

MASTER OF PLASTER

Since the bathroom had been newly built, the walls could be plastered before being painted.

"We found a local plasterer and he did the most perfect job – it really was perfect in every way," Dewald recalls.

But that's not what they wanted: he and Erika felt strongly about preserving the old-world feel of the cottage.

"So I told him: I'm very sorry but I'm going to ruin your plastering job so it fits in with the rest of the house. I took a trowel and made all the smooth walls uneven and rough. To this day, I reckon that man must think I'm crazy but I wanted it to look rustic!" >>

The new bath had to be installed on a higher level to allow the water to run from it freely. Drilling into the centuries-old clay walls was too much of a risk, so the copper piping was left exposed for a rustic feel. Wooden hearts painted red and blue indicate which tap is which.