

Interior Design for Bathrooms

# TAKE A BATH



gestalten

# SETTING NEW STANDARDS IN BATHROOM DESIGN



WITH MATTEO THUN'S REFINED YET SIMPLE  
AND WARMLY WELCOMING COLLECTIONS,  
THE BATHROOM ASSUMES A  
CENTRAL ROLE AS A SPACE OF WELL-BEING.



For award-winning Italian architect/designer Matteo Thun and his longstanding design partner Antonio Rodriguez, the bathroom is both a place of privacy and a retreat. This implies not only a space undisturbed by others, but also a sanctuary for the recuperation of the senses and soul.

It's no wonder, then, that the many bathroom collections they have designed are not only highly functional, but also imbued with qualities that offer a pleasant sensorial experience. Simplified forms with pure and clear lines combine with warm, natural materials to capture an atmosphere of harmony, relaxation, and understated sophistication.

"We do not pursue a 'design modernity,'" notes Spanish designer Rodriguez, who has been partnering with Matteo Thun since 2003. >





## Wooden Variations

Thun and Rodriguez's DuraStyle collection for German sanitary ware manufacturer Duravit (this page) exhibits the characteristic warmth and simplicity of their designs particularly well. It is available in 11 different finishes and, thanks to its protruding front, its look remains elegantly handleless. The natural stone washbasin (right) is part of the Duo collection for Neutra, whose geometrical, conical shape contrasts well with the irregular form of the console, which is made of hardwood that is up to 50,000 years old.





The bathroom is a place of privacy and a retreat ... a sanctuary for the recuperation of the senses and soul.

"For us, design is not just something visual, not just a matter of zeitgeist. Stylistic longevity, innovation, and simplicity are key for our designs."

These principles find expression in their work with the water-resistant larch wood used for Rapsel's catalog. The pure form of their Ofurò bathtub allows for complete immersion, while the material and composition convey calm and warmth. The smooth, clean design is pared down to the essentials and harmoniously emerges from the wood grain. Meanwhile, their One bathroom system almost disappears, as the sink, shower, and toilet become geometric modules that function as sculptural shelves. The lightness of the design is repeated through the main light larch wood material.

In a number of collections for Fantini, the designers have explored the haptic nature of faucets—a small yet essential aspect of the bathroom that stirs the senses, as the hands touch their surface and grasp their form to activate their functions. "Haptic generates curiosity; it is eroticized surface, to grasp with your eyes, and see with your fingers. Grasping stimulates our perception and opens the soul of an object," reflects Thun.

Based on the geometric shape of a rounded square, the Lamé collection fuses simple and fluid shapes with perfect ergonomics. While many of their bathroom faucets and fittings feature the sleek and lustrous tactility of chrome, their playful Nice collection employs translucent methacrylate cylinder knobs for surprising optical effects and a pleasant touch. Rodriguez describes it as "an homage to the essence of water and its beauty: transparent, fresh, and colorful."

Design innovation is not merely a matter of technological sophistication, but "is often related to the influence on gestures and the evolution of everyday life," explain the designers. "We always search for the iconic form and create things that people can understand intuitively." <





### Multitalented

From futuristic faucet to stylish sauna—Matteo Thun has mastered product design from the smallest functional object to impressive, luxurious comforts. The high-quality design sauna (top) has been designed for Klafs; the colorful faucet (left) is part of the Nice range for Fantini.