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(54) **Shower assembly**

(57) According to the present invention there is provided a shower unit for mounting adjacent a bath so that the bath can serve as a shower tray, the unit comprising a support member mountable on a wall adjacent the bath, the support member comprising a hollow section within which is housed at least one water delivery pipe connectable to a water supply, the water delivery pipe communicating with at least one water outlet terminating in a shower head, said shower head being mounted on and extending from the support member, at least one water control valve being mounted on or in the support member for controlling the flow of water from the water delivery pipe to the water outlet, said support member supporting at least one shower screen comprising at least one panel mounted on the support member to extend along a side of the bath, in use.

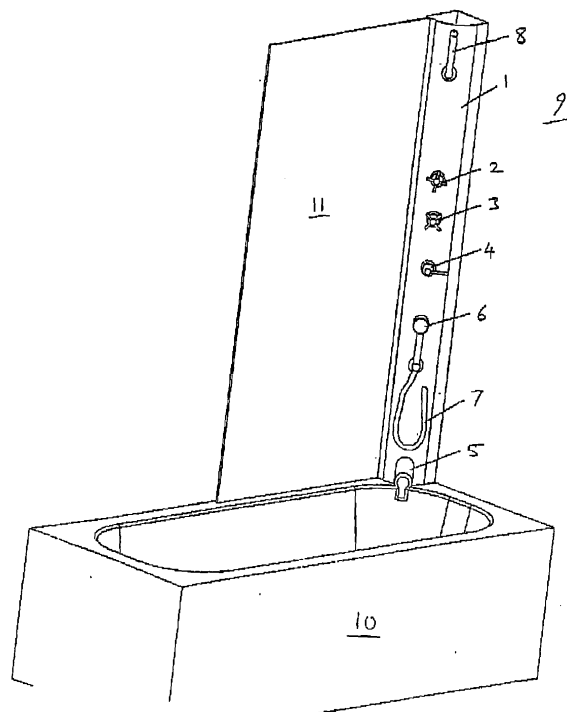


Fig. 1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a shower assembly for use with a bath and more particularly a combined shower unit and shower screen assembly for mounting adjacent a bath.

[0002] Showers have greatly increased in popularity in recent years due to their increased convenience and lower energy usage compared to a traditional bath. Accordingly many new properties provide a self contained shower enclosure in addition to or instead of a bath and most modern bathrooms include a shower. Where a bathroom does not provide sufficient space for a separate shower unit in addition to an existing bath, it is common to mount a shower head over the bath so that the bath can act as a shower tray. Frequently curtains or foldable screens are provided along the side of the bath to prevent water from the shower head from falling or splashing outside of the bath onto the bathroom floor.

[0003] Converting a traditional bath to be used with a shower head currently requires a number of separate operations and the installation of a number of separate components. Firstly a shower head and appropriate plumbing must be installed on a wall adjacent the bath, usually an end wall adjacent the taps or the "head end" of the bath, and secondly a shower screen or curtain must be installed along at least one side of the bath to prevent water from the shower head from falling outside of the bath. An object of the present invention is to provide a combined shower unit and shower screen assembly for mounting adjacent a bath that provides greater ease of installation and an improved appearance and ease of operation compared to a traditional shower unit over bath arrangement.

[0004] According to the present invention there is provided a shower unit for mounting adjacent a bath so that the bath can serve as a shower tray, the unit comprising a support member mountable on a wall adjacent the bath, the support member comprising a hollow section within which is housed at least one water delivery pipe connectable to a water supply, the water delivery pipe communicating with at least one water outlet terminating in a shower head, said shower head being mounted on and extending from the support member, at least one water control valve being mounted on or in the support member for controlling the flow of water from the water delivery pipe to the water outlet, said support member supporting at least one shower screen comprising at least one panel mounted on the support member to extend along a side of the bath, in use.

[0005] Preferably a plurality of water outlets are provided on the support member at different positions thereon, each water outlet communicating with the water supply pipe or a further water supply pipe contained within the support member and each water outlet being controlled by a respective water control valve mounted on the support member.

[0006] Preferably the support member includes a re-

movable section, panel or side to permit access to the hollow interior of the support member.

[0007] The shower screen may be formed from a plurality of vertically arranged panels pivotally connected to each other along adjacent edges to permit the screen to be folded.

[0008] The present invention will be described further, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a shower unit according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a shower unit according to a further aspect of the invention, and which includes a wireless control panel or interface; and Figs 3. and 4 show perspective views of a shower unit according to a further aspect of the invention, where such can be utilised with additional integrated storage shelves.

[0009] Figure 1 shows a shower unit according to the invention mounted adjacent a bath so that the bath can act as a shower tray for the shower unit. The shower unit comprises a support post 1 comprising a vertically arranged hollow column within which is concealed the plumbing for the shower unit and upon which is mounted control taps 2, 3, 4 for operating a plurality of water outlets mounted on the support post 1, including a lower tap 5, a lower shower head 6 provided on a flexible hose 7 and an upper shower head 8.

[0010] The support post 1 is attached to the wall 9 adjacent one corner of the bath 10. A shower screen 11 is mounted on the support post 1 and extends along the side of the bath 10 opposite a wall against which the bath is mounted in order to prevent water from the shower heads 6, 8 from falling onto the bathroom floor.

[0011] Whilst the shower screen 11 is shown as a single panel, it is envisaged that the screen may be formed from a plurality of vertically arranged panels pivotally connected to each other along adjacent edges to permit the screen to be folded. A lower edge of the shower screen is provided with a resilient seal to effect a seal with the rim of the bath to prevent water from passing under the shower screen.

[0012] The support post 1 may include a removable panel or side to allow access to the components and plumbing contained within the post.

[0013] Figure 2 shows how the present invention can be implemented in an alternative embodiment. Figure 2 shows the shower screen 11 as a two-part panel 11 and 11A which is arranged as a plurality of vertically arranged panels pivotally connected to each other to permit the screen 11 to be opened and closed.

[0014] User control of the shower unit shown in Figure 2 is via by a wireless control interface or panel 12 mounted on the glass shower screen 11. The wireless control interface 12 controls the at least one water control valve mounted inside the support member 1 and is used for

operating the upper shower head 8 on flexible hose 7. The wireless control interface 12 may also be used to control a bath filler (not shown) which can either be integral to the support member 1 or a separate unit.

[0015] Figures 3 and 4 show a further alternative approach in which the support post 1 is formed as an integrated storage shower unit which includes an upper shower head 8 and a storage facility. The skilled person will appreciate that the bath filler (not shown) could be integrated with the support member 1 or as a separate unit. The integrated storage shower unit shown in Figures 3 and 4 includes a number of shelves 14 for retaining products that would be used when showering and a dry towel storage area 15 is provided which is accessed via door 13. In use, the dry towel storage area 15 may also be heated.

[0016] Various alterations and modifications may be made to the present invention without departing from the scope of the invention.

Claims

1. A shower unit for mounting adjacent a bath so that the bath can serve as a shower tray, the unit comprising a support member mountable on a wall adjacent the bath, the support member comprising a hollow section within which is housed at least one water delivery pipe connectable to a water supply, the water delivery pipe communicating with at least one water outlet terminating in a shower head, said shower head being mounted on and extending from the support member, at least one water control valve being mounted on or in the support member for controlling the flow of water from the water delivery pipe to the water outlet, said support member supporting at least one shower screen comprising at least one panel mounted on the support member to extend along a side of the bath, in use.
2. The shower unit according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of water outlets are provided on the support member at different positions thereon, each water outlet communicating with the water supply pipe or a further water supply pipe contained with the support member and each water outlet being controlled by a respective water control valve mounted on the support member.
3. The shower unit according to claim 1, wherein the support member includes a removable section, panel or side to permit access to the hollow interior of the support member.
4. The shower unit according to claim 1, wherein the shower screen may be formed from a plurality of vertically arranged panels pivotally connected to each other along adjacent edges to permit the screen to be folded.
5. The shower unit according to claim 1, wherein a wireless control interface is mounted on the support member and/or shower screen, the wireless control interface controlling the least one water outlet terminating in a shower head, in use.
6. The shower unit according to claim 5, wherein the wireless control interface also controls a bath filler outlet
7. The shower unit according to claim 6, wherein the bath filler outlet is integral to the support member or a separate unit adjacent a bath.
8. The shower unit according to claim 1, wherein the support member is formed as an integrated storage unit which includes at least one shelf portion.
9. The shower unit according to claim 8, wherein the integrated storage unit further comprises a dry towel storage area which is accessed via a door.
10. The shower unit according to claim 9, wherein the dry towel storage area is heated.

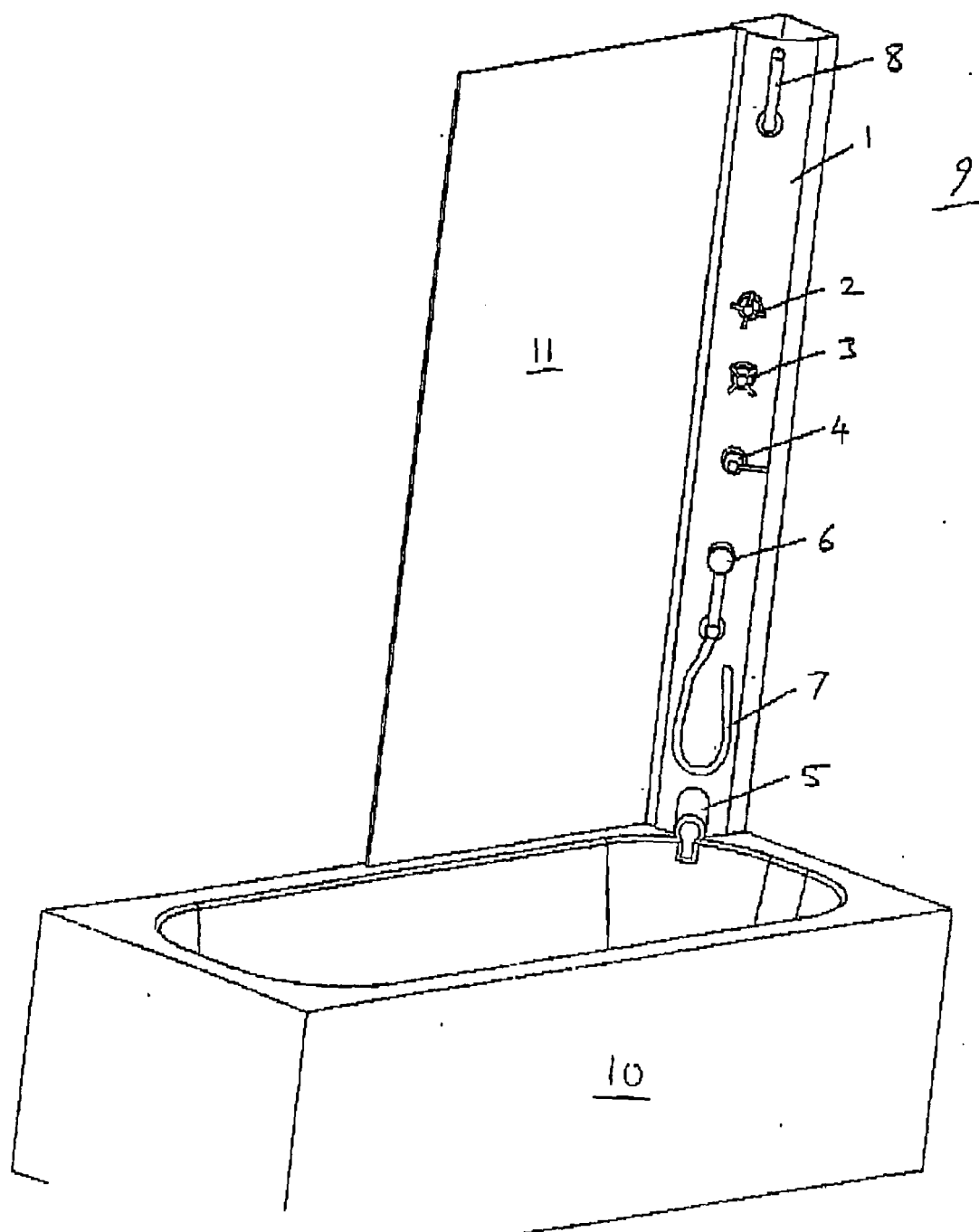


Fig. 1

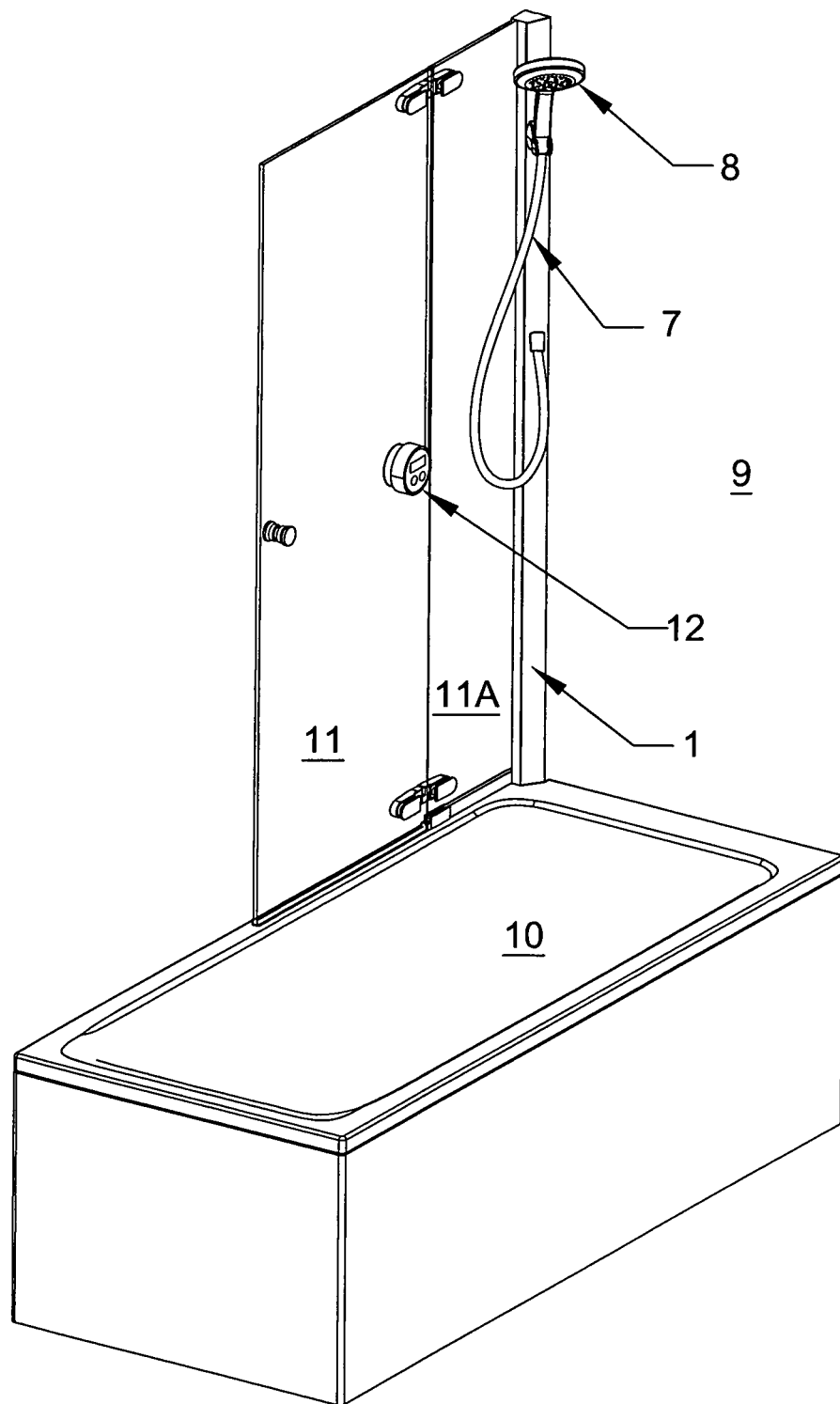


Fig. 2

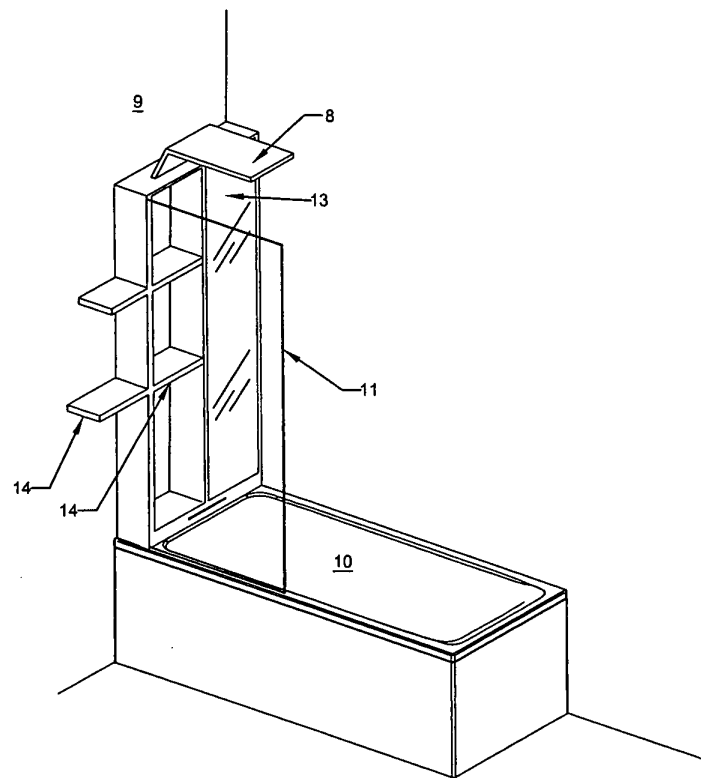


Fig. 3

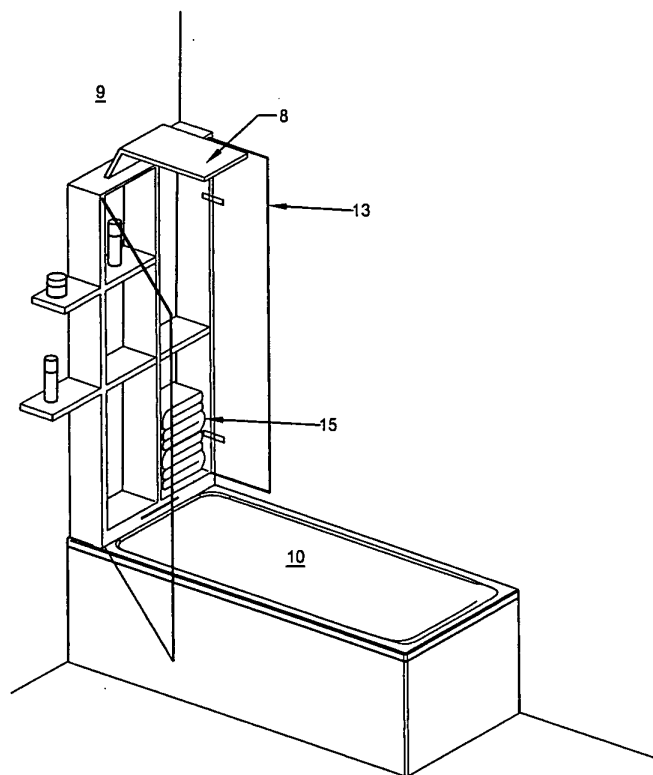


Fig. 4