

# brand to know

## Drummonds

*With products that combine classic aesthetics with state-of-the-art functionality, this luxury bathroom company has come a long way since its reclamation roots*

When Drummond Shaw founded his eponymous architectural salvage company back in 1988, he may not have envisaged a collaboration with one of the world's most influential industrial designers almost 35 years later. Yet 2022 saw Marc Newson, whose clients also include Apple, Louis Vuitton, Montblanc and Cappellini, launch an innovative range of bathroom fittings with the Surrey-based luxury brand. 'Marc was originally a customer and I've been speaking to him for about 14 years,' explains Drummonds' creative director James Lentaigne. 'I said we should do something together and eventually the time was right, so he created this incredibly refined collection that sits perfectly within our range.'

The evolution of the company from a small salvage yard to the specialist supplier that it is today has been careful and considered. Shaw, who originally launched the business after developing a passion for reclamation when seeking out items for his own restoration project, went on to explore traditional manufacturing techniques after struggling to find everything he needed. 'That side of the company actually started with a tiny foundry casting brass door furniture, and subsequently expanded to include bathrooms,' explains Lentaigne. 'He'd seen so many items fall out of fashion, be ripped out of properties and destroyed, that the brief was twofold: products had to be classic and timeless, while also functional, durable and robust.'

Now purely a bathroom specialist, Drummonds has mastered a host of traditional techniques, including dry frit enamelling – where iron baths, such as the 'Bute' (from £8,352 as pictured below), are heated to over 800 degrees before being sprinkled with glass powder to create an extra-durable surface – and lost wax casting, an ancient method where molten brass is poured into a mould created using a wax model. 'It's hugely labour-intensive, but we combine it with modern components so that pieces work incredibly well while maintaining classic integrity,' says Lentaigne. That high functionality developed still further when the company, whose English aesthetic proved popular in America, needed to meet that country's strict regulations. 'We opened a store in New York and had to adjust our stock to sit with US standards, which was very hard work,' says Lentaigne. 'But it actually improved the performance of our products.'

Collaborations with interior designers Martin Brudnizki and Susie Atkinson followed (see below), and the company's range of freestanding showers remain as popular as ever. Going forward, a boutique hotel in New Orleans with a top-secret American name is in the pipeline, while a collaboration with London-based designer Suzy Hoodless is due at the end of the year. 'It's amazing when we meet like-minded people to work with,' says Lentaigne. 'I'm never not excited to see what they bring to the table.' [drummonds-uk.com](http://drummonds-uk.com)



### Collaborative efforts A closer look at three of Drummond's big-name collections



#### Marc Newson

Comprising the composite marble 'Coln' bath (above, from £7,320) and 'Bibury' taps and showers that echo vintage industrial fittings, Drummonds' latest collaboration pairs Newson's design skills with its manufacturing expertise.



#### Martin Brudnizki

Swedish interior designer Martin Brudnizki worked with Drummonds in 2015 to produce an elegant range of brassware and sanitaryware, including the 'Bestwood' taps (£1,674 as pictured), that offers a contemporary take on their classic look.



#### Susie Atkinson

Drummonds' 2020 collaboration saw the designer reinterpret a classic cast-iron slipper tub. The 'Whitewater' bath (from £5,802, as pictured) features tapered feet, contoured sides and a rising edge for the ultimate fusion of comfort and style.