

COUNTRY & TOWN HOUSE

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

APRIL 2016 £3.60

OLIVIA GRANT

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The INTERIORS ISSUE

Everything you need for a spring makeover

MAKE A SPLASH

Heidrun Bjornsdottir brought a slice of the Mediterranean to her Victorian London home with bold geometric tiles and pieces that cleverly reflect the light



CASE STUDY

'The space was actually two bathrooms, the second was small with only a loo and basin on the landing next to the family bathroom... it was typically Victorian,' says Heidrun Bjornsdottir of the five-bed Victorian terrace she bought with her husband, Jamie Lawson, in south-west London. 'I wanted to create a beautiful family bathroom that felt like you were always on holiday.'

To achieve a light and breezy space, Heidrun converted the two rooms into one large family bathroom. 'I knocked through to the other bathroom and moved the shower to that corner, it was in a different place before and we moved the loo to where the shower was before. I kept the bath and the basin in



the same position. I also moved the door further back on the landing to create even more space. The biggest issue was moving the door in the bathroom, without losing the light.

While it's beautiful to look at, Heidrun's bathroom is so much more than a showpiece – this is a bathroom that has been designed to be lived in. Her favourite bit? 'My reflection in the mirror.. ha ha! All joking aside, it's the bath... I feel like the glamorous Dita von Teese in the bath, bubbles and all, or having a splashing good time with my three little kids.'

GET THE LOOK

Tay bath, £5,340; Classic bath and shower mixer in nickel finish, £2,448; Double Crake vanity unit in nickel finish with Atlantic Grey marble top, £8,940; Classic basin mixers in nickel finish, £780 each; Dalby shower with curved pipe and classic rose in nickel finish, £2,514; Five-bar wall-mounted towel rail in nickel finish, £2,382; Oval Tilt mirrors, from £828 each; all Drummonds. 020 7376 4499; drummonds-uk.com

MADE TO LAST

You can't rush quality. It takes several weeks to make just one Drummonds bath, and while its classic British style is guided by period pieces, they are not slavish copies of the originals, but adapted to fit the complexities of modern plumbing.

To ensure that standards are upheld, Drummonds avoids out-sourcing. In order to follow the process all the way through, from design to manufacture, it has established its own foundry and finishing plant in Poland, as well as a specialist brass casting workshop and vitreous china factory.

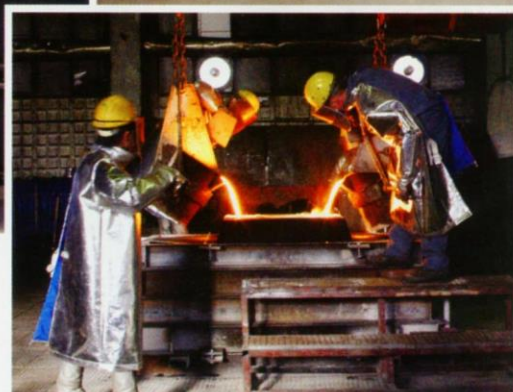
Every bath is made from solid cast-iron using the 19th-century sandcasting technique. In true Victorian style, every part of the process is completed by hand, from carving resin patterns to pouring the molten iron into individual moulds. Every piece is then hand-enamelled using up to five layers of powder, resulting in the signature glossy white finish. It might be labour intensive, but it's no coincidence that there are so many outstanding examples that have survived from the Victorian period – these are baths that are designed to endure centuries of tub-time.

This hands-on approach extends to their brassware too, which uses lost wax casting – a technique that originated in Israel in 4500BC. Every mould is hand-carved in wax, which allows minute detail to be reproduced exactly.

Likewise, all basins are manufactured in the finest English china clay and are finished and glazed by hand, so no two pieces are the same. A basin can take several weeks in production, with the firing process taking up to two weeks for a large basin. It is paramount that this stage is undertaken with care, as it has a huge affect on the final durability.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Hand-crafting an English china sink can take several weeks; sandcasting in action; every Drummonds bath is made from solid cast-iron



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

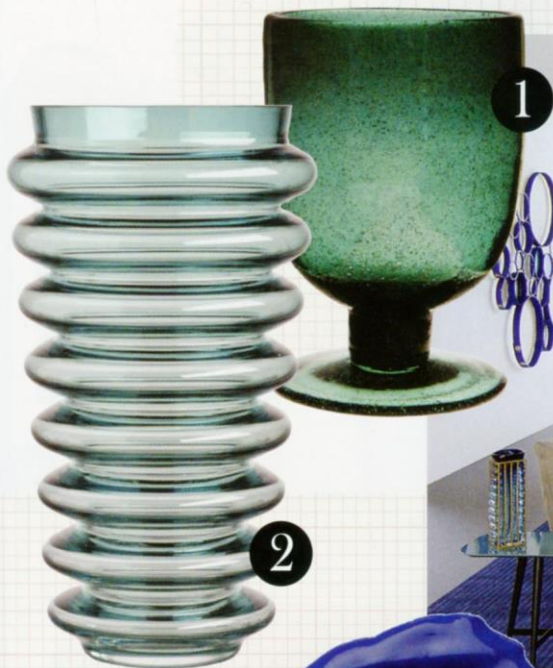


While we might agonise over the lighting for our kitchens, living rooms and bedrooms, often the bathroom gets relegated to a few bright spotlights – which is never going to set the right mood for a long soak.

For a more flattering alternative, try supplementing overheads with soft side lights, which can also be used to highlight points of interest, like shelves filled with little glass vials and jars of bath salts.

Drummonds has launched its first lighting collection, designed to complement its current brassware offering. The Dalby light (pictured left) is elegantly suspended from a fabric flex, while the Chessleton can be pivoted to use as an uplighter, downlighter or side light. Both designs can be tweaked to suit any bathroom style and are available in three different glass options: fluted or conical in clear or antiqued glass, and five finishes: unlacquered, brass, nickel, chrome, antique brass or bronze.

020 7376 4499; drummonds-uk.com



Usher in an ocean-inspired colour scheme with Roche Bobois' new sofa cushions, statement side tables and ottoman. Velvet ottoman, £870; cushions, from £120; lacquered metal and veneer cocktail tables, from £600, all by Roberto Tapinassi and Maurizio Manzoni. roche-bobois.com



OCEAN COLOUR SCENE

From aquamarine and teal to turquoise or inky cobalt, watery hues are the key colours this season. The idea is to play with lightness and depth – which reflects the variations in tone of a vast ocean or tropical lagoon – by layering textiles and mixing furnishings with neutral furniture, natural bamboo and wicker. Gradient colours and painterly prints will evoke a particularly relaxed, sun-faded feel.



- 1 The natural bubbles captured in this handcrafted teal glass goblet give it a gorgeous aquatic feel. £7.50. indiajane.co.uk
- 2 This ZigZag glass vase by Studio Olgoj Chorchoj needs nothing more than a single tropical leaf to create a decorative display. From £180. verreum.com
- 3 Add a nautical effect by painting wooden picture frames in Observatory eggshell paint. £26 for 1l. mylands.co.uk
- 4 This wool and silk Wave rug by Tania Johnson makes a lovely seascape underfoot. From £1,355. taniajohnsondesign.com
- 5 Christian Werner's L-Cube storage system includes this minimalist jade wall cabinet. From £828. duravit.co.uk
- 6 Sing the blues with this Serpentine bathtub by Drummonds. From £3,390. drummonds-uk.com
- 7 Accessories, such as this Utility bread bin, are an easy way to integrate blue hues into a kitchen. £85. lsa-international.com
- 8 The wash of turquoise on this Inverie glass pendant light will brighten a reading spot. £70. pooky.com
- 9 Tap into the trend for painterly effects with this Danube Ikat wallpaper by Thibaut. £234 per roll. thibautdesign.com
- 10 Colourful bed linen and gauzy throws by Society will transform your sleeping space. From £146. societylimonta.com