

BEA U

The Briefing from
Brummell magazine

—
Change makers issue

—
December 2024



'You may be interested in this,' says Simon Holloway, pulling a tuxedo off a rail in a suite of The Carlyle hotel in New York. It looks a little worn, and I'm wondering whether this is some new ageing technique being applied by Dunhill's creative director when he says, 'This was Sinatra's'.

Ol' Blue Eyes wore a Dunhill tux, something Holloway discovered as he scoured the world for archive pieces at auction bearing the name of the British house he'd been hired by a year ago.

'A worldly American in the last century would have recognised Dunhill as a well-known British maker of luxury,' explains Holloway. And as if to reinforce the point, he whips out another black tux. 'This was Truman Capote's, the one he wore to the Black and White Ball.'

If you're American, and/or have seen the series *Feud: Capote vs. The Swans*, you'll know that this is the menswear equivalent of someone saying, 'Here's King Arthur's sword Excalibur, you know, the one he pulled out of the stone.' Capote's famous masquerade of 1966, held in the Plaza Hotel's Grand Ballroom, was a *cause celebre*. The society party to end all parties; the night in New York that showcased elegant eveningwear. For the host to be wearing Dunhill speaks volumes about the label's historical luxury credentials.

It is those that Holloway has been ferreting out from wardrobe collections around the world, building up a library of vintage pieces from which to draw 21st-century inspiration. 'One of the first things I did when I arrived at Dunhill a year ago was to buy back a lot of archival pieces. I bought a whole rack of clothes from one client who had impeccable taste,' he reveals.

The result is his first full collection for the house, for autumn/winter 2024, now on sale, which pays homage to the elegant travelling Englishman who might wear a Prince of Wales check suit one day, and a pair of cashmere jeans with a short-sleeve, open-placket, fine-gauge wool knit the next. The trousers are usually fastened Gurkha style, with a wrap-around waistband, and the top-coats are soft, short and made from double-face wool, or longer and in Prince of Wales check or brown leather, or reversible in technical fabric backed by wool.

P.06 →



In the picture

This year's winners of the Leica Oskar Barnack Award for documentary photography

P.12 →



Bedazzled

Elegant jewellery that brings a playful sparkle to party season

P.16 →



Take the lead

The inspirational women who are blazing a trail for diversity, inclusivity and opportunity in their fields

Good evening

Dunhill made eveningwear for Frank Sinatra and Truman Capote. No wonder its new collection is full of after-dark glamour

WORDS: PETER HOWARTH

P.03 STYLE Heritage labels thinking outside the box • P.04 DRINKS Top tipples • P.06 PHOTOGRAPHY Leica's reportage award • P.08 BOUTIQUE BRANDS Master craftsmanship meets impeccable aesthetics • P.12 JEWELLERY Glittering pieces to step out in • P.14 ACCESSORIES Head to toe and on the go P.16 INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN Driving forces for change in the City and beyond • P.18 ART A radical new visual detox manifesto • P.20 HOROLOGY Timely releases

Boutique brands



J Craft's sleek, expertly handcrafted boats exude retro Riviera glamour

SIREN CALL

The allure of yachting for the fashion world has led to some interesting collaborations with Swedish boatmaker J Craft

It was Coco Chanel who once said a yacht was by far the best place to begin a love affair. In fact, the sea proved a lifelong muse for the French couturier and still does for the brand today.

In 1913, Chanel popularised the Breton shirt, a top with French naval heritage and a staple in any yachting wardrobe, while in 2019 the fashion house launched its own yacht-club pop-up in New York. The pinnacle of this nautical love affair, however, has to be when the brand collaborated with Swedish luxury boatmaker J Craft in 2022, giving a J Craft 42ft Torpedo the Chanel touch. Taking to the waters of St Tropez, the Chanel Torpedo was part of the maison's "Les Beiges, Summer in Grand Style" campaign and featured creamy interiors and bronzed leather seats to reflect its Healthy Glow makeup products.

But it's not just the superior-quality interiors that made J Craft the perfect partner. A high-performance formula requires a collaboration of equal calibre. Designed to combine power with elegance, the J Craft Torpedo enjoys twin IPS600s/IPS650s engines and high speeds of up to 47 knots packaged in a high-end fibreglass hull.

With only 29 boats in the world, J Craft boasts an exclusive client profile. Each Torpedo requires between 8,000 to 10,000 man-hours to handcraft. With a team of 12 Swedish master builders, each boat is meticulously crafted within 12 to 15 months. J Craft's pedigree as a cutting-edge luxury brand is further strengthened by its association with internationally renowned carmakers Rolls-Royce and BMW. Clients of J Craft are able to flawlessly match the paintwork and interior fabrics of their motor car to striking effect. Chic footwear name Jimmy Choo, premium swimwear label Vilebrequin, and renowned watch brand Tudor have also all joined forces with J Craft in a variety of campaigns.

Shooting on a J Craft Torpedo in the Hamptons last year, Christopher Whale, art director of industry-leading magazine *Boat International*, thinks it's a yacht's inherent glamour that makes it so appealing to the fashion world. 'We used a J Craft as the setting for a shoot because we wanted a sophisticated modern-retro look to the pictures,' says Whale. 'The mahogany boat, with its elegant, handcrafted, classic appearance, gave us an instant "golden age of the Riviera" look. Materials like wood and leather suggested a '30s to '60s spirit.

'Boats work for shoots because they create an instant mood of glamour, style and travel, perfect for summer collections where they want to suggest a holiday feeling. And a boat says luxury lifestyle like nothing else,' Whale goes on.

Now J Craft is expanding its luxury appeal by developing its own-brand interiors collection. Taking design cues from its Torpedo model (woodwork, steel, leather and curved lines), the firm aims to create pieces that bring the spirit of handcrafted, Swedish design indoors all year round.

Just as it was for Coco Chanel, the allure of yachting is a powerful romantic motif for modern-day designers. Today, the siren's call is being answered by Swedish boatbuilders with artisanal craft savoir faire.

j-craftboats.com

Words: Bryony Smith, Charlie Thomas, David Annand

FIT FOR PURPOSE

ThruDark's new collection combines classic design with hi-tech functionality

Founded in 2018 by former UK Special Forces operators Anthony Stazicker and Louis Tinsley, ThruDark is one of the more impressive outdoor brands, not least because of the testing each garment is put through. 'ThruDark was born from a need for resilience,' says Stazicker. 'We're a performance clothing brand, but more than that, we design gear that's been tested in the most extreme environments by those who've lived through the toughest challenges. Our kit is for those who refuse to quit – whether they're on the frontlines or pushing the limits of adventure. The ethos behind ThruDark is simple: it's uncompromising, like the people who wear it.'

This idea can be seen throughout the brand's offering, each piece designed to serve a purpose, cut from high-performing technical fabrics and with an impressive attention to detail. Its End of

Days parka is a strong example. Made from waterproof, laminate membrane fabric, it comes with reinforced, stronger-than-steel Dyneema and Cordura shoulders and cuffs, as well as Polartec smart fleece lining and goose-down fill for warmth. There's also a multitude of interior and exterior pockets, and a synthetic-fur-lined hood. It looks the part, but again, it's the testing that makes it stand out from similar designs.

Now in its sixth year, ThruDark is continuing to develop and refine its range. Its latest collection is the culmination of everything it's learnt up to this point. 'The HeriTech Collection is our nod to the past with a forward-thinking approach,' Stazicker says. 'It blends heritage designs with the latest advancements in fabric technology. We've taken inspiration from classic outdoor garments but pushed them further with modern materials and features.'

The range comprises fleece jackets, gilets and knitwear. 'One of my personal favourites from the collection is the Grange jacket,' says Stazicker. 'It takes that timeless silhouette but adds serious durability and performance with water-resistant fabrics and thermal technology. It's rugged, functional, but with that heritage feel that's been brought up to speed for today's demands. It's the perfect balance of style and functionality.' Plus, it's reassuring to know it'll have your back, whether on an Arctic trek or not. thrudark.com



HeriTech Moorland fleece gilet, £160, Covert shirt, £125, HeriTech Sylvan trousers, £240 and ThruDark cap, £50. All ThruDark

Boot camp

Edward Green's waxed suede Ardmore boot takes the best of British shoemaking in a workwear-inspired direction



Among Northampton's storied shoemakers, Edward Green stands apart, with a heritage dating to 1890 and a clientele including the Duke of Windsor and Cole Porter. Today, the company's workshop in Northampton produces around 250 pairs of shoes weekly, which are sold in its flagship stores on London's Jermyn Street and Paris's Boulevard St Germain, as well as through select luxury retailers worldwide, including Mr Porter.

Edward Green's head of brand and business development Euan Denholm notes that being a Northampton shoemaker is very important to the company. 'We're very much part of that tradition, but our conscious focus is always on how we can improve things. Whether it's a tweak in construction or using elevated materials, we focus on making the highest-quality shoes in the town. We select the finest leathers and use a Goodyear-welted traditional construction, which allows us to make very refined footwear.'

For the most part that means working with clients of its made-to-order service and turning out the refined dress shoes at the core of its collection. Lately, it's also involved making shoes that can be worn with the full breadth of a modern man's wardrobe. Central to this is the waxed suede collection, which launched last year with a handsome Derby and a sturdy Chelsea boot. This year, it expanded with the Ardmore, a simple, workwear-inspired boot in coal-black waxed suede.

As with all Edward Green shoes, the Ardmore is an investment piece designed to be worn for

many years. 'Every element of the boot is made to last,' Denholm explains. 'We use Yorkshire-tanned waxed suede, which is a really robust, durable leather.' Awareness of the long game is key to the brand's approach. 'We very much look for leathers that age handsomely. This is true of our kind of core antiqued furnishing calf leathers. But waxed suede also ages very nicely and in its own way. And its character changes depending on how much wax it's got in it. If you keep putting dubbin into the leather, then it will stay dark and finished-looking, but if you don't it will dry out, like with an old Barbour jacket, and get lighter and more textured. You get to choose the look you want to achieve.'

One of the many great things about Goodyear-welted constructions is that they allow you to re-sole a boot many times over, and Denholm encourages customers to go to Edward Green for repairs. 'As well as the great service we offer, coming to us means the boot can be re-lasted on its original last, which gives it back its original form.'

The Ardmore is a boot that expands Edward Green's offering while staying true to the brand's ethos. Says Denholm: 'The waxed suede collection is more casual and more relaxed, but it still embodies our core values of craftsmanship and quality.'

edwardgreen.com

Left the Ardmore boot in coal-black waxed suede, £1,415, Edward Green