

KITCHENS BEDROOMS BATHROOMS

SEPTEMBER 2017

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New this month...



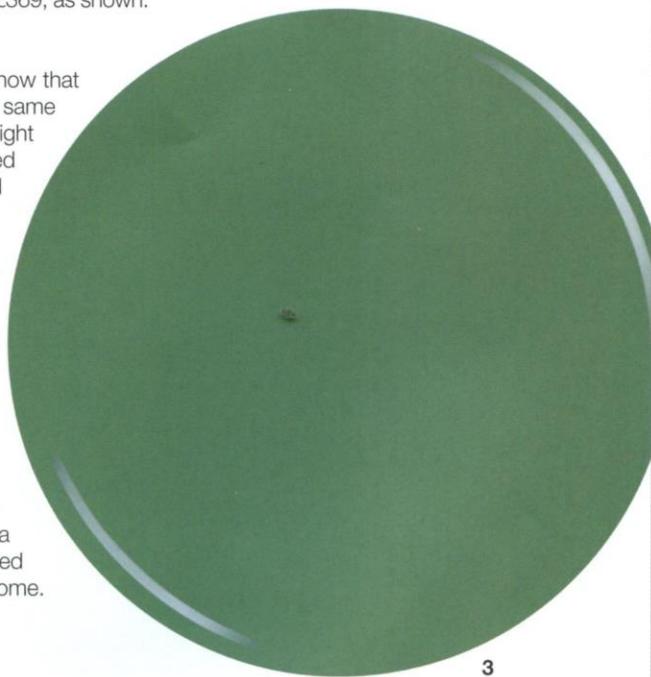
1 There's something aesthetically pleasing about the O'Rama bathroom mixer tap, debuted by Newform during Milan Design Week. Perhaps it's the sleek and tapered silhouette, or maybe it's the distinctive lever handle in a choice of black, white or chrome. Either way, it wins big points with us. Priced £369, as shown. **01279 771159 or www.newform.it**

2 Fans of Martin Brudnizki interiors know that his is a refined, elegant aesthetic. The same goes for his new Derwent pendant light for Drummonds. The simple reeded glass shade is hand-blown and the brassware is hand-fabricated. Derwent is available in a brass, nickel or chrome finish (shown), priced £534.

020 7376 4499 or www.drummonds-uk.com

3 Calling all colour enthusiasts who love sprucing up their home with the latest hue: eco paint brand Earthborn has added five new colours to its collection of breathable paints. Among them is Hobby Wood, a bold woodland green that's guaranteed to add a pop to any part of the home. Prices start from £38 for 2.5 litres.

01928 734171 or www.earthbornpaints.co.uk



Take three... New beds



Above: The main event of any bedroom is the bed, so don't skimp on style or comfort. Willis & Gambier's Chantilly Rattan bed hits the mark, priced £1499 for a king-size.

01733 318400 or www.willisgambier.co.uk



Above: Even the most iconic looks eventually need a refresh, including the distinctive blue and white check that's defined Hästens beds for 160 years. Marwari (pictured) comes in rich brown with a matching headboard, vegetable-dyed leather accents and a signature brass plate. Priced around £42,900, each bed takes around a week to create by hand.

020 7436 0646 or www.hastens.com



Above: As luxurious as the vintage velvet it's dressed in, Dumpling by Loaf is shown here in sea blue. There are around 150 other options though, including a range of cottons, linens, velvets and wools. Made by hand and available in double, king or super-king sizes, winning features include its gently scrolled headboard. From £1045.

0845 468 0698 or www.loaf.com

Super soakers

Choosing the right tub is central to creating the perfect relaxing retreat

Words: Ysanne Brooks



Previous page (p57): Taking several weeks to make using a traditional process, starting with raw metal and completed by snow-white dry-frit enamelling, the double-ended cast-iron Bute bath from Drummonds, £6792, has a pressed steel surround. It can be supplied primed or hand-painted in any colour. Also shown is the Chessleton floor-standing bath and shower mixer in Antique Nickel finish, from £3090.

Right: Channelling the trend for warmer finishes, each piece of Sense brassware from The Watermark Collection, shown here in a bathroom by Maisha Design for a Thames-side apartment in Butler's Wharf, is precisely machined from solid brass, hand-finished and assembled to order. Price on application.

Opposite page, top right: Concept Air is a dedicated small-spaces range designed by Robin Levien for Ideal Standard. So you can enjoy a freestanding bath whatever your bathroom size. The Concept Air bath in Idealform Plus+ (a reinforced acrylic) measures 1700 x 790mm and is priced £785.

The bathroom remains the smallest room in the house, so the size of a bath means that it's likely to be the largest, and therefore the most important element in your design. Available at a variety of price points, from great value acrylic to statement natural stone, the one you choose will usually be dictated by your family's needs, the look you want to achieve and the physical space you have available.

Before you start it's wise to measure up your space and think carefully about the positioning of the bath itself as well as any pipework. "Work out how much wall space you have available for your bath, and remember to allow space around the bath for other fittings. Be realistic about the size of bath your room can accommodate: it's better to get something slightly smaller and have it look less cramped with more floor space," advises Shardee Manzouri of Ideal Standard.

Bath time

Standard baths are usually around 1700mm-long with taps, waste and overflow at one end, with side and end panels that conceal unsightly pipework. More recently, though, tastes have moved from these simple inset baths to ones that create a sense of period glamour and improve the bathing experience, from feature roll-top, slipper and freestanding models to whirlpool baths that replicate the spa experience. Materials available include lightweight but durable acrylic, enamelled steel, cast iron, manmade composite stone and natural stone, such as marble.

Increasingly popular for both modern and classic schemes, freestanding tubs will add luxury to any bathroom, but do make sure you plan for enough space surrounding it for climbing in and out and, if you're placing it at the centre of a room, for manoeuvring around it – particularly if you have children. "Think about accessibility to the room too, especially with larger freestanding options. For example, you need to make sure the bath can fit up the stairs before you buy," advises Leanne Robey at Ripples.

It's also important to ensure that the floor will bear the weight of the bath when it is filled. If it is likely to be an issue, opt for a lightweight acrylic tub over a cast-iron one. In addition, improved technological processes for forming and moulding ceramic and composite baths are producing ever thinner profiles, meaning previously bulky, heavyweight options are becoming lighter and a smaller footprint will offer the same spacious interior bathing experience.

Perfect partners

It's not essential to buy your taps and bath together, although many manufacturers take the hard work out of the search for you by pairing compatible styles or creating bathroom ranges that encompass both baths and brassware. If you do buy separately, then it's wise to check that they'll work together both in terms of size and aesthetics. Check the circumference of tap holes if there are any and how far apart they are to ensure your chosen tap sits comfortably.

Bathroom brassware design has moved on from the old-fashioned pillar taps with separate hot and cold outlets. Options now range from traditional Edwardian or Victorian bridge mixer styles to ultra-modern waterfall monoblocs, and the ones you choose will usually be dictated by the style and shape of your bathtub. Some baths come with tap holes already drilled,



Photograph: Richard Gooding

but others don't and may require you to choose deck- or wall-mounted taps, so ensure you select models with the correct projection or height for the bath. "Wall-mounted taps are great for creating a really slick and modern look in the bathroom, but the pipework will need to be hidden in the wall behind the tap," says Margaret Talbot at Vitra UK. You may need to install a stud wall to accommodate pipework.

The same applies for concealing tap pipework to freestanding baths. "On fitted baths, it will usually be tucked away and hidden, but that's not the case with a freestanding bath so you'll need to consider how the pipework will look and you'll either need to purchase a shroud, which will cover the pipes, or buy a floor-standing tap," advises Tina Robinson at Heritage Bathrooms. Fitting an elegant floor-mounted filler that sits beside your freestanding tub will also allow you to place the tub away from a wall if you want, but do take care with the placement of the taps themselves. "If your bathroom calls for the fittings to be placed towards one end do consider which way round you will be laying in your bath so the fittings can be installed out of the way," advises Ripples's Joanne Crane. Also, if pipework can't be hidden under the floorboards, you may also have to build up the floor and create a platform to conceal it.

Tap style

Finishes are changing too, with the steel and chrome taps we've become

Right: Building a raised platform that you can then sink your bath into will add a real sense of drama and elegance to a bathroom. The Kos 3 built-in acrylic bathtub costs from £3240 at Zucchetti.Kos.

Below: Reminiscent of a bygone era, this traditional bateau-style Tin bath from Indigenous, £3900, also comes in a copper and tin finish.



Below: If a stand-alone shower cubicle is not an option, this Duravit walk-in Shower + Bath, £4742, is a great alternative, particularly for those for whom climbing in and out of a bath to shower may be an issue. The integrated glass door features a safety lock to ensure it can't be accidentally opened while the bath is full.



SourceBook

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NEXT MONTH...

Your complete guide to buying a bathroom.



Put up a panel

For a neat design why not opt for a mirror with an integrated light? The Citterio collection (above) reflects the unique design hallmarks of the renowned Italian architect and designer Antonio Citterio. It has a smooth finish for ease of cleaning and the geometric lines around the mirror create a contemporary feel. It is made from beige oak and hides a decent-sized storage compartment behind the mirror. Priced £953 at Geberit.



Hide away

Recessed lighting gives off an indirect and subtle light that will help create a fantastic mood in the bathroom. This beautiful bespoke master ensuite was designed and created by Mark Taylor Design (right). The long narrow room had design challenges due to its shape and, although it had plenty of natural light, additional lighting was required. Astro Volos 210 square downlights as seen here were fitted to add a subtle glow to the recess above the bath. Bespoke bathrooms start from £25,000.

The key to getting recessed lighting right is positioning, says Sally Storey at John Cullen. "As shown here (opposite page, bottom left), locate 1W Lucca uplights, £110, close to a tiled or stone wall at the back of the shower or bath to dramatically bring up the finish, as they will provide streaks of light almost like running water." Sally also advises positioning an uplight towards the basin and near a towel rail to provide a perfect visual balance.



Bathing beauties

For bath lovers, subtle lighting that doesn't compromise on design is a must for a relaxing soak and this Single Dalby light certainly fits the bill. "Lighting is no longer purely about function. Strips and downlighters are out; large pendants and decorative wall lighting are in, adding personality and glamour," says James Lentaigne at Drummonds. Choose from three options: clear, fluted (shown left), or antiqued. Suspended from a light brown cord, it comes fitted with a standard warm LED G9 lamp, or if you'd prefer a dimmable light then a halogen bulb is also compatible. Its IP44 rating means it can be safely used above the bath. From £414 at Drummonds.



Spotlight on

Task lighting is key to a well-lit bathroom and the basin area especially needs extra help. Spotlights with an adjustable head are a great option and Houseology's architecture-inspired La Lampe Gras DCW No 304 designer bathroom wall lamp has a flexible jointed arm to boot (see above). Bernard-Albin Gras originally created the Gras Lamp back in 1921 and this stunning version is based on the original. Priced at £272, it has a matt black finish and is rated IP64, which offers complete protection against water spray from any direction.