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DRAMATIC TOUCH



The glamorous cloakroom in Matt and Claire Podesta's home near Marlow, Buckinghamshire, used to be a poky space under the stairs but it has recently been treated to a new lease of life.

Closing off a disused corridor to the kitchen let the couple double the size of their cloakroom, giving designer Matt scope for some decorating fun. "The rest of the house is in a New England style but cloakrooms, I think, lend themselves to a bit of over-the-top decor," says Matt.

Aiming for nightclub glamour, Matt used exotic Zebrano veneer for the vanity and Macassar ebony for the wall cladding with skirting boards in walnut, all handmade in his company's workshops. Metallic wallpaper and an eye-catching stag's head in polished aluminium adorn the walls. "The stag's head was a must-have purchase the moment we saw it and the Marquina limestone countertops have delicate fossils embedded in the surface," Matt says.

Inexpensive sanitaryware helped balance the budget, although the wallpaper and stone were pricey, the small quantities required meant they didn't break the bank. A final touch of luxury is provided by motion-sensor lighting, which comes on automatically upon entering.

THE DETAILS

DESIGNER Matt Podesta, Podesta, 01628 484600, podesta.uk.com.

THE BRIEF To introduce a sense of fun and glamour in a classic family home.

BUDGET From £5,000.

SOURCES Basin and WC, Bathstore, 0800 023 2323, bathstore.com. Vanity unit and timber wall cladding, Podesta, as before. Countertops, Totem Stone, 01494 862003, totemstone.co.uk.

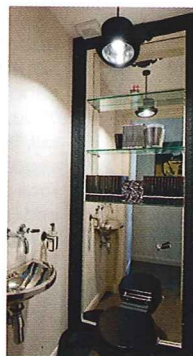
Stag's head, Graham and Green, 0845 130 6622, grahamandgreen.co.uk.

Wallpaper Extravaganza 344728, Brian Yates, 020 7352 0123, brian-yates.co.uk.

GALLERY More design inspiration for the smallest room in the house



PERFECT FIT Compact sanitaryware is great for small spaces. Micro basin, £140; wall-mounted WC, £510; both Space range, **Ideal Standard**, 01482 346461, ideal-standard.co.uk.



HATS OFF In this scheme by **NBB Design**, 020 7581 4127, nbbdesign.com (similar from £3,000), a Wooster pendant from **Hidden Art**, 020 7729 3800, hiddenart.co.uk, will raise a smile.



MIGHTY OAK Distressed brushed oak panels and vanity have an earthy yet modern look. Similar design by **Carter Tyberghein**, 020 8871 4800, cartertyberghein.com, from £8,000.



ROSE TINTS Wallpaper by **Designers Guild**, 020 7893 7400, designersguild.com, enlivens a scheme, from £2,000, by **Colourwash**, 020 7371 0911, colourwashbathrooms.co.uk. ■

FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON
PHOTOGRAPH (CAMHALL) RACHAEL SMITH