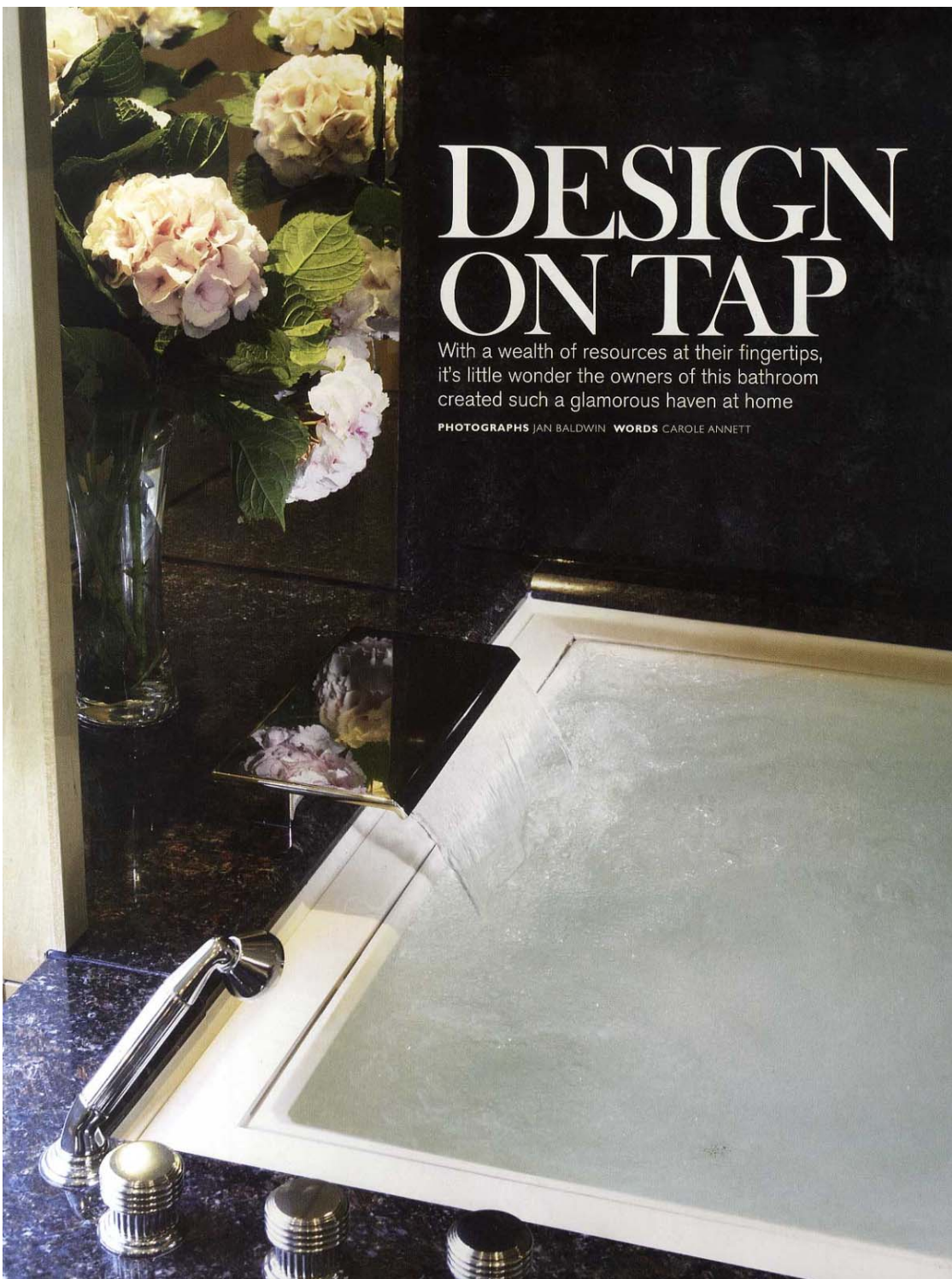


DESIGN ON TAP

With a wealth of resources at their fingertips, it's little wonder the owners of this bathroom created such a glamorous haven at home

PHOTOGRAPHS JAN BALDWIN WORDS CAROLE ANNETT



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP In the bedroom, all fabrics are by Chase Erwin. Cheryl and Peter in their garden designed by Baker Gardens. The bath area includes a Diamond Deco towel rail, a popular design exclusive to Bathrooms International

As owners of Bathrooms International, Cheryl and Peter Gurner have provided furniture and fittings for royal palaces and famous hotels (including the Connaught's recent refit), and been a destination for an endless stream of interior designers including Nina Campbell, Bill Bennette and Mary Fox Linton. For their renovations at home, the only problem was what to choose.

"This is my favourite bit of the house," says Cheryl. "I come up here and instantly relax. It looks fabulous at any time of day and especially at night. We've gone for a timeless design using cream, bronze and black, with maple and walnut in the bedroom to match the rich tones of the granite which Peter found at Stone Age. Taps were an issue; I looked at our bestsellers and decided they looked great but weren't 'us' and we originally had a thin black line around the top of the loo and basin, something that's popular with our clients in the Middle East, but we both hated when we saw it. I always tell clients, 'don't stick to a trend if it's not your style; you'll end up with a house, not a home.'

"I'm a firm believer in using professionals – if it's not your talent, use someone else's expertise," says Cheryl. An established interior designer before joining the company, she explains their style: "We both hate minimalism. You have to 'dress' a room and have something to catch the eye – detail, not clutter."

The main focal point in this room is the vast Nara Infinity bath, which was originally designed for superyachts. "The overflow channel in the rim means you don't get spillage in choppy seas," explains Cheryl. It is kitted out with nickel Majesty taps, a waterfall spout and a Prestige Air/Hydrobath system (with both air, and air-and-water jets). A Medicis 92-jet Sky shower rains down from above and built-in speakers relay music from the bedroom. The bath, loo and bidet ("essential to balance a room and where else would you wash your feet?") are all cream Ceralite, a fine resin, exclusive to Bathrooms International.

In their Pont Street premises, more boutique than showroom, are room sets created by different designers. "Everyone is welcome to come and browse and be inspired," says Cheryl. "We have top-end and middle-range product and can accommodate a sensible budget. Most of our work is directly with designers, but I'd hate to think we're daunting; it's the same service whoever you are."

"Peter and I love pushing boundaries. We have lots of projects on the go and have just launched a new range of taps with semi-precious stones. We're also very excited as interior designer Stephen Ryan is doing a new area in the showroom for us. It's going to look fabulous." ■

Bathrooms International (tel: 020-7838 7788, www.bathroomsint.com)