

The background is a delicate watercolor illustration of various flowers and foliage. It features large, soft-edged flowers in shades of pink, red, and blue, with some having dark centers. Interspersed among these are smaller, more detailed flowers and clusters of tiny red buds on thin, green stems. The overall style is ethereal and artistic, with a focus on naturalistic detail and soft color washes.

ELLE DECORATION

I DECORATE

THEREFORE I AM

ELLE DECORATION BATHROOMS

VOLUME 2

*Your essential guide to creating
the perfect bathroom*

*Pages of ideas and inspiration
Plus, the big trends to know and
your complete brand directory*



THE LIGHTING

With more options than ever before, getting your lighting right is essential to setting the mood in your bathroom

When do I need to make decisions about lighting? At the early stages of a bathroom project. 'First, you decide on the layout of the space and select your appliances. You can then fit the lighting around those,' advises Drummonds' James Lentaigne (drummonds-uk.com). 'In practical terms, the wiring happens at the same time as the plumbing, during the first fix phase – this is when everything that needs to be concealed behind the walls or floors is put in place.'

Where do I start? Think about how you use your bathroom at different times of the day and then split the space into different zones. Lentaigne suggests three separate lighting circuits, each operated using dimmer switches:

- 1 Mood lighting – consider placing under a bath or in alcoves
- 2 Everyday, functional lighting
- 3 Specific area lighting – above a mirror, for instance

What about safety? Check the Ingress Protection (IP) rating of all lights before fitting them. 'The higher the rating, the more protected the light is from water,' says Lentaigne. IP44 is the most common rating for bathroom lighting, but in wet areas, such as the shower, lights should be rated at IP65.

What kind of lighting is best? The trick is to mix various types of light so that you can create a range of moods, depending on what you need. Peter Bowles of Davey Lighting (originalbtc.com) recommends a combination of downlights, LEDs and decorative accent lighting. A steplight is a good way to highlight a shower or bathtub – fully recessed into the wall, these LED bulbs provide a soft wash of illumination.

Any other tricks? There's nothing worse than waking up during the night and having to turn on all the bright bathroom lights. One solution is to install pale blue night lights along the floor. 'They'll provide just enough glow to help you find your way around, and they run on very low wattage,' says Bowles. You can keep them on all night without worrying about electricity bills.

Is there any new technology I should know about? Furniture with integrated lighting is a key trend. Villeroy & Boch's 'Finion' range, for example, features an LED border around the mirror, illuminated shelving, a vanity unit with rear wall illumination and a bath with an 'emotion' feature that makes it appear to float on a pedestal of light. It's an instant lighting scheme without the hassle. The lights are dimmable and can be altered using a remote control (villeroy-boch.co.uk). ►

'DECIDE ON THE LAYOUT OF THE SPACE AND SELECT YOUR APPLIANCES. THEN FIT THE LIGHTING AROUND THOSE'
JAMES LENTAIGNE, DRUMMONDS



DETAILS

DARK RISING

Add texture to a moody, black bathroom with matt furnishings, inky accessories and industrial touches





1 'Europlank' engineered oak **flooring** in 'Coffee Rustic', £68.34 per square metre, Havwoods (havwoods.co.uk) 2 'Simple' **towel ring** with faux leather strap, £18, Rockett St George (rockettstgeorge.co.uk) 3 'Big Waffle' blue **towel** by The Organic Company, £68, Skandium (skandium.com) 4 'Inox' absolute matt emulsion **paint**, £42 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene (littlegreene.com) 5 'Vogue' **freestanding bath filler**, £595, Frontline (frontlinebathrooms.co.uk) 6 'Bute' cast iron **bath tub** with steel surround, £6,792, Drummonds (drummonds-uk.com) 7 'Mystone Lavagna' **tiles**, £250 per square metre, Marazzi (marazzitile.co.uk) 8 'Hampton' **pendant light**, from £359; 9 'Point' **pendant light**, £479, both by Davey Lighting, Original BTC (uk.originalbtc.com) 10 'Lundhs Emerald' stone **worktop**, from £680 per square metre, Lundhs (lundhsrealstone.com) 11 'Tallanstown Grey' flat emulsion **paint**, £46.50 for 2.5 litres, Paint & Paper Library (paintandpaperlibrary.com) 12 Wall-mounted **mirror**, £24.99, H&M (hm.com) 13 'Fontane Bianche' **tap** by Elisa Ossino, £715; 14 'Adda' **freestanding basin** by David Lopez Quincoces, £1,720, both Salvatori (salvatori.it) 15 Industrial-style **shelving unit**, £465, French Connection (frenchconnection.com) 16 Enamel **tumbler** by Falcon, £6, Future and Found (futureandfound.com) 17 'Les Belles Matières' **candle** by Cire Trudon, £78, Selfridges (selfridges.com) 18 'Bois Sauvage' **bath salts** by L'Objet, £125 for two litres, The Conran Shop (conranshop.co.uk) ➤



DRUMMONDS

Classically inspired and traditionally made, this British company's elegant collection includes freestanding cast-iron bathtubs, china sinks and glass wall lamps – all on display at its Chelsea showroom. A second London showroom can be found in Notting Hill.

Pictured 'Bute' cast-iron bathtub with steel surround, £6,792, and 'Chessleton' floorstanding bath and shower mixer in 'Antique Nickel', from £3,090

642 King's Road, London SW6 (drummonds-uk.com)



EDWINS BATHROOMS

This family-run firm stocks elite brands such as Dornbracht and Effegibi. There are several showrooms and a dedicated plumbing and heating counter dotted along London's All Saints Road, plus a specialist 'Spa and Wellness' venue.

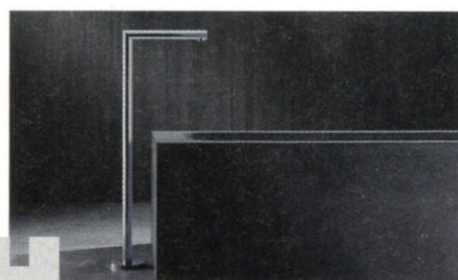
Pictured 'Edge' wall unit with basin, £5,124, 'Via Veneto' mirror, £3,078, and 'Controstampo' bath, £9,067, all by Falper 17–26, All Saints Road, London W11 (edwinsbathrooms.co.uk)



FIRED EARTH

Combining expert craftsmanship with practicality, this brand's products span the classic to the contemporary, and include superb paints and tiles. It has 62 showrooms – the one in Portman Square in London has several beautiful bathroom displays.

Pictured 'Babylon' bathtub, £6,650, 'Top Hat' wall paint, £39.50 for 2.5 litres, and 'Hamman' tiles, £690.06 per square metre Stores nationwide (firedearth.com)



HANSGROHE

The Water Studio – this German brand's hub of inspiration located in the heart of London's Clerkenwell design district – has working tap and shower displays. Products can't be bought there, but customers can look at designs before being referred to a retailer.

Pictured 'Uno' floorstanding bath spout by Axor, from £1,548 12–16 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1 (thewaterstudio.co.uk) ►