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HOMES
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NEW DIRECTIONS

Leading lights of bathroom design share their predictions



HOWARD BIRCH, managing director, Aston Matthews

FITTINGS We have seen a resurgence of interest in traditional bathroom

fittings including Edwardian-style pedestal basins and cast iron roll-top baths. These pieces are timeless and give homeowners the confidence that their bathroom scheme will not date. One of the advantages of a cast-iron bath is that the exterior can be painted, which offers customers the opportunity to bring their own personality to a scheme with a splash of co-ordinating or contrasting colour. *Aston Matthews, 020 7226 7220, astonmatthews.co.uk.*



KERRI ANDREWS, senior designer, Ripples

THE LOOK FOR 2015 Without a doubt, bathrooms today are about bespoke design and layout, with the emphasis on quality, style and storage. Big mirrors with in-built lighting are also in vogue.

FITTINGS Consumers are looking for very low-maintenance showering areas, in which hinges, seals and even doors have been replaced with simple panes of glass or a tiled wall to walk behind. Almost all of our clients are requesting wet areas rather than the traditional shower enclosure. In most cases, they want a fixed over-head and a hand-held shower, and often heated seats, walls and floors for added comfort.

SURFACES Wood-effect tiles are one of the key trends for flooring. These are an excellent choice if you are looking for the style and warmth of natural wood, but with the durability and easy maintenance of porcelain tile.

TECHNOLOGY With the fashion for large tiled areas, underfloor heating is very popular as an efficient, silent, invisible and practical heating solution. When this is the main heat source in a bathroom, a splash of interest can be added with a coloured towel radiator, which can generate 28-30 per cent better heat output than a chromed steel radiator. *Ripples, 0800 107 0700 ripples.ltd.uk.*



DAVID PICK, managing director, Samuel Heath

FITTINGS The popularity of concealed showers is declining in favour of statement pieces. We've seen an increased interest in showers with exposed valves, especially our Style Moderne in City Bronze. The trend for brass continues with a move towards warmer tones apparent in unlacquered brass, bronze and copper finishes in high-end bathroom

fittings. Other reflective materials, such as light-refracting glass, are being used for design accents and controls. *Samuel Heath, 0121 766 4200, samuel-heath.co.uk.*



FRANCIS CUNILD, managing director, Matki

FINISHES We have seen a sharp increase in the demand for nickel finish brassware and shower doors.

Architectural bronze and bright colour details are set to liven up shower rooms in 2015. *Matki, 01454 322888, matki.co.uk.*



DRUMMOND SHAW, chairman, Drummonds

THE LOOK FOR 2015 Lush, generous, bold... but never fussy. There

is also a strong focus on the quality of materials and manufacture. Nowadays, people want their bathroom to make a more personal statement, based around focus pieces and distinctive finishes.

FITTINGS Baths remain a centrepiece for every bathroom and an important investment when adding comfort in a property. Relaxation is right at the top of customers' priority lists.

SURFACES Cast iron is always a preferred choice for the bath. For the external finish, brass is becoming more and more popular, especially when left unlacquered to weather to a natural patina. Nickel is also very much in demand. *Drummonds, 01483 237202, drummonds-uk.com.*

“
With brass, copper, rose gold and bronze effects being introduced to brassware ranges, the orthodoxy of chrome finish may be over” Rachel Martin, CP Hart



RACHEL MARTIN, head of merchandising, CP Hart

FINISHES We have noticed a mixology trend, with striking combinations of materials and mood. Where high-gloss ceramics and lacquer were once the materials of choice, manufacturers are now using a range of different products, often in dramatically contrasting finishes. There's a fascination with concrete, cement and plaster-style effects, as new technology gives

designers more flexibility with these materials. Weathered and waxed woods have been spotted alongside lacquer and composite – often in the same piece – and mixing light and dark woods with warm-toned paint finishes has also become popular. From ceramics glazed in metallic finishes to mirrors, furniture and brassware, warm-toned metals are everywhere. With brass, copper, rose gold and bronze effects being introduced to many brassware ranges, the orthodoxy of chrome finish in the bathroom may be over.

COLOUR The Scandinavian influence on colours and finishes is showing no sign of waning. At this year's Salone Internazionale del Mobile show in Milan, you could hardly see the wood for the trees, with timber walls, cabinets, countertops and even timber or wood-effect basins and baths. We expect grey tones to continue to dominate the bathroom palette in 2015. Along with hints of Nordic blue and textured natural materials, we are anticipating additional incorporations of warm-toned painted finishes mixed with light and dark woods. *CP Hart, 0845 873 1121, cphart.co.uk.*

FRESH APPROACH

Serene schemes are no longer limited to plain finishes and neutral tones. The latest bathrooms embrace rich and daring colours in elements from graphic tiles to statement fittings



CASE STUDY

DESIGNER Emma Stevenson.**BUDGET** About £20,000, excluding construction.

DESIGN BRIEF After buying their Victorian home in west London three years ago, Emma and Charles Stevenson set to work. "The house hadn't been updated for about thirty-five years and needed masses of attention," says Emma. One of their many projects was to create a luxurious en suite. "I wanted this space to be like a mini living room with lots of character and warmth," says Emma. "I thought of the bath as being like a sofa, where I could go to relax or chat to Charles."

EXPERT SOLUTION The first step was to bring forward an internal wall, so the bathroom could become part of a private suite, rather than being accessed only from the landing. Emma visited around 25 showrooms before going to Drummonds. "I instantly fell in love with the classic look they do so well. I spent a lot of time talking to the team and developing my plans," she says.

The key piece in the scheme is the Spey roll-top bath with a bespoke salmon pink painted exterior. This is teamed with classic brassware in unlacquered solid brass with burnished black walnut lever handles. The bath is centred against a new wall, coated in waterproof resin, which conceals a steam shower at one end and a WC enclosure at the other. "The Art Deco glass panel was found by my mother in Paris," says Emma. "It is backlit and creates a beautiful glow in the evening."

Bold pattern is provided by the harlequin tiled floor, custom-made to Emma's specification in a pink chosen to echo the tone of the bath, plus soft grey, white, khaki and petrol blue. "I love mixing textures and playing with colour, and think this is crucial in giving a room warm character and interest. We can see ourselves living here for the rest of our lives – and we won't be bored."

SOURCES

Bath and brassware, Drummonds, 020 7376 4499, drummonds-uk.com.

Fireplace, marble basins and countertops, Chesneys, 020 7627 1410, chesneys.co.uk.

Glass doors, steam shower and WC, CP Hart, 0845 873 1121, cphart.co.uk.

Rock resin wall covering, Senso, 020 8969 0183, sensofloors.co.uk.

Terracotta floor tiles, Palazzo Morelli, 0039 075 894 4888, palazzomorelli.it.

Walnut vanity units, made to order by a local joiner.

Ceiling light, Moooi, 020 8962 5691, moooi.com.

PHOTOGRAPH: ANTHONY PARKINSON

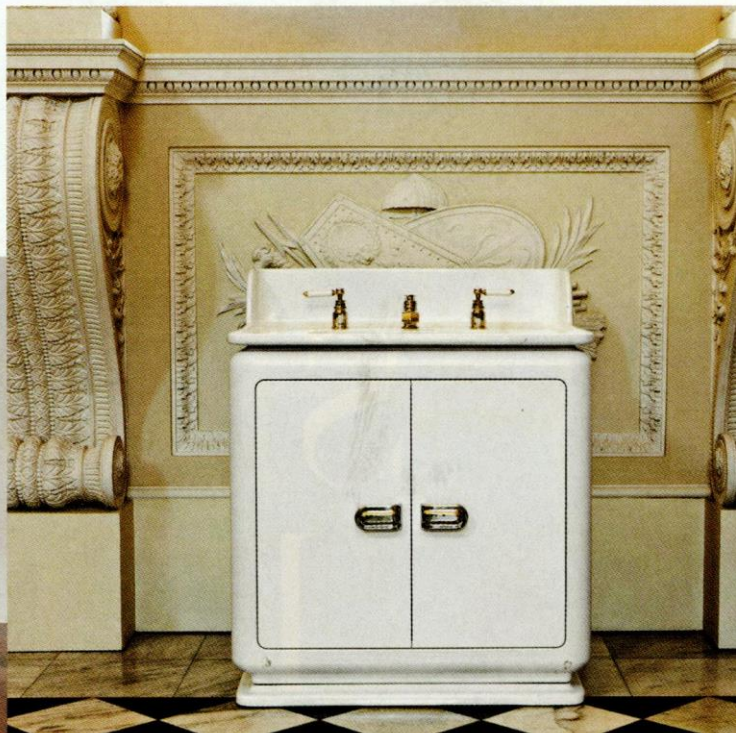
A photograph of a classic clawfoot bathtub in a grand, classical-style bathroom. The tub is positioned in the foreground, with a large, ornate doorway in the background. The doorway features a pediment and fluted columns. The floor is made of large, light-colored tiles. The overall atmosphere is one of elegance and timeless design.

STYLE & SUBSTANCE

Inspired by period detailing and traditional craftsmanship, Drummonds produces sumptuous bathrooms designed to stand the test of time



“There is so much engineering and skill involved in combining design and function.”



Fine brass, enamel, marble and polished metal are all hallmarks of a Drummonds bathroom. Founded by Drummond Shaw 25 years ago, the company started as an architectural antiques specialist before harnessing time-honoured traditions to design and produce its own range of luxury baths, basins, showers, taps and accessories. From humble basement beginnings, it now encompasses a European foundry and workshops, as well as two London stores. However, as Drummond explains, the company has never strayed far from its classic origins.

What prompted you to set up Drummonds? When I was restoring my own house in 1989, I found it difficult to source original products and accessories in keeping with a period setting. More importantly, it was a challenge to find items in a condition that could be restored and reused. That led to me setting up a company that traded in quality architectural antiques – it was the blueprint for Drummonds.

How did you make the move into the bathrooms market? I always enjoyed the aspect of the business that dealt with bathroom fittings. There is so much engineering and practical skill involved in combining great design and function. We found that we were having to source many additional items to complement the original pieces, and so the collection grew. Then, with so little original stock coming on to the market and with each reclaimed piece needing extensive restoration, we began to learn the techniques used to make high-quality bathroom products.

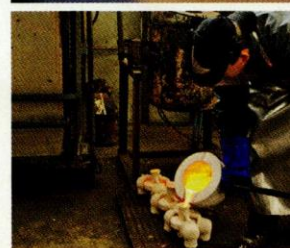
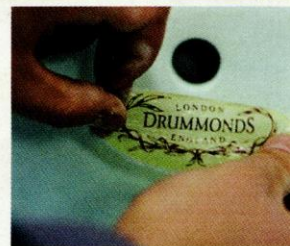
At what point did you start manufacturing? We often found ourselves re-building bathroom fittings almost from scratch. Beautiful cast-iron baths needed re-enamelling and the standard wet enamel process didn't do them justice. Historically, enamel would have been fused to the iron,

forming a skin that was part of the bath. So we decided to learn how to restore original baths to the quality they once were. We developed the skills to manufacture new products, so creating our own range was the natural next step. Manufacturing also means that we can perfect a design, making a bath longer than the original, for example. I once cut a bath in two, lengthways, to make it deeper; it served as a prototype for one of our most popular pieces.

What makes a Drummonds piece unique? Our handmade designs are intricate and time-consuming, making them demanding to create. Larger companies looking to mass-produce simply wouldn't be able to use these techniques. Our designs, which fuse classic style with contemporary innovation, are as unique as our production process.

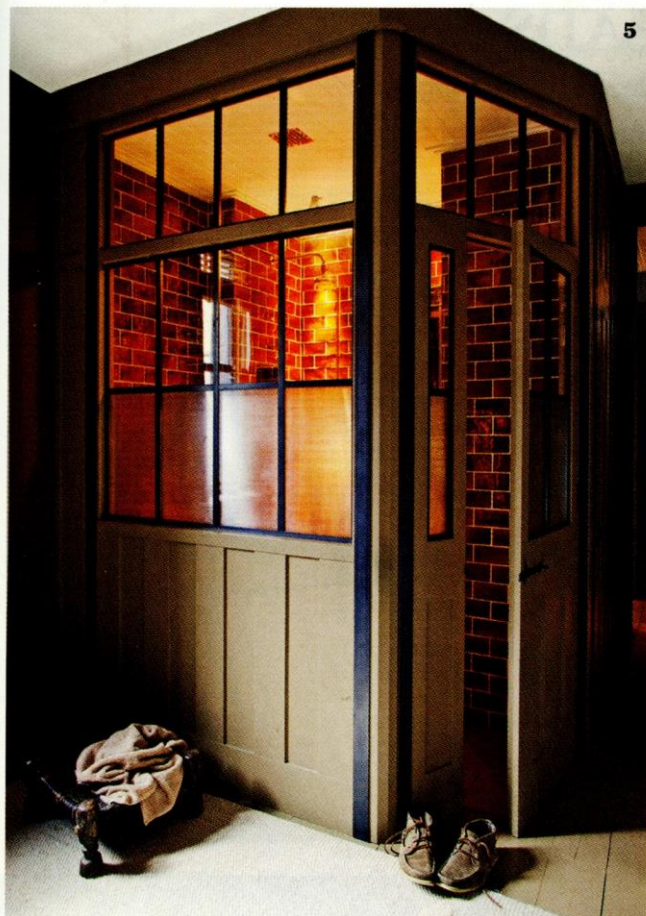
How do you marry contemporary and traditional? We don't want to try to predict trends or follow styles. The aim is for our pieces to be viewed as classics now and in 20 years' time. The fun for the customer is in the overall design of the bathroom, and our collaboration with Christopher Jenner highlights our artisanal heritage. He has imaginatively designed our retail spaces to show the myriad contexts in which our bathrooms can shine, from classic marble panelled rooms to striking geometric backdrops. Christopher has also designed a new range of fittings for us, which blends period detailing with contemporary lines.

What are your future plans for the business? We want to continue to develop amazing designs. I would also love to see our new showrooms in London's Notting Hill and King's Road helping to give customers the freedom to create splendid bathrooms. We have already raised the bar in bathroom design and we are excited about pushing it higher. *Drummonds, 020 7376 4499, drummonds-uk.com.*



CLOCKWISE, FROM FAR LEFT
The Tay cast-iron bath in Pistachio, from £3,570; **Crake** single vanity basin in Atlantic Grey marble, £4,860; **The Liffey** cast-iron bath in Galleon (exterior) and Fairwind (stripe and feet), from £3,570; **The Newton** single vanity basin, £5,950; Drummonds is proud to put its name on every piece; brassware is made using traditional skills.


DRUMMONDS
CLASSIC · HANDMADE · QUALITY



5

5 | PRIVATE ROOM

Half-glazed timber screens can be used to carve out an enclosed shower area in the corner of a bedroom or bathroom. Screen, from £4,800 linear m, Plain English, 01449 774028, plainenglishdesign.co.uk.



6

6 | CLEAR VISION A

A simple, transparent glass screen enhances the sense of space in any room. This EauZone Plus wet room panel is made from 12mm safety glass with a very clear low-iron finish and features a handy towel rail. From £1,218 for a 900mm size, Matki, 01454 322888, matki.co.uk.

7 | RIPPLE EFFECT

A bespoke Hyperwave Dunes wall in polished cream limestone, about £2,000sq m, adds dramatic three-dimensional interest to this otherwise pared-back shower space by Oliver Burns, 01727 814170, oliverburns.com.



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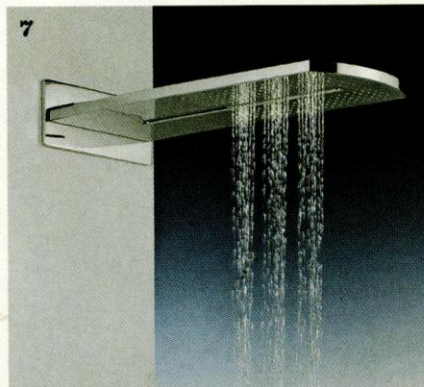
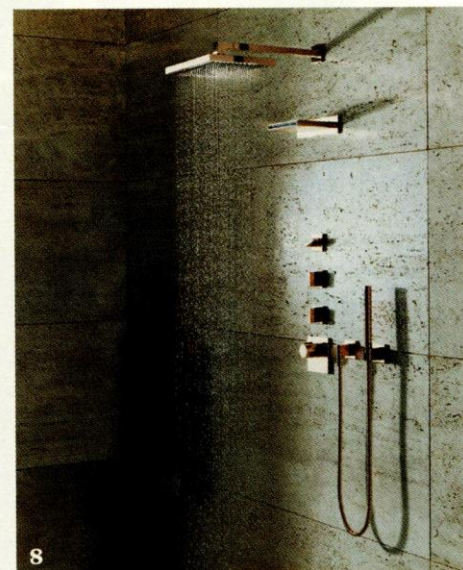
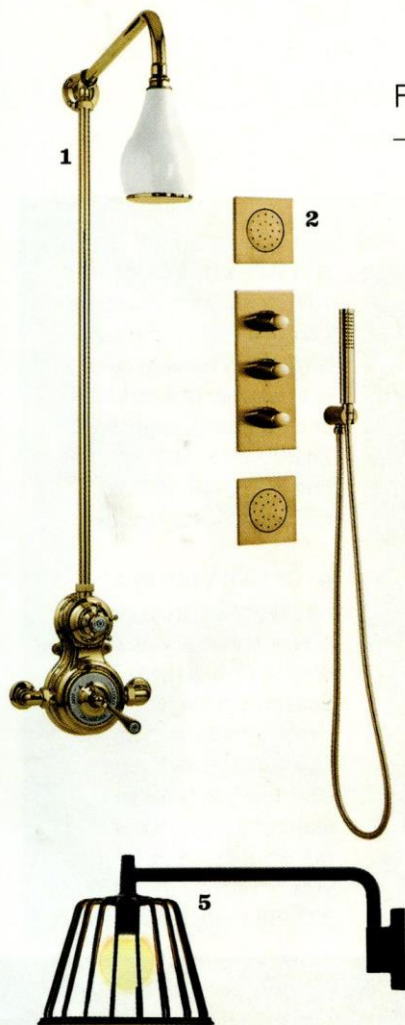
8 | ART ATTACK Make a feature of the shower with an eye-catching mural. Try Surface View, 0118 922 1327, surfaceview.co.uk, for ceramic tile designs, such as this magnificent pelican, from £515sq m. Here it is teamed with a Dalby Shower, from £2,274, and Naver basin, from £2,394, Drummonds, 020 7376 4499, drummonds-uk.com.



8

SHOWERHEADS

Fluid, elegant forms and indulgent overhead designs



1 A fresh take on tradition. Dalby thermostatic shower in unlacquered brass and Tear Drop Rose ceramic showerhead, £2,568. Drummonds, 01483 237202, drummonds-uk.com.

2 Sleek minimalist design. Armani/Roca thermostatic shower mixer in Greige finish with five-way diverter, hand shower and two shower jets, from £2,500. Roca, 01530 830080, uk.roca.com.

3 Adds a classic touch. Le Thermo exposed shower, solid brass in Polished Brass

finish, £1,440. Catchpole & Rye, 020 7531 0940, catchpoleandrye.com.

4 Neatly concealed pipes. Cirque dual-control shower with two valves, hand shower and 20cm wall-mounted shower rose, £2,135. Fired Earth, 0845 293 8798, firedearth.com.

5 With a built-in light fitting. Wall-mounted Axor LampShower in a custom black finish, brass with PVD coating, from £2,250. Hansgrohe, 01372 472001, hansgrohe.co.uk.

6 For keen shower singers. Moxie shower column and wireless speaker, chrome and plastic/silicone, £749. Kohler, 0844 571 0048, kohler.co.uk.

7 Offers three spray settings. Elite fixed showerhead, chrome-plated brass, £525. Crosswater, 0845 873 8840, crosswater.co.uk.

8 In a warm rose-gold tone. MEM shower in Cyprus finish (18-carat rose gold and copper), £8,150. Dornbracht at West One Bathrooms, 0333 011 3333, westonebathrooms.com.