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Thomas O'Brien and the Aero Collection of furniture and bathroom fittings by Waterworks. See Resources.



# bathing beauties

Waterworks unveils bath furniture and fittings by **Aero Studios**

**I**'m always collecting bits and pieces of things," says Thomas O'Brien, head of Aero Studios. "My office is piled high with them." In fact, bits and pieces of Victorian telescopes inspired his latest venture, the Aero Collection of bath fittings by Waterworks. Along with Steven Sclaroff, Aero's design director, O'Brien created streamlined faucets, showerheads, and bath accessories that recall the stacking cylinders of telescopes. The pieces are boldly shaped with subtle gadrooning and are finished in nickel, chrome, or silver plate. These aren't adaptations of antique fixtures; rather, O'Brien wanted the Aero Collection to be more mid-century, which is exactly what Waterworks president and CEO Peter

Sallick intended when he sought Aero's expertise. "I was looking for something purely American and modern that didn't exist in our collection before," says Sallick, "and Thomas has been so successful at bridging the gap between traditional and contemporary." O'Brien first signed on to develop the bath line and was subsequently commissioned to design other Waterworks projects: Waterworks Collection retail stores in SoHo, Los Angeles, and Westport, Connecticut, and Aero Collection bath furniture, which debuted before the fixtures were ready for production. "It's funny that we started with the bath line, and it's the last to come out," says Sallick. "But it can't just look beautiful; it has to function well, too." **Margaret Russell**