



# COUNTRY LIFE

EVERY WEEK

MAY 17, 2023



## The glory of the summer garden

Chelsea: real gardens for real people  
Flowering high: how to grow delphiniums  
Plant legacies, pygmy goats and pot-bellied gnomes





# Will the hot tub lose its fizz?

Why the outdoor bath offers a more discreet, less expensive alternative

**W**HEREVER you stand on the burning issue of whether or not a hot tub is a desirable addition to a garden, there's little doubt that few things beat sitting in warm, effervescent water being pummelled by jets as you admire a well-tended garden. The problem is that it's a luxury that comes at a financial cost and, in many cases, an aesthetic one. A good hot tub will be priced between £10,000 and £20,000, plus there's the power required to run it, as well as proper landscaping.

**‘On balmy summer evenings, an outdoor bath offers a unique way to connect with Nature’**

Hotels have good form when it comes to pioneering new concepts in bathroom design, notably the recent development of bathtubs in bedrooms (*‘Soak where you sleep’*, September 6, 2017). The Zetter Townhouse, a 24-bedroom hotel in a Georgian building a stone's throw from the old US embassy on London's Portman Square, is no exception.



**Plumb position:** the Lear's Loft terrace boasts a bathtub with views of London



**Alfresco bathing:** an outdoor bathtub makes a luxurious addition to a well-tended garden

Designed by Russell Sage Studio, its Lear's Loft—the artist and poet once lived here—has a fully-plumbed bathtub on its terrace with views of surrounding Marylebone (plus another inside for the faint-hearted). As a way to experience the world's most exciting city, two minutes from Marble Arch, it is certainly hard to beat.

Bee Osborn, the Inchbald-trained interior designer based in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, understands better than anyone how to drag cottages kicking and screaming into the 21st century. She chronicled the extraordinary transformation of her picture-perfect Cotswold cottage on her Instagram account, garnering nearly 180,000 followers in the

process—it also features in Katy Campbell's book *At Home in The Cotswolds* (\$45, Abrams Books). She's now waving her magic wand over another, larger project that will include a copper bath for alfresco bathing. ‘On balmy summer evenings or frosty mornings, an outdoor bath offers a unique way to connect with Nature.’

James Lentaigne, creative director at luxury bathroom specialist Drummonds agrees that copper is a great option for outdoor use, as is cast iron, as long as the outside is well painted. He recommends that a plumber is consulted on the best spot and that it can easily be drained in the winter. Another consideration is, of course, the location, particularly in town. Site chosen, tub installed: sit back and relax. 🐸





**Le Vingt-Neuf roll-top bath in Polished Cast Iron**, £12,000, Catchpole & Rye (01233 840840; [www.catchpoleandrye.com](http://www.catchpoleandrye.com))



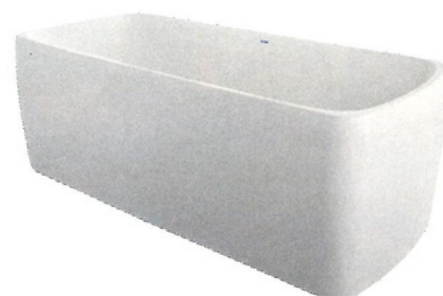
**Usk bath in Hammered Brass**, £14,340, Drummonds (020-7376 4499; [www.drummonds-uk.com](http://www.drummonds-uk.com))



**Ex.t Nostalgia bath in Blue Grey**, £11,207, C. P. Hart (0345 873 1121; [www.cphart.co.uk](http://www.cphart.co.uk))

## Soak in style

Freestanding baths for making a statement, selected by Amelia Thorpe



**Qatego bath by Studio F. A. Porsche**, £7,110, Duravit (01908 286680; [www.duravit.co.uk](http://www.duravit.co.uk))



**Atlantic cast-iron panelled bath painted in Wenge**, £6,445, Fired Earth (0345 565 2032; [www.firedearth.com](http://www.firedearth.com))



**Portman marble top painted bath**, from £5,634, Porter (020-3355 1817; [www.porterbathroom.com](http://www.porterbathroom.com))



**Lussari 1500 bath in Gravel Grey Blue Gloss finish**, £4,226, Victoria + Albert (01952 221100; [www.vandabaths.com](http://www.vandabaths.com))



**Albany bath**, £4,239, West One Bathrooms (0333 011 3333; [www.westonebathrooms.com](http://www.westonebathrooms.com))



**Antique Copper boat bath**, £5,221, Ripples ([www.ripplesbathrooms.com](http://www.ripplesbathrooms.com))