swimming
pool complete with
changing area, steam
room and gym.



The eye-catching decorative panel of glass mosaic tiles is certainly the focal point of this dramatic bathroom.



‘A decorative panel of glass mosaics is the showstopper in the en suite.’

better installed. ‘Instead we put down a really beautiful black floor tile with a fantastic metallic sheen and it really brings the whole ground floor together,’ he says.

A stunning all-white kitchen with a sweeping curve sets a contemporary note, its shape designed to allow whoever is cooking dinner to join in the conversation, while crockery and appliances are kept hidden from sight behind cleverly engineered cabinets. Take a look at the open plan ground floor and it’s clear that this is one very sociable home. ‘We’re party people,’ says Rizz, who likes nothing better than to throw open the doors of their house to friends and family, (Sabiha sister, Suraiya, was a huge help on the house project). The house may be only just finished, but already this entertainment-loving couple have had several gatherings for 150 friends, and relaxed entertaining over the festive season and new year holiday is one of their favourite times of the year. ‘We’re not the type of people to say don’t sit on that or you can’t go there,’ he continues. ‘If you can’t use it, don’t have it, that is my motto.’

Upstairs, the look similarly blends contemporary simplicity with sparkle and glamour. A mix of luxurious textures in soft golds creates an inviting master bedroom, while a decorative panel of glass mosaics ➔



Above A minimalist shower works well within this pared-down design and is supported by cleverly positioned jets.

Right The stunning mosaic design makes a striking feature in the en suite bathroom.

Far right Sabiha’s love of glamour shows through with this crystal encrusted towel.

Opposite One large unit flanks a wall, incorporating His and Hers units, and one long row of sleek mirrors makes this large room feel even bigger.





‘Our designer brought all of our ideas together, helping us to create a gorgeous house which feels right for both of us.’

is the showstopper in the en suite. Any regrets, then? ‘None at all,’ says Rizz, before pausing. ‘Well, maybe one. We realized that the cottage-style garden no longer looked right. So we’ve re-done that as well! So much for buying the house for its garden.’ ■

Tree and all decorations created by Shaftsberries Flowers, 07905 826326, shaftsberriesflower.com China/accessories: Ralph Lauren, 020 7590 7990. Food styling: Direct Seafood, 01206 752075.

Above Colour changing lights in the bath, added to by candlelight combine modern design with glamour.

Bottom left The stunning mirror bought by Rizz and Sabiha on a shopping trip to Dubai, makes a perfect backdrop for entertaining celebrations.



STOCKISTS INFORMATION

APPLIANCES

BO 280 ovens, £4,000 each; WS282 warming drawer, £1,400; similar hob, KG 491, £2,720, all at Gaggenau; Similar appliances: G5170 SCVi integrated dishwasher, £1,100; DA2270 integrated extractor hood, £635; KFN 9755iDE integrated fridge freezer with ice maker, £1,734; K9752 iD integrated fridge, £1,150, all at Miele; Modern boiling water tap, £790, at Quooker.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Similar taps, Gessi Oxygen, from £379 each, at Sinks-Taps; Sinks and glass worktops, all priced to order, at Pedini UK Contracts, Metallic Iron Lapatto porcelain floor tiles, £84 per sq. m, at Bibliotheque; Similar bar stools, Ligne Roset Pam, £303 each, at Heal’s.

DINING AREA

Cutlery, at Dorma; Molteni Diamond dining table with Moka glass top, from £3,750; Molteni Bespoke dining room wall unit in Moka glass, about £5,000; Similar dining chair, Ligne Roset Sala, from £400 each, all at Charles Page; Chandelier, mirror, bar trolley, £POA, at Wells & Trembath.

EN SUITE BATHROOM

Gessi Rettangolo T deck mounted waterfall spout, £1,127 and deck mounted controls, £337; Rettangolo L wall mounted basin mixers, £602 each; similar shower head, Bossini York, priced to order; Rettangolo wall mounted body jets, £161 each; Rettangolo diverters, £342 each; Rettangolo hand shower kit, £664; Duravit Starck X wall hung WC, £871; Duravit Starck X bidet, £722; Hansgrohe Starck X bidet mixer, £433; similar bath with colour changing lights, Duravit Blue Moon, £13,108, all at Aromabath; Basin vanity unit, priced to order, at Tiles & Baths Direct; P15 Polished wall and floor tiles, £108 per sq. m; Metallic Iron Natural wall tiles, £66 per sq. m; FLO 1 Siciis Artistic Mosaic panel, £7,050 per sq. m; all at Bibliotheque; Bespoke shower screen, £POA, at Wow Glass. Headboard in Brian Yates Summer Palace 01 collection; Padded wall in Sheila Coombes for Brian Yates Artisan Pathways 02 Antique; Round bed in cream leather; Bed cover and cushions, made to order; all priced to order at Wells & Trembath.

**All prices are approximate. For stockists, see page 168.*



The round bed, upholstered in cream leather, is dressed in shades of gold for glamour