

Property&interiors

Market moves...

● **MOVING** house and need an expert helping hand? Everyone's favourite property-finding pair, Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer, want members of the public for their new series of Relocation, Relocation. They're after people seeking two properties, or a business and a home, and whose move will mean a big change in lifestyle. Fit the bill? Then apply online at [meontv.co.uk/relocationrelocationrelocation](http://meontv.co.uk/relocationrelocationrelocation)

● **LOOKING** to buy right now? You probably don't need to worry about hurrying to make an offer. According to property website Globrix.com, a third of flats and 26 per cent of houses failed to sell in the last six months and one in 10 flats and seven per cent of houses have been waiting on the market for more than a year.

● **WOODY ALLEN**, right, wants a London home to rent while he works on an as-yet-unnamed project to star Nicole Kidman, Anthony Hopkins and Antonio Banderas. The director, 73, is flexible on areas and doesn't have a specific budget but needs three or four bedrooms and — crucially — a swimming pool.



# SOAK UP SHEER GLAMOUR WITH JEWEL-ENCRUSTED TAPS, Go for gold and sink into luxury

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are going for a look that's warmer and more welcoming; cavernous baths big enough for two, his n' hers wash basins with lavish gold taps or a dramatic basin in yet more gold.

There are also the cut-glass crystal tiles to put up, plus the walk-in shower with steam function and soothing coloured lighting for the ultimate boudoir-in-a-bathroom look.

Developer and interior designer Charlie Greig ([charliegreigbespoke.com](http://charliegreigbespoke.com)) is an avid fan of the glamorous bathroom and her own Brondesbury Park home features a decadent bath-in-bedroom set-up.

"As I am a single girl, and don't have to put up with shaving foam and towels on the floor, I wanted a beautiful black glass bath in my bedroom so I could bathe, dress and sleep in the same place," says Charlie whose client list includes Emma Bunton. "I have music, TV and a computer all

within this space so even if I'm relaxing in the bath I have all the creature comforts around me. My bathroom was very expensive at £28,000."

All this pimped-up prettiness shrieks success and luxury — that's half the point really — and the bling bathroom will indeed set you back a bob or two.

Set aside at least £6,000 for the huge bathtub (triple that if you want gold leaf), gold taps start at £500, while basins can reach an eye-watering £20,000 for the gold-plated Dream model. Dream on, perhaps in these gloomy times, but interest in this OTT lovely is high, and stockists, Aquaplus Solutions, have sold a couple in the past few years.

All this is small change to one unnamed A-lister whose Art Deco-inspired bathroom cost her a whopping £250,000. Designed by west London bathroom emporium, Bathrooms International, the room was kitted out with slabs of black onyx, a Celadon green suite — with matching infinity bath and under-

water lighting — crystal encrusted taps and clamshell basin.

"All the accessories were from the Deco period. It was absolutely beautiful. If money is no object then this type of room, using the prime materials, is a work of art. But if I had to spend money somewhere in the bathroom to obtain the luxurious look it would be on the taps," says the store's Cheryl Gurner.

Design aficionados out there may scoff at all this glitter, but some of today's hottest creatives are coming up with really cool bling for our bathrooms. There's Italian guru Matteo Thun and his gold and platinum Water Jewels (that's basins to you and me), Dutch über-designer Marcel Wanders and his twinkly gold taps (called Aqua Jewels) and even Kevin McCloud has gone all girly with his mother-of-pearl collection.

"I wanted the range to be jewellery for bathrooms in the way that traditional chandeliers are jewellery for living rooms," McCloud explains.

Boho queen Jade Jagger is all for the bling, too, with her three-bedroom Queens Park property (on the market for £1.5m with Foxtons) home to two in-your-face, glitzy bathrooms. While her daughters' bathing sanctuary covered head to toe in tiny mirror mosaics, may seem garish in a groovy kind of way, her own master suite is a gold-digger's dream with gold claw bath, gold taps and even a gold-plated pole in the middle of the room.

You may think this is only a good look for those of us who remain uncrunched by today's credit crisis but there are ways of getting the bling on a budget.

Bathroom gurus recommend various quick fixes including chandeliers lots of mirrors and high street versions of designer originals. "Buy on statement piece, something that will last for years and be a real show stopper," adds Hayley Tarrington of top-notch bathroom store, CP Hart. "Everything else then doesn't need to break the bank." Bling it on...



## ELM GROVE

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## SHOWY CHANDELIERS, INFINITY BATHS AND BEAUTIFUL BASINS

*'It had to be unique'*

**EZRA CHAPMAN BLACK, 33**, is CEO of his recruitment company and has lived in his Imperial Wharf flat in Chelsea Harbour, valued at £3.5m to £4m, for three years. He says: "The design of the whole flat is contemporary, functional and cool. It's great for entertaining and relaxed living thanks to 1,500 sq ft of terraces and balconies. My other two bathrooms have TVs, stereos and mood lighting, but with the guest bathroom I wanted to give my guests a nice surprise and for them to experience something different when using it. "The main bathroom's backdrop is black and orange Bisazza mosaics. There's a bath big enough for six and a mirror vision aqua TV. With the guest bathroom, I've gone for black glass, black granite, a ceiling of twinkly mini-mosaics, a bespoke Venetian mirror lit with pink neon, a stainless steel basin, glass beaded wallpaper and a metal beaded shower curtain. A shower here definitely washes away any Monday morning blues in an instant! "I used R Interiors ([interiors.net](http://interiors.net)) for the bathroom and to overhaul all 2,500 sq ft of the apartment. If we'd had more time, I'd have installed a black tub and toilet, too, to be even more outrageous. I wanted something unique."

In the pink: Ezra Chapman Black in his spectacular Chelsea bathroom



## Property Zone

3 TO BUY &amp; 3 TO LET

TO BUY FOR £400,000



**ZONE 1** One-bed flat in Pimlico with two living rooms. £399,950, [marshandparsons.co.uk](http://marshandparsons.co.uk)



**ZONE 2** Two-bed flat close to Ladbroke Grove Tube. £400,000, [bectveleslemarsh.co.uk](http://bectveleslemarsh.co.uk)



**ZONE 4** Four-bedroom house in Richmond with garden. £399,950, [foxtons.co.uk](http://foxtons.co.uk)

TO RENT FOR £400 a week



**ZONE 1** One-bedroom flat just off Kensington Church Street. £400pw, [johndwood.co.uk](http://johndwood.co.uk)



**ZONE 2** Two-bed flat in Islington with access to communal gardens. £394pw, [kfh.co.uk](http://kfh.co.uk)



**ZONE 4** Two-bedroom flat in Richmond overlooking the Thames. £404pw, [foxtons.co.uk](http://foxtons.co.uk)

## Bring home the bling with these glitzy accessories

**THESE** glitzy, cut-glass crystal tiles are designed to be inserted into a stonework or mosaic pattern. From Limestone Gallery, they're £9.20 each. [limestonegallery.com](http://limestonegallery.com)



**GOLD** taps are one thing, but to go all out try the magnificent Midas bath from Fired Earth. The £5,750 bath has a pure gold leaf exterior (or silver, to tone it down). [firedearth.com](http://firedearth.com)



**THIS** glam number is the work of Italian architect Matteo Thun. Vitra's Water Jewel basins (from £200) are indeed what every bling bathroom truly needs. [vitra.co.uk](http://vitra.co.uk)



**EMBRACE** glittering Forties style with the Barbara Barry Glamour collection from Bathrooms International. Vanity units are priced from £7,500. [bathroomsint.com](http://bathroomsint.com)



**TAKING** a cue from chinoiserie-style silk wallpaper, the Memento New Glory basin offers a tasteful blast of designer luxury. From £969.45. [villeroy-boch.co.uk](http://villeroy-boch.co.uk)



**CREATE** a full-blown blast of glam decadence with this gold glass basin from Rocco Stone. The basin has gold leaf painted on to the outside and is retail at £295. [roccostone.co.uk](http://roccostone.co.uk)

## Why I live in... East Dulwich

Kellie Shirley

**ACTRESS Kellie Shirley, 25**, who played Carly Wicks in *EastEnders*, lives in East Dulwich, south-east London. See her in *Rookery Nook* at the Menier Chocolate Factory, SE1, from tomorrow. [menierchocolatefactory.com](http://menierchocolatefactory.com). I bought my Victorian garden flat just over a year ago. I love where I live. East Dulwich is dainty, full of yummy nummies and nice shops. Lordship Lane is a great hangout. Le Chandeller is a lovely speciality tea shop and a great place to take your mum for an afternoon of gossip. Franklins Farm Shop sells the best of British, and has a great range of seasonal fruit and



veg. The area is packed with great pubs and bars. The Plough is a favourite though, it's a lovely, big old pub, with nice Sunday lunch grub and lots of board games if you want to play over a big glass of wine or two. In nearby Peckham there's a farmers market on a Sunday. I also love wandering around the William Angel Gallery, which shows work by local artists and always has something different to see. It's opposite Peckham Rye Park which is a great open space, and there's lots of other greenery. There's no Tube but the buses are great and trains go to London Bridge, Victoria and Blackfriars.

## and three for sale in the neighbourhood



Two-bedroom flat on the first floor of a period conversion. Bay windowed living room and separate kitchen. £239,950, Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward (020 7639 2029)



Four-bedroom townhouse close to East Dulwich station spread over three floors with walnut flooring and a roof terrace. £525,000, Winkworth (020 8299 2722)



Five-bedroom Victorian home with two living rooms, kitchen, sun room, two bathrooms and a garden. £799,950, Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward (020 8299 4499)