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THE KITCHEN & BATHROOM STYLEMAKERS

Designers of beautiful and practical schemes and fittings



72 SMALLBONE OF DEVIZES

This company spotted a gap in the market in the Seventies, selling reclaimed-timber kitchens as a stylish alternative to melamine designs. It's still a champion of timeless handpainted cabinets, often referencing Georgian and Arts and Crafts styles and always reflecting the belief that the kitchen is the heart of the home. It now also makes library panelling, dressing rooms and wine cellars, smallbone.co.uk



73 JOSEPH JOSEPH

Since launching their brand in 2003, twin brothers Antony and Richard Joseph (left) have made their name as designers of innovative household gadgets, from clever kitchen utensils to ergonomic storage. They're great at problem solving – think sets of mixing bowls that stack in a nest, or their Totem kitchen bins, whose separate sections for food, recycling and rubbish are housed in one sleek unit. Their vibrant colour palette's on point, too, josephjoseph.com

74 AGA

What could be more classically British than an Aga? Yet this brilliant invention – part cast-iron range cooker, part storage heater, and one of the best home-warming devices – was invented in the 1920s by Swedish scientist Gustaf Dalén. Today's version is still made by hand in Shropshire, comes in endless colours and is almost entirely recyclable, agaliving.com

75 CP HART

For innovative bathroom design, head to CP Hart, which has been in business since 1937 and was one of the first brands to pioneer the 'designer bathroom' in the Nineties. You'll find the latest offerings from the likes of Bisazza and Diesel Living at Scavolini, cphart.co.uk



H&G
100
YEARS



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MARK WILKINSON FURNITURE

Though best known for country-style kitchens, this Wiltshire factory also makes cabinetry for bedrooms, dressing rooms and libraries – all the vision of cabinetmaker Mark Wilkinson, who set up the company in 1981 and whose artisan craft methods are still at the heart of the company. Each project is completely bespoke, and often features refined materials, such as walnut, Murano glass and marble, mwf.com



77

DRUMMONDS

Drummond Shaw founded the company

in 1988 while restoring an old house and finding it hard to track down authentic period fittings. He started out as a dealer in antique pieces but, as these became more scarce, began making his own, from rolltop baths in coloured finishes to glamorous glass lighting. All are handmade with processes used in Victorian foundries, drummonds-uk.com

78

PLAIN ENGLISH

When Katie Fontana and Tony Niblock

founded Plain English in 1992, it was born of a frustration at being unable to find a simple, traditionally made kitchen that was 'free of plastic bits or gadgets' for the Suffolk longhouse they were restoring. Today, they still make timeless bespoke timber kitchens using old-fashioned joinery, as well as larders and bedroom cupboards, plainenglishdesign.co.uk

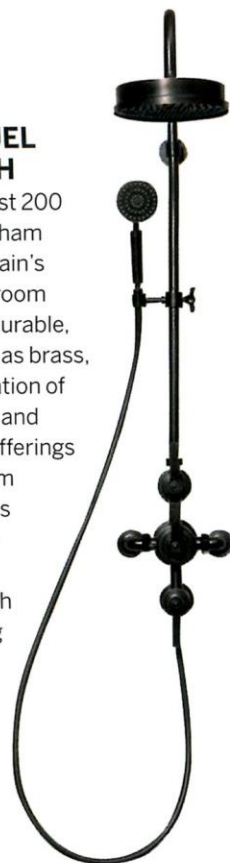


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SAMUEL HEATH

At almost 200

years old, this Birmingham company is one of Britain's oldest makers of bathroom fittings. It focuses on durable, tactile materials, such as brass, made using a combination of traditional techniques and modern technology. Offerings include everything from elegant Edwardian taps with enamel details to the Bauhaus-inspired Landmark range, which comes in eye-catching industrial-style finishes: bronze, matt black chrome and brushed brass, samuel-heath.com



80

Dualit

Although it also makes slick coffee machines, this 70-year-old company is really about toasters. Its Classic model, created in 1952, has good looks borrowed from Art Deco. In 2015, a competition to find the UK's oldest functioning model was won by a toaster from 1973, dualit.com

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IDEAL STANDARD

A stalwart of British bathroom manufacturing

for more than a century, this brand's reputation for great contemporary design rests largely on the shoulders of designer Robin Levien, who excels at problem solving. His collections include the simple, linear Concept Air, designed with awkward rooms in mind, and the classic Waverley range, which references Edwardian design, ideal-standard.co.uk

DREAM BATHROOM

A SMART LAYOUT ENSURES THIS MULTIPURPOSE SPACE IS PRACTICAL, TRANQUIL AND BEAUTIFUL

DESIGNERS Eris Koutsoudakis and Maria Constantinou, directors, Meraki Design, 020 7736 7755, merakidesign.co.uk.

THE PROPERTY A seven-bedroom detached Victorian house in Wimbledon, southwest London.

DESIGN BRIEF This generously sized bathroom came with an equally expansive wish list from the owners, who split their time between Asia and England. A built-in sauna, double vanity and outsized period fittings were essential, while the WC needed its own private domain. Style-wise, the brief was for timeless design with Victorian references all the way.

DIMENSIONS 5x5m

LAYOUT

A sauna room and separate WC fill one quarter of the square room, leaving an L-shape space for everything else. A doorway at one end leads from the bedroom, while another door leads to a dressing room. 'To avoid the bathroom becoming a corridor between rooms, we created multiple focal points along the way,' says Eris. 'So the bath and bay window tells their own story, as does the vanity area, and then the shower space. We call them full stops – they all help to prevent an uneventful thoroughfare.' Positioning the compact slipper bath centrally within the bay window highlights the bath's shapely silhouette and draws attention to the ornate leadwork on the window behind.

SURFACES

Calacatta Manhattan marble was chosen for its dramatic milky-white base with strong black, grey and brown veining. The same marble clads the wall behind the glass shower

enclosure, showcasing some truly exceptional bookmatching skills by Artisans of Devizes. 'We went for a plain painted wall beneath the window to give the bath a strong outline, but used marble skirting to continue the narrative,' adds Eris. The ceiling cornices were custom-designed and feature intricate detailing that naturally leads the eye upwards to appreciate the room's impressive height.

FITTINGS

Drummonds' striking Thurso freestanding shower was a love-at-first-sight investment piece that led to classical fittings throughout. 'We had to measure the space a million times in order to make sure it would fit – it's so tall – but actually once in, the all-glass enclosure means it doesn't overpower,' says Eris. By contrast, the Morar slipper bath feels positively dainty. 'People assume a big bath is best but a shorter one means your feet are anchored and you can sit more comfortably,' adds Eris.

STYLING

Full-height curtains are not typically found in bathrooms, but here they were deemed essential to counteract the wealth of hard surfaces. Together with the chandelier and antique nickel brassware, which has warmer undertones than silver nickel, the textiles serve to soften the space. 'You spend a lot of time in the bathroom. Even if they're physically large like this one, it is important they should always feel cosy,' says Eris. 📸

WHERE TO BUY

FITTINGS

The small Morar cast-iron slipper **bath tub**, from £3,510; The Chessleton floorstanding **bath and shower mixer**, from £3,090; floor-fitted **waste and overflow** with plug and chain, from £450; The Thurso freestanding **shower**, from £22,740; Morie undermounted **basins**, £462 each; The Coll Lever three-hole wall basin **mixer taps**, from £1,170 each, all Drummonds. Bespoke double **vanity**, from £8,000, Meraki Design.

SURFACES

Floor, tiled walls and skirting in bookmatched 2cm-thick Calacatta Manhattan marble, from £395sq m (excluding installation), Artisans of Devizes. **Vanity unit** painted in Ammonite modern eggshell, £69 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. **Walls** painted in Salt 1 architects' matt, £55 for 2.5L, Paint and Paper Library.

ACCESSORIES

Bespoke IP44-rated **chandelier**, £3,000, Meraki Design. The Double Derwent **wall lights** with fluted shades, from £570 each, Drummonds. **Curtains** in Amoir Libre in Argento, £192m, Dedar.



The ornate shower was the starting point for the room's luxe Victorian look.

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