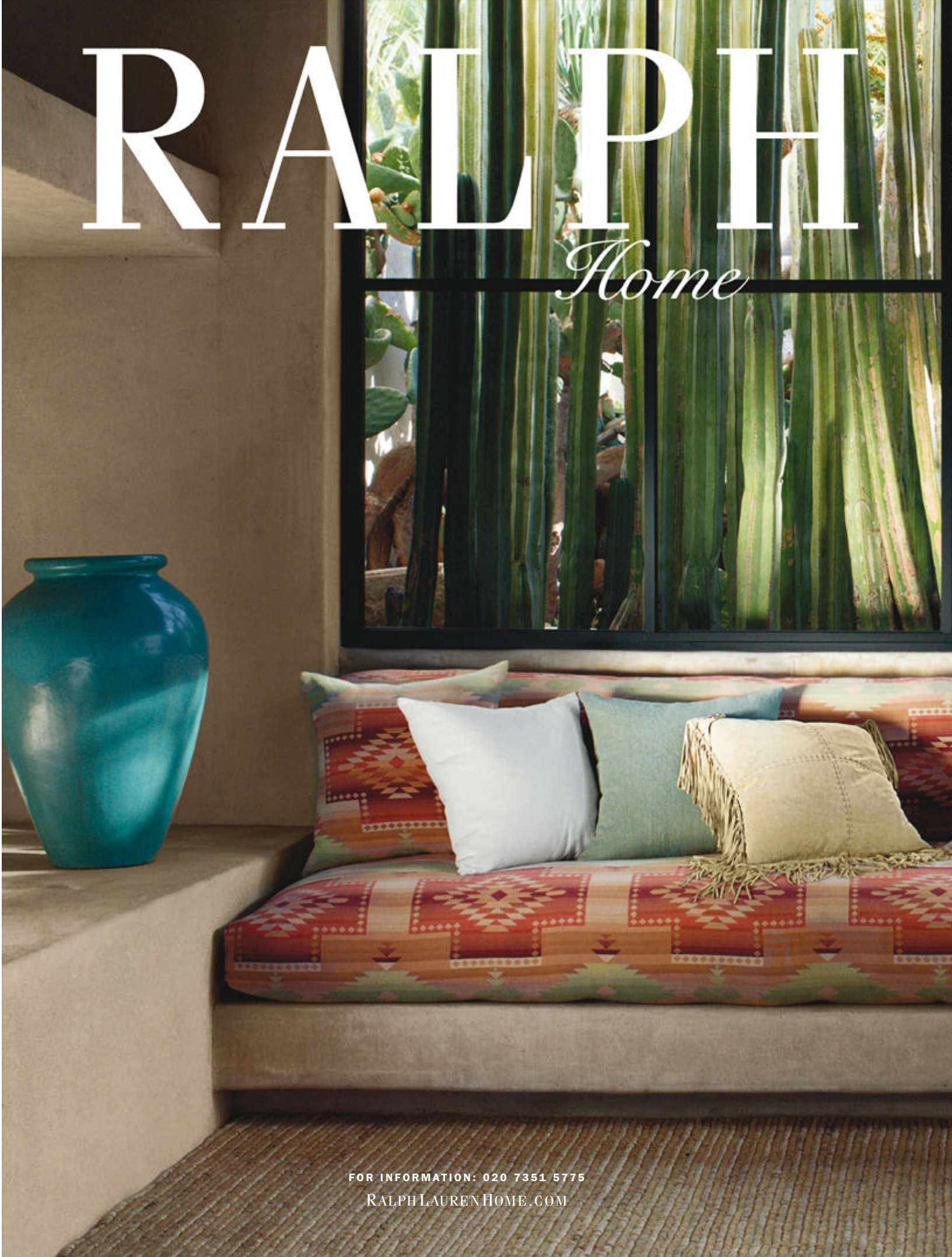

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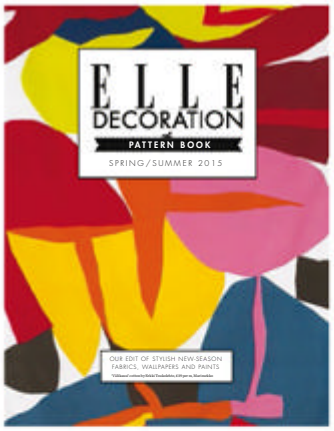
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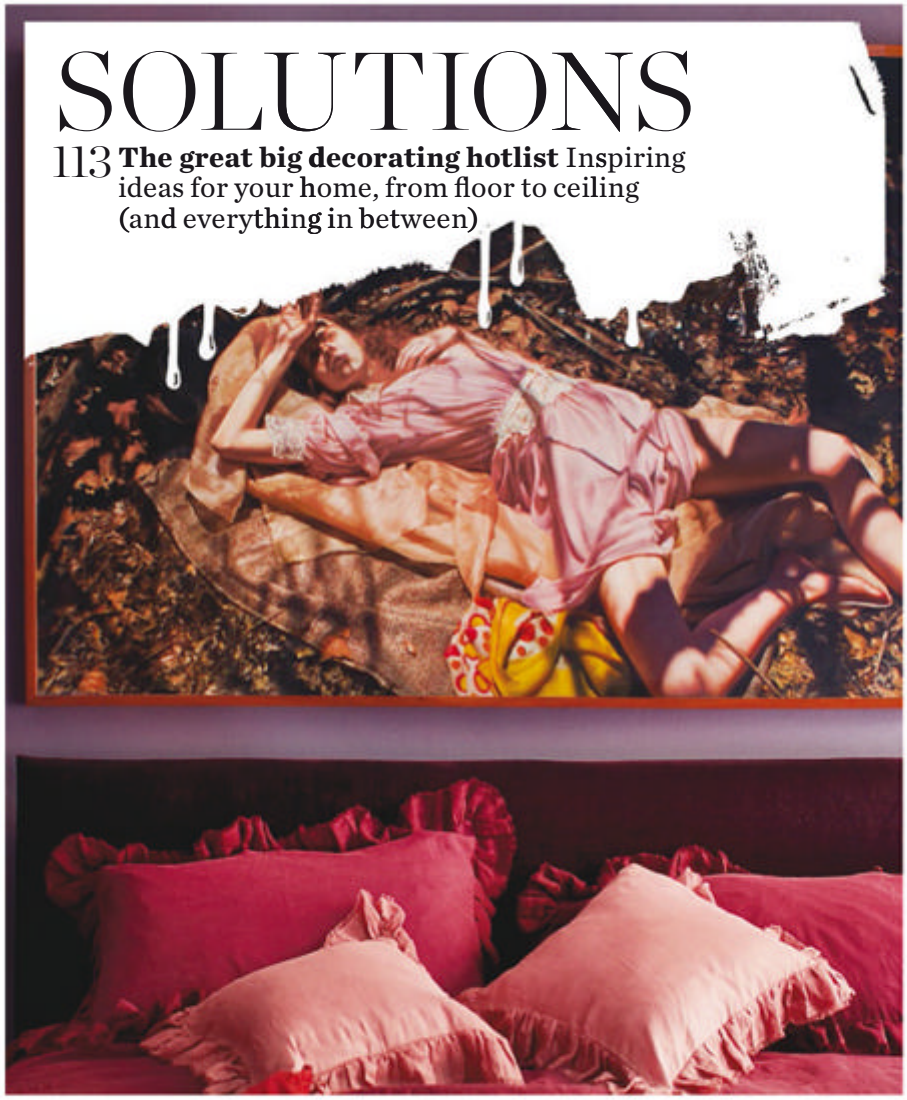
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THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS



Kara O'Reilly

Profession Writer
Feature *Insiders' icons*, p65
Likes My lovely children and husband; living in London; holidays
Dislikes Packing for holidays; bad manners; the amount of fur that one of our cats sheds all over our home
Home A classic Victorian house in Wanstead
Favourite colour Vibrant, zingy grass green
Design hero I'm starting to re-evaluate all of the great female designers who haven't had the full recognition they deserve, from Eileen Gray and Ray Eames to Charlotte Perriand and Lucienne Day



Beth Evans

Profession Photographer
Feature *Meet the makers*, p44
Interiors style Eclectic and messy
Favourite design object I have two: the first is a 1965 Eriba caravan. It's beautifully crafted, functional and you can take it anywhere. The second is a lovely wooden jug designed by Kota Fukunaga: it was a gift from Flow Gallery after the shoot (turn to p44 to see more pieces by the North London arts venue)
Favourite colour Orange. Apparently it suits me
Favourite city London: it's full of vitality, energy and inspiration and is so culturally diverse



James Carey

Profession Illustrator
Feature *What makes a design classic?* p61
Home I'm currently renovating a block of 200-year-old stables in Buckinghamshire. When it's finished, the interior will be modern, but the exterior will remain true to the original building
Influences It sounds clichéd, but my daughter is a constant source of inspiration. It's amazing what you can learn about painting from a three-year-old
Dream destination Alaska, for the mountains. It's good to feel insignificant once in a while

INTERVIEWS: SARAH MORGAN


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CREATING YOUR DREAM HOME STARTS HERE



Decorating is a word that elicits strong responses at both ends of the emotional spectrum. People either love or hate getting busy with rollers, ladders, paste and paper. Then there's the subjective mire of what 'decorative' means. For some, it connotes flounces and vivacity galore; for others, simplicity, wood and white.

How we choose to pretty, perfect or camouflage our homes is a profoundly personal decision. It could be a tangible expression of something going on inside or a declaration of how we wish to be perceived. The two are sometimes different. Overlay the various winds of fashionable change, rights and apparent wrongs, not to mention the individual likes and dislikes of family members, and it's not surprising that many find the process daunting. But, whether prompted by need or desire, decorating is how you make your home your own, so whichever way you choose to do it is right, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Having said that, beyond questions of style, there are practical issues to consider, so herewith my personal technique dos and don'ts...

How we pretty, perfect or camouflage our homes is a profoundly personal decision



1 Start with the envelope of your home (walls, ceilings, floors) before buying new furniture. It is important to determine where you feel big pieces should go, but your foundation must come first.
2 Contemplate your electrics to the point of obsession (and put in more sockets and switches than you think you'll need – you will need them), chase all of the wires into the walls and re-plaster for a perfect finish. Then, and only then, consider painting or papering. It takes a good-quality base to get a good-quality finish (and there's nothing worse than exposed cables or trunking!).
3 Spend the most you can afford on floors and kitchen countertops – two surfaces that you'll spend a long time looking at. Your floor, in particular, underpins your scheme. Don't go cheap; wait until you can get what you really want. In the interim, depending on the finish, a good floor paint and rugs can conceal a multitude of sins.
4 On window walls, if you go for colour, paint the frame in the same shade so that you 'frame' the view. Unless your window casing is ornate, do not make a feature of it. Likewise with doors: match the frames to the surround; it's about planes of colour, not punctuated surfaces. The exception is cornicing, which should, I believe, be the same colour as the ceiling.
5 Do consider using gloss paint on the ceiling. I've used it throughout my home and love the way it reflects light. Don't just default to white, either. (Farrow & Ball's 'Blackened' gloss paint is glorious on a ceiling – it's like an indoor sky!)
6 Do put tiles anywhere you please and mix materials with abandon. I've even used them for headboards, combining marble offcuts with oversize ceramic tiles.
7 Don't be afraid to use black. Gloss finishes (lacquer, paint or tiles) brighten, rather than darken, as they bounce light around. When you combine noirish textures in a space, the overall effect can be sophisticated and sleek, not gloomy.
8 You *can* collage various different runs of wallpaper together; no one says that you have to use one print per wall. See it instead as vertical bands of pattern.
9 Try Anaglypta's textured wallcoverings for instant three-dimensional pattern that you can colour as you wish. If you want to go to town, choose Lincrusta, whose super-thick, deeply embossed wallcovering comes as panels and friezes. It's even been used in the White House!
10 Choose your lights last. Think of them as the jewellery of your home: they are your finishing touches. Now turn to our decorating hot**list on p113** to be inspired!



EDITOR'S PICKS
What makes a design classic (p61)? When Saul Steinberg illustrated an Eames chair, did that make it more valuable? Does Mondaine's Swiss clock face become classic through ubiquity? My new classics: this 'Bauhaus' dog collar, from £79, and 'Crochet Bone' dog toy, £12.30, both Mungo & Maud (mungoandmaud.com). And what I'm currently reading: *Stuffocation* by James Wallman (Penguin, £6.99)

Michelle Ogundehin

Editor-in-Chief

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PICTURES: SUKI DHANDA (PORTRAIT), TIME & LIFE PICTURES/GETTY (CHAIR)

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1915 – 2015 Celebrate Harry Bertoia, Sculpture and Furniture Designer
Photo: George Cserna
2015 Harry Bertoia Bird Lounge Chair and Ottoman
Photo: Gionata Xerra

STYLE



THIS MONTH'S DREAM BUY

ANGLEPOISE'S 'ORIGINAL 1227 BRASS' COLLECTION sees the brand continue to reimagine its classic lighting in new ways. Featuring shiny metallic accents and available in a series of historic colours, the new range has a refined vintage feel, as exemplified by these stylish navy pendants. From £175 each (anglepoise.com).



CULTURAL EXCHANGE

New brand The Ruby Tree uses skilled artisans in Jaipur and Agra to create stunning pieces inspired by Islamic art

Words **TALIB CHOUDHRY**

The creative partnership between renowned Islamic-art scholar Mitchell Abdul Karim Crites and Welsh designer Bethan Gray seems an unlikely one at first, but Crites claims that he knew immediately that there was a synergy at work when he saw a picture of Gray's 'Black & White Stripes' marble collection. Struck by her innate understanding of Islamic design styles, he suggested that they collaborate to create a new brand that would specialise in furniture and tableware made from semi-precious-stone.

Launched at London's Harrods at the end of last year, The Ruby Tree's 'Petals' (pictured above) and 'Stripes' (pictured right, top) collections are crafted from valuable materials such as lapis lazuli, ruby and rose quartz, and hand-worked by hundreds of highly skilled artisans in Jaipur and Agra. Crites has also employed these trusted craftspeople to work on landmark design projects, including Lakshmi Mittal's London mansion and the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi. He was keen to ensure that their talents could be utilised during the pauses between bigger projects. 'These craftspeople's ancestors once ornamented the Taj Mahal; they can trace their artistry back 300 years,' he says. 'My aim is to find a market so that their skills can be passed on to the next generation.'

'Ancestors of these skilled craftspeople once ornamented the Taj Mahal'

To develop the collections, Gray travelled to India, working with artisans there to push their work in new directions. Her inspiration came from ceramic vessels dating back to the 11th century. It was, she says, a 'dream commission' to be able to design using such precious materials; in one bowl alone there are 450 strips of hand-cut amazonite, while another is formed from 300 meticulously shaped pieces of lapis lazuli.

The project was a homecoming of sorts for Gray – she can track her genealogy back to an ancient Rajasthani clan that migrated across Arabia and Persia into Europe, before settling in Wales. 'I have always had a fascination with Islamic craft,' she says. 'I'm keen to keep the traditions alive in a way that is relevant today.' From £900 for a pair of candleholders (therubytreecollection.com).





NEW INDIA

Two more Eastern brands that have caught our attention this month

BANGALORE BEAUTIES

Launched last September, London company Tiipoi's tableware and accessories collection – which also featured in our November issue – is based on the functional but exquisite items that brand founder Spandana Gopal remembers seeing in her grandmother's Bangalore house. Gopal's versions include copper and brass 'Ayasa' pots (£40) and the 'Seva' serving bowls and platter (£140). All are crafted from ayurvedic neem wood, known for its antibacterial properties (tiipoi.com).



CONTINENTAL SHIFT

British brand Capsbury is on a mission to change the perception of Indian-produced furniture. It has collaborated with Austrian designer Alexander Mueller on a range of contemporary pieces that are all made in India. Our favourite is the 'Inlay' side table, with its modern copper detailing (capsbury.com).





BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Danish brand Gubi not only champions work by little-known mid-century creatives, but also introduces new young talent, including German designer Sebastian Herkner. His 'Collar' lamp (pictured top; from £248), which comes in two sizes and five muted colours, combines hand-blown glass with an aluminium 'collar' at its top. This contemporary design sits perfectly with an addition to Gubi's collection of reissued classics by Swedish designer Greta Magnusson Grossman. The 'Modern Line' sofa (pictured bottom; from £1,917), designed in 1949, is notable for its slender legs and daybed-style silhouette (gubi.dk).

WORDS: TAJIB CHOUDHRY PICTURE: WE WORK AS [BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, LIGHTS]

BENCHMARK DESIGN

Architect John Pawson's elegant style shines through in his new oak 'Trestle' benches and table for Spanish brand Viccarbe. Reminiscent of refectory furniture, the pared-down pieces are designed to be displayed in rows to fit your space. This isn't the only project that's keeping Pawson busy, either: he's currently working on the revamp of the Commonwealth Institute in London, which is set to reopen as the new location of the Design Museum next year. Bench, from £1,492, Coexistence (coexistence.co.uk).





SCENT OF SUCCESS

Perfumer Francis Kurkdjian has spent years researching the almost-lost technique of scenting leather – once widely used by French glove-makers – with the aim of creating a collection of contemporary fragranced leather goods. He's finally perfected the process with the help of Parisian leather workshop Atelier Renard. His first product is a cardholder and matching envelope, which he's christened 'The Twin Set'. It comes in calfhide (scented with woody amber) or crocodile skin (perfumed with a vanilla-amber accord) and there's a range of colours to choose from. Kurkdjian's modern method ensures that the aroma lasts. From £405 (franciskurkdjian.com).

Buy it now *Norvegr's handmade goose-down duvets come in six sizes and take one person a full week to make: a kilogram of eiderdown needs to be prepared before each duvet can be created. From £120 for a single duvet (norvegr.com).*



SOAP STARS

Beauty brand Fresh has created the 'Zodiac' oval soap collection with renowned astrologer Susan Miller. Each scent represents one of the 12 signs of the zodiac and comes with a horoscope booklet that contains skincare tips tailored to your star sign. £12 each; Fresh, 92 Marylebone High Street, London W1 (020 7486 4100).

BLANKET COVERAGE

Norwegian design studio Günzler Polmar has worked with Normann Copenhagen to make these bright 'Ekko' lambswool blankets, created using an innovative two-tone weaving technique. £106 each (normann-copenhagen.com).



PICTURE: JEPPE SØRENSEN



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BY NICOLETTA ROSSI AND GUIDO BIANCHI
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4 OF THE BEST
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

Receive fresh coffee, an in-season bouquet or a surprise designer treat direct to your door every month. Coffee specialist Pact promises to deliver bags of freshly roasted Fairtrade coffee: go online to choose the length of your subscription and the type of coffee that you prefer. French firm Designerbox offers more of a surprise, sending you beautiful objects by contemporary designers such as Maurizio Galante ('Drago' light pictured). If seasonal flowers appeal, London-based outfit Petalon's fortnightly blooms service delivers its bouquets (by bicycle!) in handy letterbox-friendly packages. Or, for a monthly delivery of three original greetings cards by global artists, try Card Nest.

Coffee, from £20.85 for three bags, Pact Coffee (pactcoffee.com). **Flowers**, £22 per fortnightly delivery, Petalon (petalon.co.uk). **Greetings cards**, £7.50 per month for three cards, Card Nest (cardnest.com). **Designer gifts**, £30 per month, Designerbox (designerbox.com)





MONKEY BUSINESS

We've long been fans of Claire Brewster's delicate paper-bird sculptures, which are made from hand-cut maps of the world. Now she's turned her attention to monkeys and lemurs – these framed limited-edition artworks are made from acid-etched stainless steel and gold leaf placed inside black-framed museum entomology boxes. Lit from behind, they have a fluid, three-dimensional quality, the metal catching the light differently depending on the time of day. £475 each (clairebrewster.com).

PICTURES: PATRICE SCHREYER (MONKEY BUSINESS), STUDIO 33 (COFFEE AND FLOWERS)



MAGIC CIRCLES

German designer Elisa Strozyk has an original way with materials – first she wowed us with her flexible wooden textiles that can be moulded into multiple shapes (including a lampshade, see right) and now she's rethinking another medium with her 'Ceramic Tables'. The tops are crafted using layers of liquid glazes – made by mixing metal oxides with powdered minerals – which are applied to a circular clay base. The circles are then rotated and air is blown across them to create unique swirly patterns. The sleek metal frame is available in either copper or steel. From £720 each, Chiara Colombini (chiaracolombini.com).





RAIL TALENT

Innovative Finnish design duo Bette and Cilla Eklund – also known as BEDesign – have created this clever, minimalist 'Lume' storage rail, which is available in black or white powder-coated metal. The modular stand comes in a choice of two widths, which can also be joined together to accommodate a burgeoning wardrobe. From £304, Clippings (clippings.com).

PICTURE: STEFANIE HAERTWIG (MAGIC CIRCLES, MAIN IMAGE)



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HOME SCENT ICON 'VENETIAN BOUDOIR' CANDLE BY GUERLAIN

French company Guerlain, established in 1828, represents the pinnacle of luxury fragrance. Some of its masterpieces – such as 'Jicky', 'Mitsouko' and 'Shalimar' – are a century old, or almost. Its home scents have hitherto been elusive, which makes them all the more covetable. A few years ago, a range of candles launched in the UK and then disappeared. Now Guerlain is back, hopefully for good, with a new logo and a choice of six scents, each inspired by a different location. Russia, India and, of course, Paris are all in the mix, but 'Venetian Boudoir' is our favourite: it symbolises all that is wonderful about Guerlain and its history. Its women's fragrances share a soft, powdery warmth imparted by ingredients such as iris, tonka bean and vanilla, while its cosmetics have a sweet parma-violet fragrance that is actually created using iris. 'Venetian Boudoir' smells a bit like you imagine the bedroom of a high-class Venetian courtesan would – all expensive pomades, powders and perfumes. Notes of raspberry and rose make the candle sweeter still. It's rare to find an unashamedly feminine fragrance that is also sophisticated – most are just cloying. But we are talking about Guerlain here; nobody does sensual scents better. £57 (01932 233887).

MODERN MEMPHIS

Artist Nathalie du Pasquier was a founding member of the Memphis movement and has since become known for her paintings and graphic works. She has just launched a set of ink-and-resin prints for designer Sebastian Wrong's retail platform The Wrong Shop. Featuring a series of abstract constructions made up of bright blocks of colour, the limited-edition collection includes 12 designs in two sizes. From £325 each, The Wrong Shop (thewrongshop.co.uk).





WORDS: AMY BRADFORD |HOME SCENT ICON| ILLUSTRATION: SOPHIE TOULOUSE |HOME SCENT ICON|



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MY CULTURAL LIFE
BEN PENTREATH

Each month, we ask a tastemaker what they are reading, watching, downloading and listening to

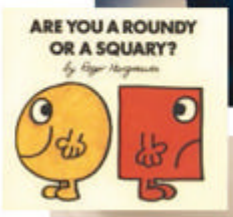












London-based design luminary Ben Pentreath runs his own architectural practice, an interior design studio and a Bloomsbury shop, Pentreath & Hall, which he co-owns with decorative artist Bridie Hall. (benpentreath.com; pentreath-hall.com; @BenPentreath)

I enjoy all kinds of music, from Bach to the Beatles. My choice depends on my mood. I am currently listening to a lot of Sibelius symphonies and Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*.
The song that makes me feel instantly happy is *Central Services* from the soundtrack to the film *Brazil* (pictured). Generally, however, I prefer music that makes me feel a wee bit sad, rather than happy.
I have about 3,000 books in my office library and all of them are influential in their own way. I love *Are You a Roundy or a Squary?* by Roger Hargreaves [pictured; out of print]. Less well known than his Mr Men titles, this story is part of a series and contains a lot of truth packed into a six-inch square book.
I've just finished reading Gavin Stamp's tiny book of essays *Anti-Ugly: Excursions in English Architecture and Design* (pictured; Aurum Press, £16.99). I don't always agree with what he says, but I thought that it was a brilliant and entertaining read.
I must admit that my favourite film would be something embarrassing like *Notting Hill* (pictured). I also love terrible disaster movies, but I'm aware that I have to watch those at the cinema by myself.
The famous quote that makes me think is John Ruskin's 'There is nothing in the world that some man cannot make a little worse and sell a little cheaper... he who considers price alone is that man's lawful prey'.
I'm a bit scared of going to the theatre and I find TV a total waste of time. I prefer the cinema. The last film I saw and liked was *The Theory of Everything* (pictured), with Eddie Redmayne as Stephen Hawking.
My favourite place for a good night out is Blacks – a private members' club in a beautiful old Georgian townhouse in the middle of hectic Soho. It's even nicer since its recent makeover, with a dark colour scheme and antique framed prints.
A city that I'd like to explore more is Stockholm (pictured; turn to p230 for our travel guide). I like to stay at the Ett Hemm (pictured), which is designed by Ilse Crawford.
My favourite app is the British Airways one. It's well designed and reminds you about exciting upcoming trips. Its screensaver even changes to show your next destination.





WORDS: AMY BRADFORD. PICTURES: ALAMY (*NOTTING HILL, BRAZIL*), GETTY (STOCKHOLM)



Senzafine Fitted wardrobe design Rodolfo Dordoni. Mad Chair armchair design Marcel Wanders.

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PET NUTRITIONIST

Plenty of automatic pet feeders use timers, but Petnet's 'Smartfeeder' claims to use a 'Smart ID' collar to learn the dietary requirements of your furry companions and thus keep them lean and healthy. Of course, what the 'Smartfeeder' doesn't know is how many scraps Rover was able to beg from the table during breakfast... £165 (petnet.io).





GRILL FRIEND

On paper, a talking barbecue sounds like a ridiculous idea. But once we'd cooked the perfect melt-in-the-middle scallop with the help of the Lynx 'Smart Grill', we were sold on the concept. This luxury barbecue has a 'My Chef' feature that coaches you through the cooking process. Plus, the app can notify you when your food is ready. £6,000 (lynxgrills.com).



ENLIGHTEN ME

Bluetooth-connected light bulbs can be set to glow in any colour, so can match your interior perfectly. The new 'Bolt' by Misfit looks sleek (there's no need for a separate hub) and can be connected to a sleep tracker, which means that it can be programmed to rouse you with a simulated sunrise. £50 (misfit.com).

MEET THE ROBOT BARISTA

What's the first thing that you reach for when you wake up? Your smartphone? A mug of coffee? Well, therein lies the genius of Smarter's Wi-Fi coffee machine, which creates a freshly ground cup with the swipe of a phone. Part of a new breed of internet-connected home devices, it can be controlled by an app (while you remain in that happy place under your duvet). All you need to do is replenish the bean hopper and water reservoir from time to time. What's more, it can be set to brew at a predetermined time each day, such as when your alarm goes off in the morning or – thanks to the 'Welcome Home' feature that is linked with your phone's GPS – when you come back from work. The coffee is made according to your tastes and, just like a real barista, the mechanised version can learn new recipes. £129, Firebox (firebox.com).



WORDS: TOM BAILEY PICTURE: JESSICA CASTRO (PET NUTRITIONIST)

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PASSIONATE CRAFTSMANSHIP



MEET THE MAKERS

Specialising in exquisite handmade ceramics, Flow Gallery in London's Notting Hill exhibits and sells designs by some of the most exciting craftspeople working today. Here are the nine names you need to know

Words **AMY BRADFORD** *Photography* **BETH EVANS** *Styling* **SANIA PELL**



HYU-JIN JO *(1, 4, 6, 9)*
Originally from Seoul in South Korea, Hyu-Jin Jo now lives in Stoke-on-Trent and works with stoneware, bone china and black jasper – materials traditionally used by Staffordshire makers. Her functional tableware is hand-carved into ridged shapes. ***Bone china creamer (1), £78; bone china teapot (4), £110; bone china sugar bowl (6), £78; earthenware teacup (9), £70***

DEREK WILSON *(2, 3, 5, 8)*
A hybrid of potter and conceptual artist, this Belfast ceramicist makes a diverse range of objects from celadon-glazed porcelain. He is inspired by mid-century British Constructivism and the style of historical Asian ceramics. ***Thrown porcelain stacking beakers (2, 5), £77 each; thrown porcelain stemmed bowl (3), £154; thrown porcelain grey water pitcher (8), £286***

KAORI TATEBAYASHI *(7, 10)*
This Japanese creative makes stoneware and ceramics with hump moulds, which are traditionally used in Japan to produce dishes. Her memories of the mountains around Kyoto inspire the curves of her tableware. 'My objects are only truly completed when being used.' ***Sand stoneware beaker (7), £52; tall stoneware jug (10), £162*** ➤



SILVIA K *(11)*
Slovakia-born, Brighton-based designer Silvia K makes terracotta tableware and vessels inspired by folk traditions. Her handmade works have abstract painted decoration, but the undersides of the plates and bowls are left unglazed, reflecting Silvia's love of plain terracotta. Many pieces feature textured leather handles.
Terracotta-and-leather platter (11), £100

AKIKO HIRAI *(12, 13)*
Hirai's bottle vases are made by hand from coarse stoneware; some are left unglazed to show the material's charcoal colour, while others are covered in a white slip-glaze. The latter are a modern take on traditional Japanese kohiki ware, which allows glimpses of the dark clay to remain visible beneath the glaze.
Stoneware cup (12), £45; stoneware bottle (13), £78

ASTRID KELLER *(14)*
Based in Bremen, Germany, Keller makes elegant, pared-back vases, cups and plates using copper and enamel. Every piece features unique markings: cracks, lines and irregular shapes in the glaze that create the impression of an object that is much used and loved. It's almost as if the pieces are pre-owned.
White metal-and-enamel cup (14), £195



THEO ADAMSON *(15)*
London-based potter Theo Adamson's simple cylindrical pots are inspired by the diverse cultural heritage that he sees all around him. His stoneware pieces are hand-decorated with markings that suggest African tribal body painting and scarification, such as roughly drawn lines and fingerprint-like streaks.
White stoneware vessel with blue decoration (15), £130

NICOLA TASSIE *(16)*
British ceramicist Nicola Tassie studied painting – a skill that is reflected in her minimally decorated Limoges-porcelain bowls. After hand-throwing each piece, she scores fine lines into its surface, then fills these with black iron oxide; finally, she scrapes off the excess. The inside of each bowl has a glossy glaze, while the exterior is polished
Etched porcelain bowl (16), £312

JOCHEM DE WIT *(17)*
For his graduation project, this young Dutch ceramicist looked to the gritty areas of his home city, Arnhem in the Netherlands, for inspiration. His one-off vessels are made from materials that are not necessarily clean or new, such as clay, glass and concrete, and have visible joins and jagged edges. He sees imperfections as signs of life, not as blemishes.
Stoneware cup (17), £75 ED

Industrious living

Artist Gennaro Avallone has transformed an entire floor of his atelier, a former salami factory in Milan, into his home. Here, he tells us about his inspirations and the benefits of combining work and pleasure

Words **EMMA LOVE**
Photography **ALESSANDRA IANNIELLO/LIVING INSIDE**





Italian artist and designer Gennaro Avallone has been crafting sculptural plaster and blown-glass and metal pieces from this converted factory in central Milan for almost 20 years. While his artworks play with texture, their haunting beauty inspired by the forms of nature, his furniture designs have a much sleeker, more contemporary aesthetic. It is only in the past decade that Gennaro has converted the first floor of his atelier into a home. The loft-like area mixes stripped-back, industrial-look walls with white, gallery-style spaces that feature open bookshelves and polished surfaces. Last year, Gennaro opened the doors of the atelier for the Milan Furniture Fair – at which he launched a new glassware collection – and exhibited at Pippa Small's jewellery shop (pippasmall.com), which is also located in the city. He is currently creating an artwork for a new hotel on the Italian island of Pantelleria and a private commission for the owner of a grand 20th-century villa in Paris. Plus, his furniture is now available to buy at designer Giovanna Ticciati's store in Petworth, West Sussex (giovannaticciati.com). Here, we take a look inside this busy creative hub to discover how Gennaro makes the vast space work for him (gennaroavallone.com).

I was initially attracted to this former salami factory because of its architecture. The building, which is situated in a courtyard, has a fanciful and handsome *spagnoleggiante* (Spanish-influenced) façade. It's a 100-year-old industrial space; before I took it over, it was a furniture warehouse.

The building had an abandoned feel, but I was enamoured with its size – it's 600 square metres spread across four floors – and the sheer scale of the place.

I turned the top and lower-ground floors into showrooms and the ground level became my workspace. I didn't want to over-restore the spaces, although I did put in polished concrete floors. I decided to leave the patchy plywood ceiling on the top storey, the roof of which is held up by striking steel girders.

In the showrooms, the walls are rough, whereas my living areas have plain white walls for a cleaner, simpler effect. I am forever changing the layout of the studio but I like to leave my apartment alone – I do sometimes replace one painting with another, though.

There are many advantages to living and working in one space. For instance, the upstairs showroom doubles as my dining room because it has a small, detached kitchen in the corner. When I'm eating in the evening, I can appraise the artworks at the same time.

I often make important decisions during meals, then leap up and redesign something rather than finishing what's on my plate! It's a privilege to live with all of my work around me.

I grew up near the Greek temples at Paestum, not far from the Amalfi coast. As a child I was drawn to the artifacts in the Naples museum. It was then that I became interested in interiors. Years later, I started experimenting with stucco; most of what I create now, including my canvasses, involves it in some way.

In the past decade I have begun designing glass pieces that are blown by a craftsman in Murano. I've also started working with bronze.



Showroom Gennaro's latest pieces are displayed on the lower-ground floor. Undecorated walls and a polished concrete floor highlight his work's delicacy
Detail Glass vases blown by a craftsman in Murano ➤

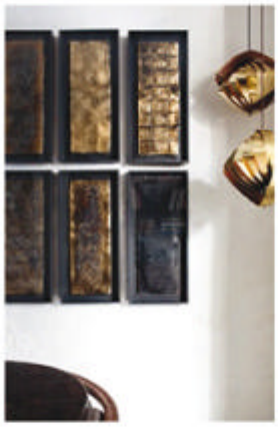












Showroom Open bookshelves and a selection of Gennaro's artworks decorate this stripped-back space
Details These terracotta plaques with applied imprinted stucco – one of Gennaro's favourite finishes – are inspired by Ancient Greek artifacts. One is coated in copper leaf ➤



Living room A rug from the Altai gallery is teamed with an 'Arco' floor lamp by Achille Castiglioni for Flos (available from The Conran Shop). The round wooden table is by Mauro Mori and the glass 'Ragno' table is by Carlo de Carli
Bedroom A canvas screen with imprinted stucco by Gennaro hangs on the wall behind the bed. The chandelier is an aluminium design that dates from the 1960s
Stockist details on p236 ED





THE HANGING GARDEN

Artist Rebecca Louise Law uses flowers to create stunning installations

Words **EMMA LOVE**

IN JANUARY, REBECCA LOUISE LAW completed her biggest dried-flower art installation to date. It involved 40 species and 15,000 stems, which she had begun drying in her studio in East London's Columbia Road six months earlier. Law made watercolour drawings to plan out the composition and spent two days hanging the piece in its setting: a glass cabinet at the Two Pancras Square offices in King's Cross. 'It was the first time that I'd used dried flowers to such an extreme,' says Law, a fine arts graduate. 'I'm an artist at heart, so flowers are my paint.'

Law started her career by working part-time at a local flower shop before being headhunted by premier London florist McQueens, with which she worked for several years. 'I didn't want to do traditional floristry,' she says. 'Kally Ellis, the founder, understood that and asked me to show her my vision for flowers.' Law was then tasked with creating installations for two London hotels, The Grove and The Berkeley, with her brief being to 'bring the outside in'. In 2007, she set up her own studio. Her work soon caught the attention of Hermès, which commissioned her to make a ceiling of flowers for an event at the Royal Opera House. Now, her clients include Jo Malone and Jimmy Choo; for Mulberry's Bond Street store, she used blue delphiniums to create the current window display.

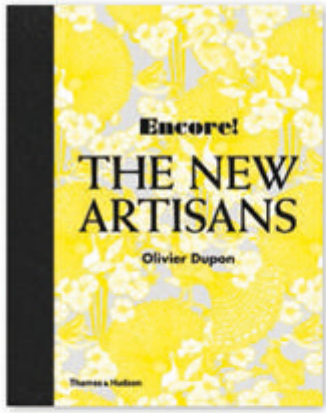
Careful hanging is the key to Law's success. 'If I'm making a sculpture where the flowers start fresh and then dry out, every stem has to be given breathing space and be hung properly – otherwise, it will rot,' she says. Law likes people to interact physically with her pieces, so she designs them in a way that engages with viewers, making them look up or feel flowers brushing their heads.

The artist's latest floral installation involved 40 species and 15,000 stems

Why does Law think dried flowers are sometimes seen as unfashionable? 'There was a time when the potpourri trend made dried flowers seem twee,' she says. 'No one saw beyond arranging them in a vase or thought about using them as an art material – that's the difference with my work,' she explains. There's certainly nothing twee about the way in which Law is turning this old-fashioned craft into a modern art form. (rebeccalouiselaw.com; @RebeccaLLaw)

SKILFUL SEQUEL

Encore! The New Artisans by Olivier Dupon (Thames & Hudson, £24.95) is the follow-up to 2011's *The New Artisans* – a must-read guide to craftspeople around the world. Expect images of 60 makers in their workspaces – including, from top, French artist Lise Meunier and Canada-based practice Bee Kingdom – and their creations, which range from textile birds to paper masks.







PICTURES: MALCOLM CROWTHERS (THE HANGING GARDEN)



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THE DESIGNER MAKER SUE PRYKE

A tableware specialist whose work includes high-street hits and handcrafted collections

Words **ALEX KRISTAL**

CHANCES ARE YOU ALREADY OWN tableware by Sue Pryke, who has designed pieces for retail giants such as Sainsbury's and Next for the past 20 years. Her '365+' range, the first of many collaborations with Ikea, remains one of the brand's bestselling collections after two decades in production, and her 'Reda' cheese grater, also for Ikea, can be found in many kitchens.

Pryke studied ceramics and glass at Leicester Polytechnic (now De Montfort University), where in her final year she was awarded the Royal Society of Arts Student Design Award. This resulted in a placement, and subsequently a job, at Wedgwood in Stoke-on-Trent – the geographical heart of British ceramics production. 'I had an archive of historic patterns and moulds to choose from, so it was an invaluable experience,' recalls Pryke, who went on to hone her skills at the Royal College of Art under the tutelage of ceramicists Janice Tchalenko and David Queensberry. A trip to Lisbon during her studies inspired a folio of Portuguese gothic-style designs that developed into Pryke's debut studio range, which was later picked up by Liberty and The Conran Shop.



Top, from left Sue Pryke in her Leicestershire studio; oak plates, from £55 each; terracotta jug, £55
Above Pryke's 'Mr & Mrs' collection of handmade tableware (from £30) is slipcast in coloured clays

After years as an in-house designer for Next and Sainsbury's, Pryke set up her own studio in 2013. Now, with the freedom to make objects to her own brief, she has developed an understated, functional style with a handcrafted, luxurious finish. Her new 'Mr & Mrs' collection combines the tactility of pewter, slip-cast ceramics and wood. It's the first time she has worked with her husband, John Tildesley (hence the range's name), who produces all of the wooden components under his brand Wild + Wood (wildandwood.co.uk). Pryke also finds specialist brands to co-create her pieces: these have included Wentworth in Sheffield, which works with spun pewter.

The muted palette and pared-back forms of Pryke's latest products make reference to the expansive landscape of her childhood home in Lincolnshire, which has always informed her designs. As in all of Pryke's work, form follows function; she sees it as essential to create items that are usable and affordable. 'Ikea calls this "democratic design",' she says. 'I take the craft approach, but the goal is the same.' (suepryke.com) ED

PICTURE: YESHEEN [DETAIL]

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HOMEWARE WITH A HEART

Meet the new wave of design brands whose ethics are as impeccable as their products

Words **EMMA LOVE**

WORKING WITH CRAFTSPEOPLE around the world to create pieces that do good as well as look good, eco-aware design brands are having a moment. One of our favourites, online store Standseven, is the brainchild of Tamaryn White, an interior designer from South Africa, and Ikena Carreira, an Angola-born documentary maker. The pair work with global artisans to create homeware that makes a positive social impact, helping entrepreneurs in countries such as Rwanda and Sierra Leone. The company's debut collection includes 'Stool 7' by architect David Adjaye, charming handmade wooden toys by Sri Lankan company Gospel House, and placemats and coasters stitched by Bosnian collective Women for Women.

These companies work with global artisans to create pieces that make a positive social impact

There's also design studio Otago, founded by Anna Rose and Eddie Sercombe, which has recently launched a range created by Kenyan craftspeople in collaboration with Nest (a non-profit organisation that helps artisans to build profitable businesses). It includes a hand-woven banana-leaf pouf and jars decorated with Maasai beadwork.

Stitch by Stitch is a London-based textile studio that supports hand weavers in the Kutch region of Gujarat, India – today, there are only about 700 people trained in this traditional skill. It produces cotton cushions, rugs and throws, working with the Self Employed Women's Association to ensure a fair wage for all of its weavers.

Finally, look out for Lovedesh, which is soon to launch a range of embroidered bedding created by Bangladeshi artisans. (standseven.com; otagodesign.com; stitchbystitch.eu; lovedesh.com) ED



Stitch by Stitch's 'Khamir Cube' rug, cushions and quilt, plus cotton 'Kala' hand towels



Clockwise from above left Toys by Gospel House; 'Stool 7' by David Adjaye; a placemat by Women for Women, all Standseven



Beaded 'Shanga Ya Ngozi' bottles and a hand-woven 'Kikipu' platter by Otago


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WHAT MAKES A DESIGN CLASSIC?

Author and critic ***Stephen Bayley*** *debates this thorny issue and offers his own definition. Plus, we ask industry insiders to reveal their favourite timeless designs*

Illustrations **JAMES CAREY**

It takes time for something to become iconic. Anyone who believes in the existence of an 'instant classic' has inhaled too much PR. But what exactly is a design classic? It's a question framed by the devil to torment the cautious. First, you need to distinguish between the classical and the classic, a point of difference that can be lost on the careless.

Classical architecture has origins in the Greek and Roman eras. Order, proportion and a limited range of decorative motifs are the defining characteristics of the style. Within its strict rules there is, nonetheless, scope for expression. So, the austere Erechtheion temple on Athens' Acropolis is classical, but so, too, was Stanford White's rather blustering Penn Station in New York, completed in 1910. Or consider classical music, which can be described as the sonic equivalent of the architectural orders as they were defined by Vitruvius: formal, predictable and beautiful.

The term 'classic' is rather different. It has come to mean the best of its kind. When, in the mid-1980s, Coca-Cola tinkered with its sacred recipe and launched 'New Coke', the public rebelled and the original formula had to be reinstated. Upon its re-release, it was named 'Coca-Cola Classic'. Its famous contoured bottle, the design of which is in its centenary year, is an example of an undisputed classic. But I am getting ahead of myself.



Dieter Rams' belief that quiet is better than loud informed Jonathan Ive's minimalist design of the Apple 'iPod Classic'

Everybody loves classic cars, which tells us something about the nature of a classic. No one detests or despises these motors, but their individual appeal is based on nostalgia: the ones we love are those that we remember from our childhood. To me, a classic car is a Triumph 'TR3' or an Austin-Healey '3000 Mark II'. To my son, it's an Audi 'Quattro' or a Volkswagen 'Golf GTI'. In this sense, a car is given classic status not because of any rational analysis of merit, but because of its ability to transport us backwards in time to a dreamworld of imagined perfection.

The concept of a classic only becomes difficult when attached to the term 'design' – itself a word that, through familiarity and misuse, has been attenuated to a condition of near-meaninglessness. People often say that 'everything has been designed' but, after a century and a half of design education in this country, no one can say what exactly that discipline comprises.

So let me tell you. Design was a campaign promoted by museum administrators, architects, pamphleteers, exhibitionists and egomaniacs. During the mid-19th century, it was intended to educate the public in matters of taste and to rebuke manufacturers in matters of utility. As the campaign evolved, it acquired very specific aesthetics; thus approved objects were known as 'good design' and objects of disapproval were 'bad design'. Never mind that bad design often worked and sold better than good: that was of no concern to visionary purists. What they were promoting

A car is given classic status because of its ability to transport us to a dreamworld of imagined perfection

was, in fact, an elite style or patrician taste. You can ignore all of that form-follows-function stuff. It doesn't now nor ever did. Form follows fiction.

Given this definition, the design movement had a historical beginning and end that are as definable as the start and finish points of, say, the Pre-Raphaelites and the Constructivists. While the idea of design emerged in the Victorian era, it only became truly influential after WWI, when mass markets full of acquisitive consumers evolved. A hundred years later (I mean right now), globalisation exploded those quaint, provincial Victorian assumptions about taste, social purpose and public utility. Thus design lost its meaning, becoming a valueless term that gets routinely



From the iconic Coca-Cola bottle to the metal chairs created by Xavier Pauchard for Tolix, design classics come in all shapes and sizes

applied in slapdash fashion to anything that simply happens to have been made.

The idea of the design classic derives from that earlier period of do-gooding innocence. It began at the start of the 20th century with the work of the Deutscher Werkbund (German Association of Craftsmen), which attempted to create standard shapes for everyday objects such as drinking glasses, and ended with the iPod – Apple even acknowledged this status when the sixth generation of the iPod was launched as the 'Classic'.

Looking back at the design era, several things become clear. The people who created the likes of the Porsche '911', the Leica camera and the Rolex watch were, not entirely unconsciously, aiming to achieve timelessness. These are all products that resist the depredations of fashion and appear to stay the same. In all of them, the

Anything worthy of the title 'design classic' is not just a useful product, but also represents an idea

details are in harmony with the whole: you can instantly recognise a Porsche, a Leica or a Rolex from a visual fragment. Indeed, rather like a bio-organism, the entirety of the car, camera or watch appears to evolve from its elementary parts. And, like a family, successive generations of these products look the same, or ever so slightly different.

But there's another aspect to the defining of a design classic: it is not just a useful product, but also represents an idea. French semiotician Roland Barthes, when discussing the 1955 Citroen 'DS' in his book *Mythologies*, described objects as 'the best messenger of a world above that of nature'. The message? That the design of a car can be as complex and beautiful, as subtle and moving, as the architecture of a cathedral. This is a pleasant fiction. That Coca-Cola bottle? In this language, it embodies America's takeaway culture.

Take Dieter Rams, the inheritor of the Bauhaus ethic, which he passed on to Apple's grateful Jonathan Ive. Not only is Rams' work timeless (his 1962 '620 Chair Programme' for Vitsœ is still in production today and is likely to remain so for ever, or until people cease to feel the need to sit down, whichever comes sooner), but it is also the product of an absolutely coherent philosophy: quiet is better than loud, Rams believes, a classic belief if ever there was one. All of his products behave, he says, with the dignity and discretion of 'ze gut English butler'.

There's a neat little army of design warriors who are still, from beyond the grave, battling with the crass and the vulgar. The furniture of Charles and Ray Eames, Xavier Pauchard's metal chairs for Tolix, Poul Henningsen's lights – I could go on and on. But then there are also those anonymous, everyday items that have earned 'classic' status: a handsome wine bottle and its best companion, a 'Waiter's Friend' corkscrew, for instance. Neither could be improved by adding or subtracting anything, so they are true classics.

Ultimately, design classics should make us feel good about ourselves. They dignify existence and confirm, if confirmation were needed, that life is more than a temporary conjunction of hydrocarbons in the relativist chaos of infinite space. They are the best messengers of a world above nature. And they are things of the past. ➤



photography by: Gwenael Lewis

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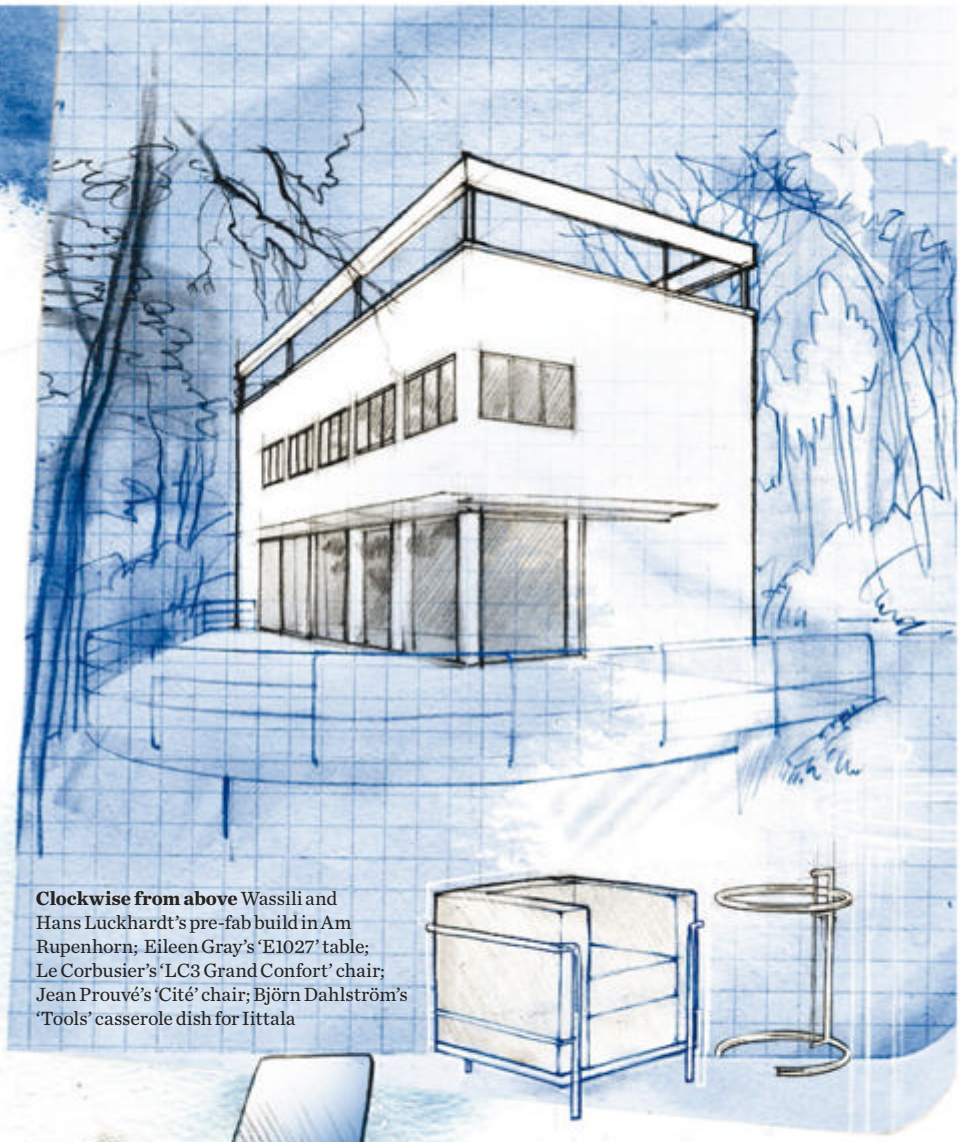
Leading figures from the worlds of art, design, fashion and beauty pick the products that they call classics

Compiled by **KARA O'REILLY**

'Someone told me recently that a Nobel Prize-winning mathematician would reject formulas on the basis that they were "not beautiful". Our sense of beauty, though coloured by personal taste, is a remarkably reliable guide to what is correct, useful or just "right". Design classics are always beautiful. But there are a lot of beautiful designs that are not recognised as classic. That's because the formation of a design icon is as much about its reception as its production. We need taste formers of different kinds, museums among them, to create a classic.

'We usually think of classics in terms of "celebrities" – highly visible designs. I'd like to make a case for something with less surface appeal: Wassili and Hans Luckhardt's pre-fab building blocks, first used in 1930 to construct two houses at Am Rupenhorn in Charlottenburg, Berlin. George Nelson called the Luckhardt brothers the architects of the "first modern house in Germany". Growing up in Berlin and studying the culture of the 1920s and '30s gave me a taste for their utilitarian designs.'

MARTIN ROTH, director, Victoria & Albert Museum (vam.ac.uk; @V_and_A)



Clockwise from above Wassili and Hans Luckhardt's pre-fab build in Am Rupenhorn; Eileen Gray's 'E1027' table; Le Corbusier's 'LC3 Grand Confort' chair; Jean Prouvé's 'Cité' chair; Björn Dahlström's 'Tools' casserole dish for Iittala

'Good design makes the heart flutter; if the emotion does not jump, it's no good. In my view, designs become classic when the time aspect is not visible, meaning that they could have been created during any period and are still relevant decades later. My favourite pieces include the "Cité" chair by Jean Prouvé [manufactured by Vitra], which is wonderfully comfortable and mixes well with items from different centuries, and Björn Dahlström's "Tools" casserole dish for Iittala, which inspired us to start Skandium. As a piece of design it could not be any simpler, yet it's harmonious in every aspect, with perfect performance thanks to its brilliant technology.'

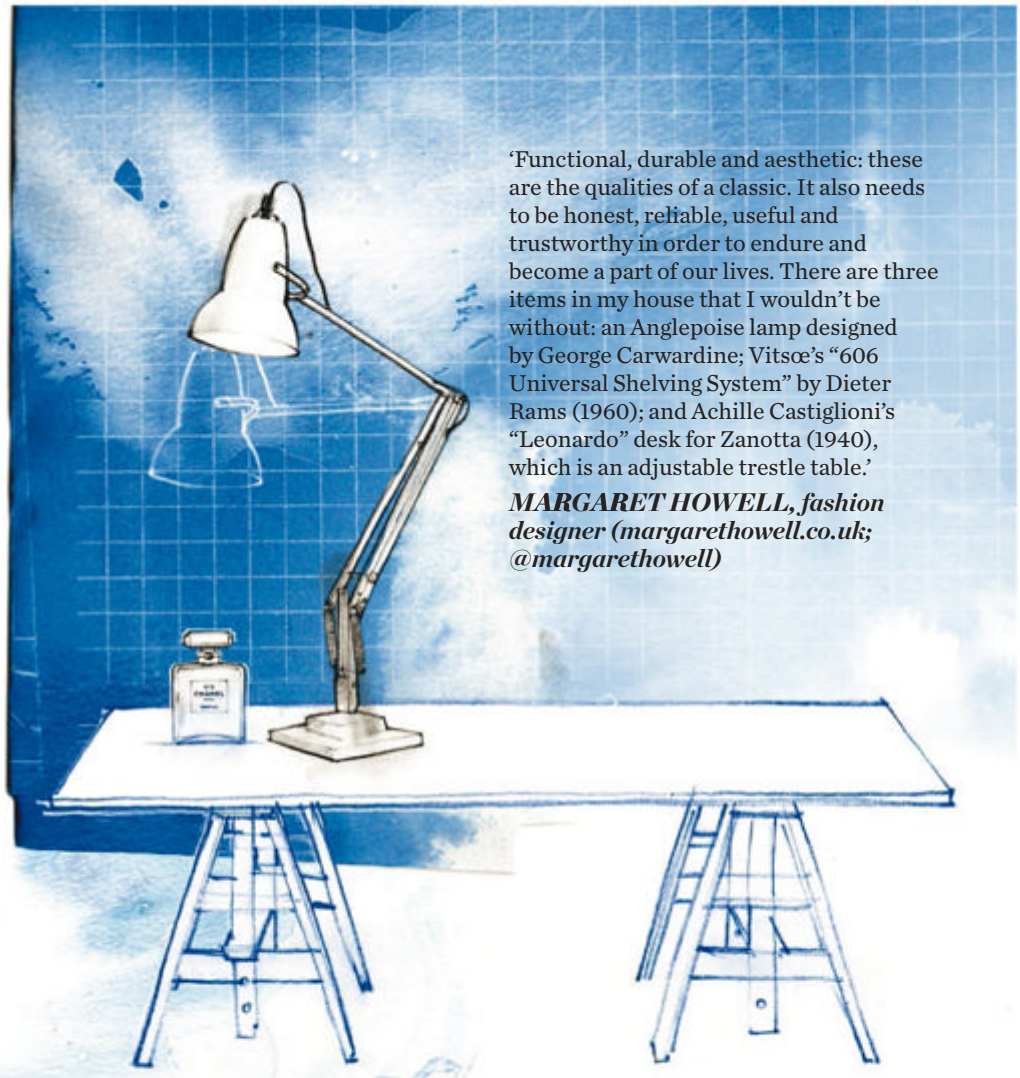
CHRISTINA SCHMIDT, co-founder and creative director, Skandium (skandium.com; @skandium_com)

'A classic design is objectivity and subjectivity coming together in timeless recognition. There is no formula for classics, which makes them elusive and fascinating. They do not need to be perfect, nor even beautiful, but they do need to be neat (in all senses). Sometimes we are seduced by form alone and accept the rest. Take Le Corbusier's 1928 "LC3 Grand Confort" armchair – it looks wonderful, but it's anything but comfortable. Among my favourite pieces is the original Mini, designed by Sir Alec Issigonis. As well as being an engineering feat, it is neat and so much greater than the sum of its parts because of how those parts are put together. I also admire Eileen Gray's "E1027" table (1927) and Isamu Noguchi's "Akari' paper lamp [designed in 1951 and manufactured by Vitra]. Overexposure by mass copies cannot detract from its classic status.'

TERENCE WOODGATE, industrial designer and founder of Studio Woodgate (terencewoodgate.com; @terencewoodgate) ➤

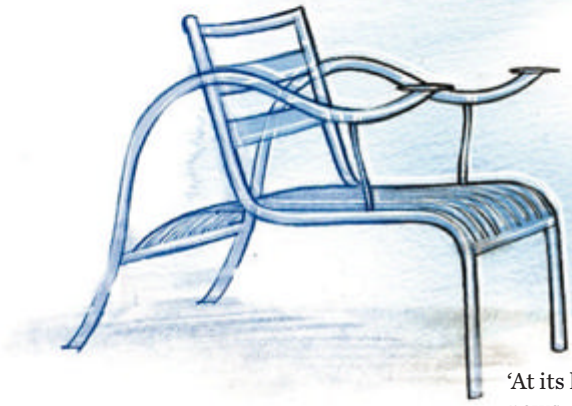
'A classic design is something of timeless value that can never be out of fashion. It isn't a case of choosing the right colours or textures; it's about the time spent creating and nurturing the design, and the lasting impact it has on society. Most classics are strikingly simple, but they need to remain popular and up to date, regardless of when they were created. I love the Harley Davidson motorcycle – every time I see one I am amazed by the intricate details. I'm also a fan of Levi jeans, which embody the enduring trend for blue denim, and the Chanel No 5 perfume bottle, which has stood the test of time for more than 90 years – the clean-cut vessel, with its rectangular shape and rounded shoulders, is timeless.'

KELLY HOPPEN, interior designer (kellyhoppen.com; @IMKellyHoppen)



'Functional, durable and aesthetic: these are the qualities of a classic. It also needs to be honest, reliable, useful and trustworthy in order to endure and become a part of our lives. There are three items in my house that I wouldn't be without: an Anglepoise lamp designed by George Carwardine; Vitsœ's "606 Universal Shelving System" by Dieter Rams (1960); and Achille Castiglioni's "Leonardo" desk for Zanotta (1940), which is an adjustable trestle table.'

MARGARET HOWELL, fashion designer (margarethowell.co.uk; @margarethowell)



From left 'Thinking Man's' chair by Jasper Morrison for Cappellini; Achille Castiglioni's 'Leonardo' desk for Zanotta; the Chanel No 5 bottle; George Carwardine's Anglepoise lamp

'Lasting for generations, a design classic has all the emotional and practical attributes you could wish for to enhance your life. My choices would be the corkscrew, which represents a simple bit of ergonomic engineering; common house bricks, which are practical, easy to handle, used well on a massive scale and beautiful; and denim, which is possibly the best fabric ever designed.'

MARK ELEY, print designer and co-founder, Eley Kishimoto (eleykishimoto.com; @EleyKishimoto)

'At its launch, a product must represent news, research and innovation – this is the essence of design – but it turns into a classic when it becomes an irreplaceable part of our homes and lives. My top design classics include the "Thinking Man's Chair" by Jasper Morrison for Cappellini (1988); Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni's "Toio" lamp for Flos (1962), which is for me the best representation of a light and is designed with irony and intelligence; and Carlo Alessi's 1945 "Bombé" tea and coffee set, which is beautiful and almost anonymous.'

GIULIO CAPPELLINI, director, Cappellini (cappellini.it)

'I associate a feeling of luxury and familiarity with my favourite designs, such as my Baccarat crystal wine glasses, which I use whatever the occasion: during the most sophisticated dinner party or with fish and chips. Feeling the weight of the glass in my hand and drinking from such a beautiful object always makes me smile. Another everyday essential that I'm always reaching for is my cafetiere. A design classic should have a clean silhouette and should work in various environments.'

JO MALONE MBE, founder and creative director, Jo Loves (joloves.com; @JoMaloneLondon)

*For more views on what makes a design classic, visit elledecoration.co.uk/news/design-classics. Plus, follow us on **T**witter @ELLEDecoUK and share your favourites with the hashtag #EDclassics* ED

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The design maverick

From tiny chairs and trouser-leg tables to sleek glass shelving for an Italian superbrand, the work of ***Ron Gilad*** *defies categorisation. Here, he discusses Surrealism, Socialism and changing disciplines*

Words **DOMINIC LUTYENS**



One of Gilad's latest projects is Glass Cube, a super-slick showroom in Milan that he has curated for Italian superbrand Molteni & C ➤



In 2002, Ron Gilad created a vase called 'Ran Over By Car' – a brass tube with a horizontal slit that, on being run over by a car wheel, pops open to form a mouth. This project set the tone for many other idiosyncratic products by this clever, witty creative, who was born in Tel Aviv in 1972. While studying industrial design at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, Gilad developed concepts that caught the attention of art gallerists. In 1999, he held a solo exhibition entitled 'Neopost' at Tel Aviv's Periscope gallery. Two years later, he moved to New York and set up his own studio, Designfenzider. Recently, he has gained international renown for his ethereally minimalist glass-and-metal tables for Molteni & C and a daybed supported by four Lilliputian Thonet chairs that he produced for Adele-C. His latest project is the curation of Molteni & C's glamorous Glass Cube space at its headquarters near Milan, where archive pieces by the likes of Foster + Partners, Giò Ponti and Gilad himself are on display.

'I would describe what I do as fooling around with ideas. I start by making abstract sculptures that usually end up being useless, but sometimes have the potential to function as objects'

Gilad's influences span Surrealism, kitsch, architecture and the work of minimalist artist Donald Judd; his approach is mercurial and unpredictable. His work seesaws between the pared-down, geometric and super-functional, and the playful and theatrical. Examples of the former style include his minimalist 'Spaces' tables, which resemble 3D line drawings, and 'Void', a side table constructed in the shape of a stool's wooden shipping container with a cavity in the centre (both pictured opposite). Conversely, his 'Butler' table – which comprises a piece of wood resting on legs clad in suit trousers – is delightfully odd.

Overall, Gilad is more interested in the creative process than in finished products. 'I'm not satisfied with just creating another 3D object,' he has said. 'For me, a piece's beauty and functionality are the result of a process, not a premeditated goal.' We met up with the designer in Milan to discover more about his ideas and inspirations.

Gilad's Tel Aviv apartment is filled with his prototypes, including a blue daybed for Adele-C (above), the 'Void' tables that he made for his own studio and his collection for Molteni & C (all pictured opposite). Miniature figures recur in many of his products **Opposite, top** The designer's 'Dear Ingo' light for Moooi, which is made from Ikea task lamps



I wasn't interested in design as a child. I was just obsessed with drawing, though I wasn't confident about my abilities. Discovering that lines could be made sharper if I used a ruler led me to study architecture at high school. After that, I decided to stay in the realm of functionality and train in industrial design.

I never wanted a nine-to-five job with a boss telling me what to do. Luckily, after college, I had my Periscope gallery show and one thing led to another. I did, however, lecture in the jewellery department at the Shenkar College of Engineering, Design & Art in Ramat Gan, Israel, from 1999 to 2001.

I love modern and contemporary sculpture. In the Glass Cube space, I have arranged my Molteni & C shelving units as if they are Donald Judd sculptures. And, inspired by the American sculptor Claes Oldenburg, I've played with scale, displaying my 'Grado 60°' consoles so that they look as if they're marching into a pool of water. I love Surrealism and the way that it allows for things to defy logic. I also appreciate kitsch and the baroque. My childhood was spent in a Bauhaus-inspired apartment that was rectilinear, which forced us to put the sofa against the wall, so it's always exciting for me to do the opposite and put it in the middle of the room.

I would describe what I do as fooling around with ideas. I start by making abstract structures that usually end up being useless, but sometimes have the potential to function as objects. I don't like being pigeonholed as an artist or a designer. I know that makes me part of the 'design art' world, but I'm not interested in the consumerist side of the discipline. I believe that if you create something that's complicated or expensive – even if you end up producing just one piece – you should do it. It's not about making money. I try to offer questions rather than solutions. My work is about personal interpretations of elements of life that I see as ironic and absurd.

There's a design language that defines me – mainly a minimalist one. I think this is because I grew up as a Socialist and didn't have many things. I learnt to make the most of the little that I had. I think that's why I often design furniture whose focus is the framework that contains the void, rather than the void itself. ➤







PICTURES: GIORGIO POSSENTI (ALL EXCEPT LIGHT)



My biggest challenge has been my first architecture project. It's a villa on Lake Garda in Italy – construction began last October. Every designer produces at a scale that he or she feels comfortable with. I call mine 'table scale'. As I'm working with much bigger proportions on this project, I'm out of my comfort zone. But I love crossing over into other disciplines.

I've failed at almost everything! I'm very self-critical. One piece I look back on with ambivalence is my 'Dear Ingo' lamp for Moooi, which started out as a joke. My first studio in New York was above Ingo Maurer's shop in SoHo, and the piece – a chandelier made of a cluster of Ikea task lights – refers to the way that he takes an individual element and multiplies it to create larger objects. I've received nice royalties and lots of press for the piece, but it doesn't represent what I do.

The thing that I most enjoy about my work is the first glimpse of an idea being born. But that rarely happens. I don't wake up every day with 100 brilliant ideas. When it comes to realising them, I aim as far as possible not to compromise. Of course, when working with big companies, your ideas get diluted. I've been lucky that I was approached early on, when my ideas were still pure. All the brands asked was to ensure that my designs accorded with their DNA.

'I'm too selfish to collaborate with other designers. I'm an individualist. However, working with companies is different. Technicians help me realise my ideas, and I welcome their input'





I commute between two houses: my studio-meets-home in Tel Aviv and an apartment in Milan. The latter is warm and atmospheric, with old furniture provided by my landlord. My Tel Aviv place is a cross between a student's digs and a mad scientist's home. It feels improvised. I sleep on a mattress on the floor. I have some of my work there — prototypes, not finished pieces, but I do use them. I never buy furniture, as I'm never quite sure what I like.

The crucial thing for young designers is to learn about design history in order to shape the future. As Isaac Newton said: 'If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.' That's how I see myself. I need to learn from history, too. ED

Above and left Gilad's 'Grado 60°' consoles appear to sink into the water at furniture brand Molteni & C's headquarters in Milan, Italy
Far left The 'Ran Over by Car' vases that Gilad designed in 2002

PICTURE: BEPPE BRANCATO (MAIN IMAGE AND GLASS CUBE)


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FAMILY FERM

At home with Trine and Martin Andersen, founders of Danish design brand Ferm Living

Words **MURIEL FRANÇOISE**
Photography **STELLAN HERNER**

THE COUPLE BEHIND contemporary Danish homeware brand Ferm Living share their Copenhagen home with son August, six, and newborn baby Saga. The family live by the harbour in a factory-turned-music studio that they have converted into a loft apartment. The 330-square-metre space has a practical layout that's ideally suited to family life; graphic, colourful designs stand out against the industrial backdrop. Here, the pair discuss life, work and craftsmanship.





From top Herringbone parquet flooring runs throughout this kitchen/dining space, which contains an oak- and lavastone-topped island; the couple grow vegetables on the decked patio; highlights of Ferm Living's spring/summer collection (see the full range at fermliving.com) ➤



From top A 'Modernica Saucer Bubble' light by George Nelson (available from Heal's) hangs above a table surrounded by Egon Eiermann's 'SE68' chairs for Wilde & Spieth (try Pamono) in this dining area, which contains a 1950s buffet cabinet; Christoph Ruckhäberle's *L'homme et l'œuvre* hangs in the living room, where the family relax on wicker chairs by Marcel Bauer for Thonet **Stockist details on p236**



We live by the sea in the Islands Brygge (Iceland Quay) area of Copenhagen. We have young children, and enjoy the peace and quiet – it's like a small village even though the city centre is only a ten-minute walk away. **Our apartment is located in an old pencil factory** that was built in 1919. The architecture is amazing, with high ceilings, columns and iron windows. When we took it over, the space had been turned into a music-recording studio that had ten soundproof rooms – the ceilings had been lowered and the floors lifted. One exposed steel column remained and that gave us a glimpse of what the apartment could be like. **The first thing we did when we arrived** was to clear out the space. The walls were stripped and the floors removed, leaving a shell with bare concrete surfaces. We built everything from scratch, adding a kitchen and bathroom, but kept the industrial feel – the pipes and electrics are still visible. **We were influenced by New York loft living**. There's a mix of vintage classics, modern art and, of course, products from our own collection. Ferm Living's focus is craftsmanship, so everything in the apartment is functional, handcrafted and aesthetically pleasing.

Our style draws on Scandi design traditions and retro charm, but with a distinctive graphic edge that makes every item contemporary

Our inspiration comes from everything we see and experience, from travel to books and walks with friends. It all goes though a filter and is stored in our brains – anything can eventually become a product idea. **Family life has informed the design of our home**. We always keep functionality in mind, using long-lasting materials. When you have small children, you need to choose pieces that can take a beating. **We like colour**. It brings life to our home. **Our favourite items of furniture are** the B&B Italia sofa and our Eames lounge chair. We also love our bespoke kitchen, made by Copenhagen Joinery (kbhsnedkeri.dk). **We are neither minimalists nor maximalists** – we're a mix of the two.

To see highlights from Ferm Living's spring/summer collection and for more about the family's life in Copenhagen, visit elledecoration.co.uk/ferm-living



Clockwise from top This 'Tufty Time' sofa by Patricia Urquiola for B&B Italia is complemented by Ferm Living cushions and wallpaper; August plays at the table in his bedroom; a two-tone Ercol seat decorated with a cushion from the couple's collection sits next to a wire table, also by Ferm Living **Stockist details on p236 ➤**













Clockwise from top left Products from Ferm Living's spring/summer collection (for more, visit fermliving.com); bedding by Ferm Living softens the industrial backdrop of the bedroom (try Fritz Hansen for Arne Jacobsen's 'Grand Prix' chair); shades of grey decorate August's bedroom, which features a raised wooden bed; this pastel-coloured painting is by Danish artist Mie Olise **Stockist details on p236** ED



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DESIGN HERO MARCEL BREUER

The Modernist creative, teacher and architect whose greatest work was inspired by bicycle handlebars

Words **DOMINIC LUTYENS**

WITH HIS REVOLUTIONARY, rectilinear tubular-steel furniture, Hungarian-born Marcel Breuer (1902–1981) irrevocably altered the course of design history. His best-known piece – the stripped-down, shiny 'B3' armchair (pictured above right) – was inspired by the handlebars of a bicycle that he bought in 1925 after being hired to run the furniture workshop at Germany's Bauhaus art school in Dessau. The 1920s Bauhaus movement jettisoned traditional crafts in favour of mass production, and Breuer's designs epitomised this shift. Produced by the firm Standard Möbel using the latest technology and modern materials, his pieces were hailed as groundbreaking.

Breuer studied and taught at the Bauhaus, where he became a protégé of its founder, Walter Gropius. While there, he soaked up avant-garde ideas: his early 'Wood-Slat' chair was influenced by the abstraction of the Dutch art movement De Stijl, as was the 'B3' chair, which was later renamed 'Wassily' after fellow Bauhaus teacher Wassily Kandinsky. In 1928, Breuer produced his cantilevered 'Cesca' chair (pictured right), which he described as having 'a self-sprung seat [that is] as comfortable as an upholstered chair but much lighter'.

Less well known is the fact that Breuer was a prolific architect. From the 1930s, he designed nearly 100 buildings that included private homes, UNESCO's Paris headquarters and New York's Whitney Museum of American Art.

In 1935, Breuer moved to London, where he created his bent plywood 'Long Chair' for Isokon. This departure from using metal chimed with a new vogue for a more organic style of Modernism. In 1937, he joined Gropius at Harvard University, where they both taught architecture. Breuer had a strong influence on his students – among them future starchitects Philip Johnson and IM Pei – but he was modest about his achievements, once expressing surprise at the 'Wassily' chair's success: 'I thought that, out of all of my work, this would earn me the most criticism, but the opposite of what I expected came true.' Indeed, the elegant design, an icon of early Modernism, is still hugely coveted today. ED

Breuer's rectilinear designs epitomised a shift from traditional crafts towards mass production



Clockwise from top left An architect as well as a designer, Breuer created a number of private homes; his 'B3' chair (1925) is now produced by Knoll (£1,212, Aram Store; aram.co.uk); Breuer's entry for the Spandau-Haselhorst housing project, a contest run in 1928 to design new accommodation for a Berlin suburb; the 'Cesca' chair for Knoll (£972, Skandium; skandium.com); the 'B3', also known as the 'Wassily' chair

PICTURES: LIFE IMAGES COLLECTION/GETTY (PORTRAIT), BAUHAUS ARCHIVE, BERLIN (B3' CHAIR, SKETCH)

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STYLE ICON BARON ALEXIS DE REDÉ

The Austrian nobleman known for his lavish costume balls and pursuit of domestic perfection

Words **AMY BRADFORD**

'I LEAD A LIFE OF SELF-IMPOSED LUXURY,' Baron Alexis de Redé (1922–2004) once said. Art collecting, costume balls and the restoration of a magnificent 17th-century mansion were the chief pastimes of the man Nancy Mitford dubbed 'La Pompadour de nos jours', a reference to the famous French royal mistress and patron of the arts. De Redé's father was a Jewish banker and he grew up in a luxurious hotel in Zürich, where his family occupied 16 rooms (one reserved for flower arranging). But in 1939, his recently ennobled father lost his fortune and committed suicide. Left virtually penniless, De Redé departed for America and got a job in a Hollywood antiques shop. Later, in New York, he caught the eye of Arturo Lopez-Wilshaw, a rich Chilean who reportedly offered de Redé a million dollars to set up home near his residence in Paris.

What makes him an icon? De Redé grew up surrounded by an army of hotel servants, porters and nannies who would dance attendance on him. His childhood prepared him well for sudden good fortune. An aesthete by nature, he dedicated himself to stylish living. He started by acquiring the Hôtel Lambert, a huge 17th-century mansion on the Île Saint-Louis in Paris that was once described by Voltaire as 'the house of a sovereign who would like to be a philosopher'. He spent decades restoring its baroque interiors, filling the rooms with extraordinary rare artefacts, including antique crockery so precious that it could only be washed up under the supervision of insurance company staff.

De Redé is now best remembered for two sumptuous balls he hosted at the Lambert: the Bal des Têtes (1956), for which a then-unknown Yves Saint Laurent designed the guests' elaborate headdresses, and the Bal Oriental (1969), an Eastern fantasy for which two lifesize papier-mâché elephants were placed in the courtyard and servants dressed as Nubian slaves lined the grand staircase. De Redé was uncompromising in his pursuit of domestic perfection, insisting that the food platters laid out for his guests should look as untouched at the end of the evening as they had at the beginning; anything uneaten could be given away later, reasoned the Baron, adding that 'there is nothing more depressing than half-empty dishes, with the skeletons of fishes lying about'. So fastidious was he in matters of luxury and taste that in old age, he even took his own bed sheets with him to hospital.

Find out more Read *Bals: Legendary Costume Balls of the Twentieth Century* by Nicholas Foulkes (Assouline, £132). ED

PICTURE: PARIS MATCH/GETTY

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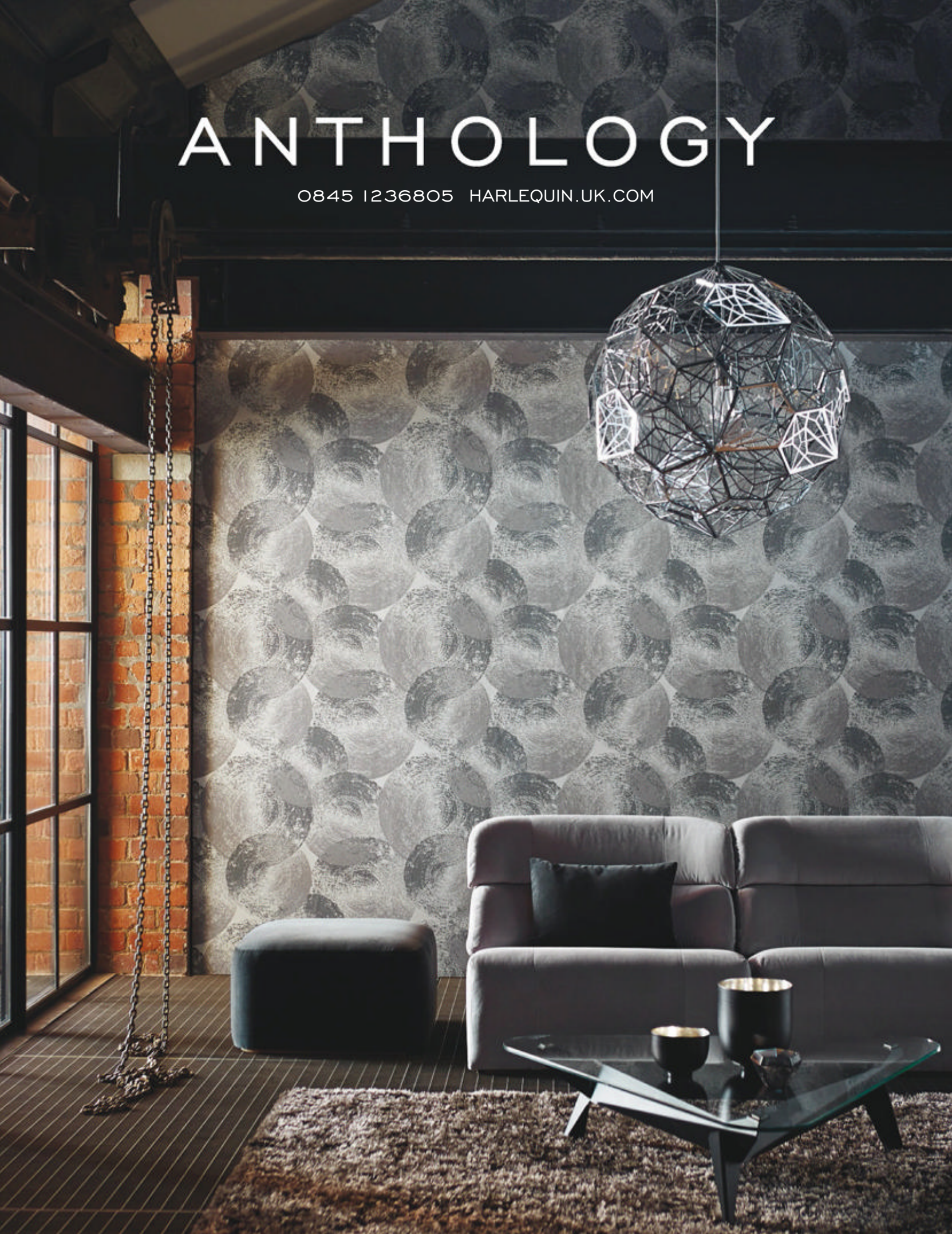
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‘Wallace’ wallpaper,
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‘Jota 2.0’ cotton, £45 per m, Nya Nordiska



‘Dungeness’ wallpaper, £50 per 10m roll, Mini Moderns



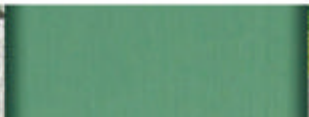
‘Bowling Green’ matt emulsion, £24.99 for 2.5 litres, Crown Paints



‘Bora Bora’ cotton by Manuel Canovas, £85 per m, Colefax and Fowler ➤











'Hedera' wallpaper in Green, £46 per 10m roll, Sanderson

'Marquise' linen in Forest by Tapet Cafe, £112 per m, Tissus d'Hélène

'Greenhouse' wallpaper by Erik Gutter for NLXL, £249 per 10m roll, Rockett St George

'Ecorce' wallpaper, £132 per 10m roll, Nobilis

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'Vintage Denim' matt emulsion, £39 for 2.5 litres, Designers Guild

'Anglesey Velvet' cotton-mix fabric in Cerulean Blue, £198 per m, Ralph Lauren Home

'Persia' wallpaper in Indian Blue, £22 per 10m roll, John Lewis ➤



'Kabala' viscose-mix fabric in Lagoon, £46 per m, Harlequin

'Stork' linen-mix fabric by Jennifer Shorto, £150 per m, Redloh House Fabrics

'Ebru' cotton, £46 per m, Osborne & Little

'Eldorado' wallpaper in Santorin, £1,085 per 4 x 3m panel, Élitis

'Mariola Topaz' linen-mix fabric, £55 per m, Romo



'Savanna' linen-mix fabric in Ottanio, £130 per m, Mark Alexander

'Jade Temple' wallpaper in Cornflower, £248 per 1.4 x 3m panel, Designers Guild

'Cordoba' linen in Ink by Carolina Irving, £134 per m, Redloh House Fabrics

'Pale Seaspray' matt emulsion, £30 for 2.5 litres, Laura Ashley

'Melting Pot' cotton by Jean Paul Gaultier, £119 per m, Lelievre ➤



'Alabastro 004' polyester-mix fabric, £274 per m, Dedar

'Metropolis' wallpaper in Royal, £59.90 per 10m roll, Linwood

'Nuvola' wallpaper, £56 per 10m roll, Harlequin

'Reflecting Pool' viscose-mix fabric in Wet Sand, £205 per m, Holly Hunt ➤


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'Anais' silk by Jim Thompson, £206 per m, Fox Linton

'Albatre' wallpaper in Gris Camel, £56.80 per 10m roll, Casamance

'Peggy Tile' linen-mix fabric in Flint, £55 per m, Louise Body

'Norwegian Wood 006' wallpaper by Innovations, £56 per m, Altfield

'Zhivago' cotton-mix fabric in Fog, £72 per m, Nat Maks ➤



'Porta Merlot' wallpaper, £90 per 10m roll, Robert Kime

'Fairmont' viscose-mix fabric in Duck Egg, £33 per m, Clarke & Clarke

'Secret Room' clay paint, from £32.70 for 2.5 litres, Earthborn

'Bee's Knees' linen in Grey Blue by Past Present, £158 per m, Donghia



‘Fresco’ linen-mix fabric in Blue/Grey, £190 per m, Bennison Fabrics

‘Freya’ wallpaper in Jade, £82 per 10m roll, Brian Yates

‘Venier Wall’ wallpaper in Acqua, £174 per m, Rubelli

‘Duras’ viscose-mix fabric in Menthe, £105 per m, Manuel Canovas ➤



‘Batik’ cotton-mix fabric in Indigo, £75 per m, Ian Sanderson

‘Tourbillon’ wallpaper, £95 per 10m roll, Farrow & Ball

‘Katarina’ silk-mix fabric in Ink, £85 per m, Zoffany

‘Columbus’ wallpaper, £76 per 10m roll, Cole & Son ➤


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Paris

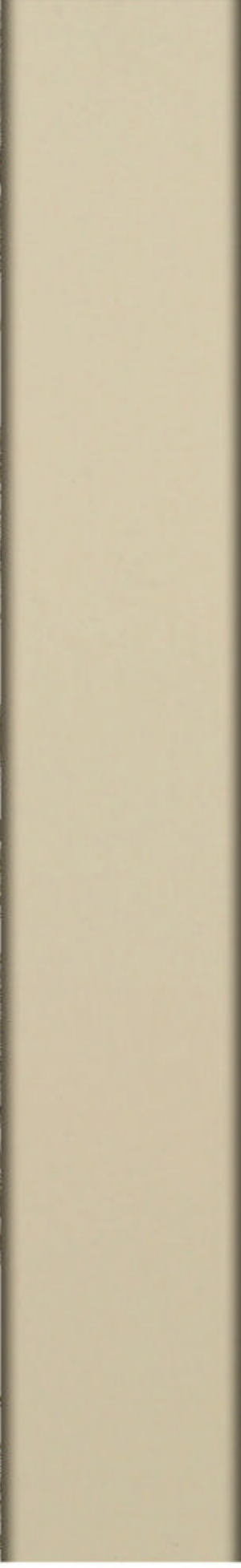

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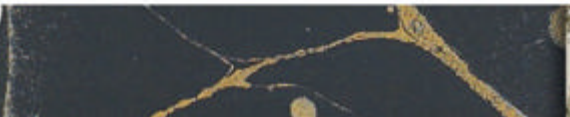
'La Menagerie' cotton, £130 per m, Pierre Frey



'Sincere Brew' matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5 litres, Dulux



'Tamise Kassimou' silk-mix fabric in Flint, £216 per m, Henry Bertrand ➤











'The Hypnotist Mono' wallpaper by Barbara Hulanicki, £55 per 10m roll, Graham & Brown

'Expedition' linen in Everest, £140 per m, De le Cuona

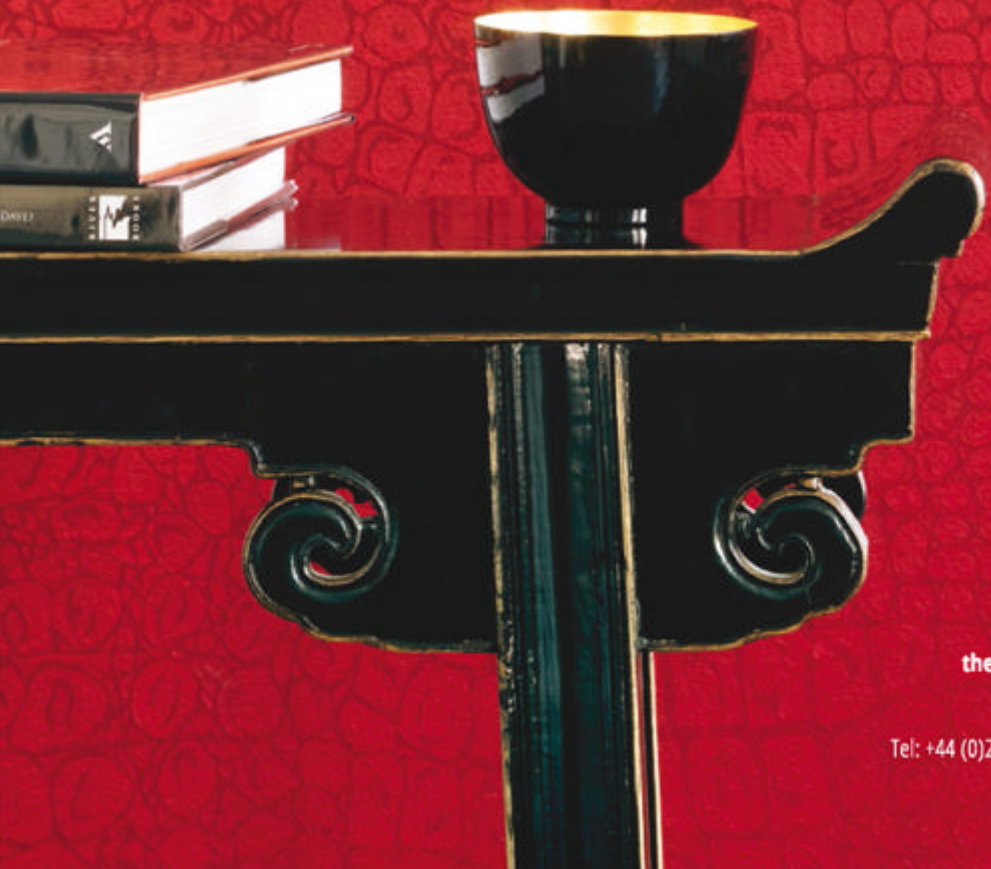
'Klein Trellis' wallpaper by Anna French, £72 per 8m roll, Thibaut

'Houses' wallpaper, £15 per 10m roll, Next

'Jazz' linen-mix fabric by Spira, £35 per m, The Swedish Fabric Company ➤


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'Jazzy Flower' viscose, £130 per m, Jab Anstoetz

'Azuli' wallpaper in Grenat, £313 per set of three 68cm x 3m panels, Casamance

'Kalamitsi Stripe' cotton in Amethyst, £85.50 per m, Nicholas Herbert

'Sun Loving Bollards' wallpaper, £160 per 8.55m roll, Eley Kishimoto ➤

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Zoffany (zoffany.com)

Compiled by EMMA KAY *Photography* 3OBJECTIVES
Assistants HARALD DONOGHUE AND TALI LEGGETT

'Velours Tresse' cotton by Dominique Kieffer, £300 per m, Rubelli

'Torridon' linen-mix fabric in Teal, £79 per m, Mulberry Home

'Antonia' cotton-mix fabric by Oscar de la Renta, £95 per m, GP & J Baker ED


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SOLUTIONS

THE GREAT BIG DECORATING HOTLIST

Put the fun back into your home
46 inspiring ideas



#1 *REDS CAN BE RESTFUL*

PICTURE: ALESSANDRA IANNIELLO/LIVING INSIDE



#01 *REDS CAN BE RESTFUL*

Think a red boudoir is a decorating cliché? Think again! Recreate the sanctuary-like feel of this bedroom by layering muted tones such as dusty lilac, raspberry and coral – try Borgo Delle Tovaglie's 'Gitane' bed linen (from £80 for a pillowcase; borgodelletovaglie.com) – and add dashes of aubergine for extra sophistication. Take inspiration from the palette pictured below.



Materials, from top 'Ikat Diamond Pink' cotton-mix fabric by Penny Morrison, £139 per m, Redloh House Fabrics (redlohhousefabrics.com). 'Jazzy Stripe' viscose-mix fabric, £96 per m, Jab Anstoetz (jab-uk.com). 'Earthenware Elements' ceramic tile in Plum, £190 per m, Ann Sacks (annsacks.com). Upholstery linen in Claret, £65 per m, Volga Linen (volgalinen.co.uk)
Paints, from top 'Radicchio No 96' matt emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball (farrow-ball.com). 'Wortle' matt emulsion, £39 for 2.5 litres, Sanderson (sanderson-uk.com). 'Angie' matt emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene (littlegreene.com)



#02 WALL CHANGE

If you want a decorating scheme that'll make your home feel truly unique, consider investing in a bespoke wallpaper by Cole & Son or Farrow & Ball. Both companies will allow you to explore their archive collections – which include thousands of designs – and commission the reproduction of your favourite current or historic pattern in a shade of your choice. There's only one restriction: you have to order more than 20 metres. Service from £1,000 (cole-and-son.com; farrow-ball.com).



#03

FRILL SEEKER

Add a design edge to a cushion, sofa or a pair of curtains with British fabric brand Romo's debut trimmings range. The 'Tivoli' collection includes a multicoloured pom-pom braid, zig-zag borders and two-tone fringing in eight different colourways. From top: 'Finola' braid, £15 per metre; 'Tivoli' pom-pom fringe, £55 per metre; 'Riya' braid, £27 per metre (romo.com).



#04 BRIGHTER BATHS

For a thoroughly contemporary look, match your bathtub to the colour scheme of your space. Splash Direct now offers a custom-painting service on all of its tubs. Options are endless; the team can colour-match any sample that you present them with. 'Sigma' bath (top), £449; 'Navona' bath, £399 (splashdirect.com).



#05 MIRROR MAKEOVER

Do you have a plain, unused mirror that needs jazzing up? Turn it into a decorative wall piece by hanging it from one of these elegant waxed-cotton and wood harnesses by German design duo Llot Llov. They come in two sizes and require minimal effort to install: just one small hook drilled into the wall. 'Hank' mirror harness, £42 (llotllov.de).

PICTURES: 3OBJECTIVES (PALETTE AND PAINTS, OPPOSITE), ALESSANDRA LANNIELLO/LIVING INSIDE (REDS CAN BE RESTFUL)



#06 TOP TIPS FROM THE DECORATORS

MARIA SPEAKE OF RETROUVIUS

Maria Speake runs salvage company and design practice Retrouvius with partner Adam Hills. They skilfully blend reclaimed pieces into modern settings (below).

1 Do have plants in your home – not stiff flowers in vases, but living plants.

2 Do try outrageous decor in your ground-floor loo. Lose your inhibitions and go for something really bold and fun.

3 Do remember that small rooms can be wonderful, so opening up a space isn't always the best solution. Colour, wallpaper and fabrics can have a much greater impact when they're not competing.

4 Don't be half-hearted when it comes to materials – commit yourself to them. A whole wall in one material can look calmer than several individual sections.

5 Do learn when to leave an edge rough and when to sand it smooth. The clean profile of a piece of stone is beautiful, as is the original, worn edge of hardwood.

6 Do use familiar textiles in unexpected ways: corduroy for curtains, perhaps, or lengths of velvet as wall panels.

7 Don't blast spaces with artificial light. Task lighting is environmentally friendly and can provide the spirit that oil lamps once brought to Georgian homes. I love the flicker of candlelight, too.

8 Don't forget the power of organic materials such as tiles and leather. Use tiles as you would paint: have more rather than fewer. They're cheaper than a good piece of artwork and have a bigger impact.

9 Don't scrimp on spatial or structural alterations. They can be a cost-effective redesign choice.

MY SPRING UPDATES It's easy to overlook the change of the seasons – particularly in London, where winter and summer merge – so I'll bring spring bulbs into my home. I'll swap my textiles from wool and cashmere to linen and voile, and flip my velvet cushions to show their linen backing. I'll also move furniture nearer to the windows to take advantage of increased light levels.





#07 *THE BIG PICTURE*

Social media addicts will love this innovative idea for storing and presenting collections of snapshots. This giant frame, propped casually against a wall, showcases 120 images in a way that's reminiscent of an Instagram page. Perfect if you've run out of shelf space, the display is easy to take apart and change around as you find new favourites. You can order frames in bespoke sizes, materials and finishes from companies such as J White Framing (jwhiteframing.co.uk) or Darbyshire (darbyshire.uk.com).



#08 FULL EXPOSURE

Bare lightbulbs with unusual-looking filaments can provide a striking and modern alternative to classic lampshades. Opt for Laura Ashley's decorative 'Candle' (£7), 'Globe' (£20) and 'Rustika' (£12) bulbs, pictured from left (lauraashley.com).

PICTURES: TOM FALLON (MARIA SPEAKE PORTRAIT); ANNIE MCELWAIN (THE BIG PICTURE)



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#09

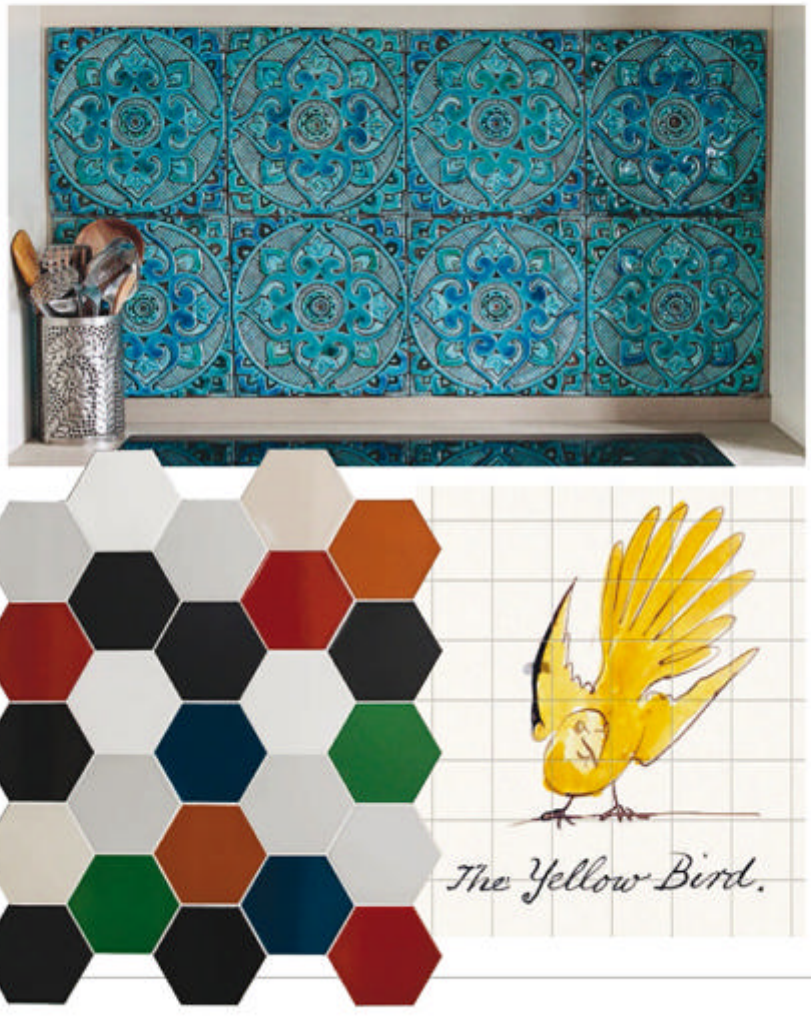
CHIC SHUTTERS

Shutters can be a brilliant solution for windows or French doors, but how do you achieve the right sense of scale and impact? The key is to consider the size of the slats: the larger the room, the bigger they should be. Shutterly Fabulous has just launched the widest slat on the market at 165 millimetres (see left). The company makes shutters to order and you can have them custom-finished in a range of colours. From £290 per square metre, including consultation and installation (shutterlyfabulous.com).

#10 NEW WAYS WITH TILES

If you want to give your surfaces a more original look, opt for tiles that feature unusual patterns or colours. Spanish firm **G Vega**'s rustic relief wall tiles (pictured right, top) are inspired by the mandala, a Sanskrit symbol, and come in a variety of colours and shapes. Choose your own combination to form a unique installation. Elsewhere, **Surface View**'s printed ceramic friezes include designs by English artist and poet Edward Lear (whose *The Yellow Bird* watercolour has been superimposed onto a white backdrop, pictured right, bottom), 18th-century American painter John James Audubon and contemporary pattern guru Ella Doran. Lastly, **Johnson Tiles** has relaunched its 'Prismatics' collection, which has one of the biggest ranges of colours in the UK: there are 68 matt and gloss options, plus a new hexagon shape in 13 shades. Combine contrasting hues for a striking effect, or stay subtle with variations on the same tone.

Clockwise from top 'Mandala' tile panel, £51 for a 30 x 30cm tile, G Vega (gvega.com). 'The Yellow Bird' ceramic tile frieze by Edward Lear, £515 per sq m, Surface View (surfaceview.co.uk). 'Prismatics' tiles, £515 per sq m, Johnson Tiles (johnson-tiles.com)




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PAINT EFFECTS

Classic, contemporary and painterly: here are three on-trend ways to give your walls a decorative finish

Words **ALEX KRISTAL**

#11 COLOUR WASHING

Evoke the feel of a centuries-old Italian palazzo with this rough-luxe look. The effect suits walls that already have imperfections, making a virtue of them.

Start by applying two base coats of non-absorbent acrylic eggshell using a roller and leave to dry overnight. Next, mix up a glaze that is a few shades deeper than the base colour: for a translucent wash, combine the same paint used previously with a darker artists' acrylic and scumble glaze. For a more opaque look, simply water down matt emulsion. To apply, use a large, soft brush: starting from one corner, work your way across the wall in a criss-crossing motion, maintaining a 'wet edge' as you go so that the paint spreads easily and doesn't leave brushmarks. Rub off areas with a sponge or muslin – the more randomly, the better – to allow the base coat to show through. This process should be quick; aim to paint a room in a day. You can leave it like this or, for durability, finish with a coat of clear acrylic varnish. ➤



PICTURE: PETRA BINDEL



#12 ARCHITECTURAL

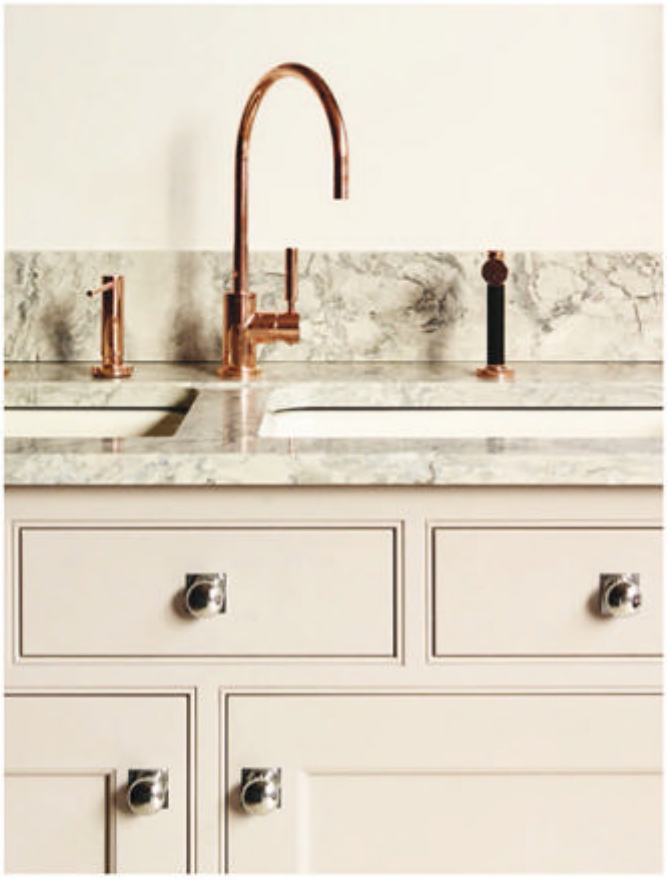
Highlight sections of a wall to create the illusion of architectural features: for instance, simulate dado rails by painting the wall's lower half in a different shade. Begin by coating the whole surface in your chosen base emulsion colour and let it dry completely. Then, draw out the area that you want to highlight using a spirit level and a water-soluble pencil (so that you can wipe off your guidelines later). Mark the shape's outer border with strips of low-tack masking tape to ensure that you don't paint outside of the lines. Finally, using a small roller, apply two coats of your secondary colour inside the masked area; for hard-wearing spots such as skirting boards, seal with a coat of clear matt varnish.

#13 OMBRÉ

The trend in fashion and homeware for ombré – an effect where one colour fades into another – has finally hit our walls, and it's a relatively straightforward finish to achieve. Apply two coats of your lightest shade over the whole wall. Then, pick a darker hue and mix it with scumble glaze until you have a fluid solution. Starting at the bottom of the wall, use a large, soft brush to apply the darker colour. At the point where you want to start graduating between the two shades, mix a new, mid-tone glaze made from the light and dark colours. Slowly brush this glaze upwards, applying thin layers to 'fade' the two tones together. This look works well in rooms with high ceilings.



PICTURES: JEROEN VAN DER SPEK [12], PIA ULIN [13]



#14 LUXE TOUCHES

If you want to lend your kitchen a super-sophisticated feel, think book-matched marble splashbacks and rose-gold taps. A good source of inspiration is specialist brand Martin Moore & Company's new Notting Hill showroom, where you can see a wide range of luxuriously detailed hand-built kitchens, including the 'Classic' system (pictured). Bespoke kitchens from £35,000; 176 Westbourne Grove, London W11 (martinmoore.com).



#15 THE DETAILS LIGHT SWITCHES

Why restrict yourself to plain white switches and sockets? These smart picks will introduce subtle accents of colour and texture to your scheme.

From left Dimmer switch in Duck Blue, from £55.20, Livinghouse (livinghouse.co.uk). Galvanised switch, £18.60, Urban Cottage Industries (urbancottageindustries.com). 'Screwless Textured Black' socket by Africa Lily-Jones for Lustus, £28.13, Sockets & Switches (socketsandswitches.com)





#16 TOP TIPS FROM THE DECORATORS CAROLINE LEGRAND

Once part of Anya Hindmarch's team, Belgian designer Caroline Legrand applies her laid-back, glamorous style to city apartments, spas and beach houses – see above for a selection of her work (carolinelegranddesign.com; @CarolineLegrand).

1 Do reupholster sofas and chairs when redecorating. Changing fabrics, colours and textures can give a piece fresh life and is usually cheaper than buying new.

2 Do reuse furniture. Be smart about storing, restyling or giving things away. Furniture, like clothes, goes through a fashion cycle.

3 Do move your art around once a year. It gives your home a new look at no cost and allows you to view your artworks afresh.

4 Do buy magazines to get inspiration. Ninety per cent of my moodboards come from interiors, fashion and travel magazines. I rip out pages that feature things that catch my eye.

5 Don't have white walls unless you have a lot of art. It's hard to make a house look warm with plain walls. If you want a white backdrop, use textured finishes or wallpapers to add warmth.

6 Don't buy furniture without first seeing how it fits in your room. It's best to have the piece delivered: the cost is usually worth it compared with making a purchase you won't want. Space and measurements can be deceptive when you're in the shop.

7 Don't buy everything in one store. Your house will end up looking like a showroom and it will have no soul.

8 Don't forget to put dimmers in every room. Lighting is the most important thing in a home and creates an instant mood.

MY SPRING UPDATES After working on a project in Ibiza last year, where I used mostly cream, off-white, nutmeg, caramel and light-brown woods, I'd like to change my colour scheme. I want wood, glass, concrete and stone in my home, as well as green plants. My next dream project would be a greenhouse in the centre of the house with all of the rooms around it. I also change the fragrance in my space once a year, so I plan to buy new scented candles. I use the same scent throughout the interior: there's nothing worse than a different smell in every room.

PICTURES: HEARST STUDIOS [LIGHT SWITCHES], MICHAEL PAUL [TOP TIPS, GREEN WALLPAPER AND BEDROOM]

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#17
DARK AND INTERESTING

An all-black kitchen might not be something you have considered before, but it can look ultra contemporary. For a super-sleek and seamless look, paint walls and cabinetry in the same shade (right). Not sure? Then use your worktops to provide contrast (below right). Still worried that your space will feel flat? Use a mix of finishes and materials: slate is great for introducing texture, particularly on a splashback or island (below left).



GO BACK TO BLACK
Farrow & Ball sells multiple shades in a full gloss, an eggshell and a 'dead flat' finish. **From left** 'Black Blue No 95; 'Off-Black No 57'; 'Railings No 31' 'Pitch Black No 256', all £38 for 2.5 litres (farrow-ball.com)







PICTURES: 3OBJECTIVES (PAINTS), LISA ROMEREIN (SLATE ISLAND)


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#18 *DARE TO BE BOLD*

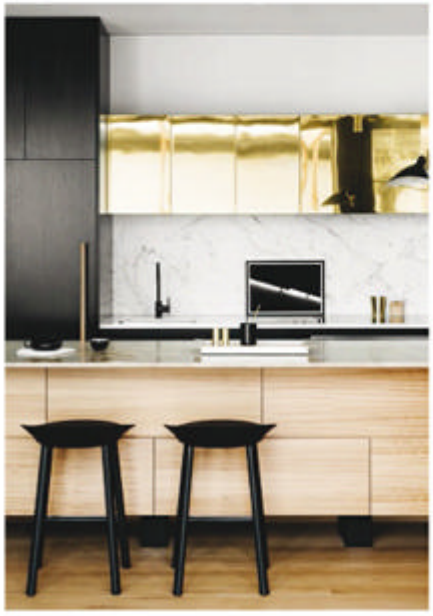
When it comes to colour choices, don't be afraid to take some risks. After all, paint is like make-up: easy to apply, easy to change. When selecting shades from different parts of the spectrum, make sure that they work well as a whole – the mustard, pink and green hues in this dining room all share a sense of warmth.

PICTURE: MEL YATES/CONDÉ NAST PUBLICATIONS

CONNAUGHT KITCHENS







#19 GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

Give your home the Midas touch by adding luxurious gold-hued accents to otherwise-subdued schemes. Place brass plating (£127 per square metre, Metal Sheets; metalsheets.co.uk) on the inside of a doorway, as in this hotel apartment in Stockholm designed by Koncept (pictured left; koncept.se), or use it to coat cabinetry (above). Alternatively, opt for bespoke brass appliances, such as this sink by Jordens (pictured bottom left; jordens.se) or use Superfront's gold kickboard and handles ('Bestå' plinth, from £49; 'Holy Wafer' handles, £12 each, all superfront.com) to bring a glamorous edge to an Ikea kitchen.





Products, clockwise from top left 'Slit' table by Hay, £140, Haus (hauslondon.com). 'Sama' tray, from £50, Tiipoi (tiipoi.com). 'Oro Viejo' cutlery, £5.99 per utensil, Zara Home (zarahome.com)



PICTURES: MARKUS LISTA (CUTLERY), MIKAEL FJELLSTRÖM (APARTMENTS), BROOKE HOLM (KITCHEN, TOP), KARL ANDERSON (SUPERFRONT KITCHEN, BOTTOM)

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#20
STRONG ACCENTS

Introduce small flashes of bright colour for a subtle alternative to a feature wall. We love the fluorescent yellow risers on this staircase (try 'Trumpet' floor paint, £59 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene; littlegreene.com), or why not add a striking striped pattern to your skirting boards? The key to the look is having a crisp finish, so prepare your surfaces well and apply masking tape before painting to avoid colour bleeding.



#21 DESIGN YOUR WALLPAPER

Use your favourite Instagram image to create a bespoke pattern for your home. Designer Suzanne Shade configured this modern, geometric collage on her computer. She used photographs of driftwood, a traditional *toile de jouy* print and blocks of soft grey and white.

Plenty of companies offer similar services. JW Walls can customise any design to fit your space and put it on to paper – the team also prints on fabric, which is handy if you want curtains to match. Upload your image to the website, making sure that it has a sufficiently high resolution – the minimum file size is 500 kilobytes – and add the dimensions of the area that you wish to cover (from £30 per square metre; jwwalls.com).



#22 TOP TIPS FROM THE DECORATORS

MARK LEWIS

North London-based designer Mark Lewis puts a modern twist on classic style: an example of his signature look is below (marklewisinteriordesign.com; @marklewisid).

1 Do decide your budget. It might sound obvious, but it's easy for your heart to begin spending before your head has figured out if you can afford it.

2 Don't underestimate labour costs. Generally, 60 per cent of a budget will be spent on builders, leaving only 40 per cent for the bits you'll actually see. So, if you've got £25,000 to spend on a bathroom, don't splash £5,000 on that tub of your dreams.

3 Do spend a lot on floors and doors – these two elements add soul to a project.

4 Do love your builder. Finding one you trust and forging a good working relationship will reap rewards.

5 Don't take design advice from your builder. Nine times out of ten, they will offer the least labour-intensive solution.

6 Do make use of texture. Using several different effects adds interest without the space screaming 'look at me!'.

7 Don't wallpaper anything less than a whole room – feature walls are a pet hate of mine.

8 Do use claypaints. They're perfect if you have young children, as they're free from volatile organic compounds (such as formaldehyde), odour, acrylic and oil. Earthborn Paints (earthbornpaints.co.uk) has an off-white version that's a joy to use.

MY SPRING UPDATES I'll be covering the walls of my courtyard in Bert & May's reclaimed encaustic tiles (bertandmay.com). I'm a big fan of external tiling – it's something we don't do enough of in the UK. Indoors, I'll be going purple crazy. In my office I will be installing a two-tone, purple-checked vinyl tile floor. And, for my reception area, I've designed a bespoke purple coffee table. I'm matching this with two 1950s cocktail chairs that I'm re-covering in 'Igloo 20 Violet' purple wool from Rue Hérold in Paris (rueherold.fr).



PICTURES: RORY GARDINER (TOP TIPS, INTERIOR), AICO LIND (OPPOSITE)



#23 *PLANT IT OUT*

Decorate with greenery to give your interior a contemporary finishing touch. Take inspiration from The Loft – an Amsterdam-based apartment and design store – by suspending plants from a hanging rail or from the ceiling. Display in pots of different sizes and colours, or mix and match on tables and floors for a conservatory-style aesthetic. Insek Design sells a similar metallic hanging planter (from £63; insekdesign.com), or find a range of indoor pots at The Chelsea Gardener (from £3.99; chelseagardener.com).


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#24 POURED FLOORS

One of the most luxurious ways to achieve a slick, modern look is to install a poured resin or concrete floor. Here, we explain how it's done

Words **ALEX KRISTAL**

PICTURE: PETER KRAGBALE



Copenhagen-based Norm Architects has used poured cement to create a soft, matt finish that adds warmth to this monochrome home



White resin creates a seamless poured floor that looks high maintenance, but is actually stain-resistant and easy to clean

What is a poured floor? It's a surface that is installed in situ using a material in its liquid state, such as resin or concrete. The solution sets to form a smooth, solid and hard-wearing finish.

Why choose one? It'll help you to achieve a unified look in your home. Kasper Rønn Von Lotzbeck, co-founder of Copenhagen-based Norm Architects (normcph.com), has used poured floors extensively in his projects (one of which is pictured left). 'They connect spaces and help the architecture flow in a way that modular types of flooring cannot,' he says.

How do I choose between concrete and resin? What distinguishes poured flooring products from others is the material that binds them. Concrete and micro-concrete (a thinner alternative) are cementitious, meaning that they are bonded by cement. These materials carry a risk of cracking and have a high carbon footprint due to the amount of energy required to produce them, but they do come with the benefit of an organic-looking finish.

Resin floors are most commonly composed of one of three substances: epoxy, a low-cost option that is most suited to industrial use; polyurethane, a flexible, crack-free material that offers comfort underfoot and colour that does not fade; and biopolymer, a natural option derived from plant oils. While biopolymer's performance is similar to that of polyurethane, it is free from toxic chemicals and, by mixing it with quartz and stones, you can make it look like polished concrete.

Poured floors are practical and beautiful. They are stain- and water-resistant, as well as being very effective at absorbing sound

Other materials that mimic the appearance of concrete, such as pastellone, are composed of lime and gypsum plasters with acrylic fillers and pigments. All of these options are applied with a trowel (like plaster) rather than being poured.

Alex Dennis, owner of Senso (sensofloors.co.uk), adds that poured resin has an 'elastic' quality that produces a more seamless finish than concrete when used to cover large areas of floor.

Do you need a specialist to install one? Yes. Pouring a concrete or resin floor is definitely a job for the professionals.

How is it done? In theory, a poured floor can be applied to any stable surface. A layer of screed – a mix of sand and cement – should be added above any underfloor heating pipes before the flooring is poured on top. This protective layer takes at least a month to dry out. Be warned: the most common reason for imperfect results is a finish being applied while the screed is still damp.

Mark Brooks, managing director of Puur Floors (puurfloors.com), explains that for houses with existing floorboards (as opposed to new builds), preparing the substrate involves taking up the joisted timber and laying a damp-proof membrane and plywood boards before screeding. This creates a strong, air- and water-tight base.

Then, if you're using resin, the liquid is poured on layer by layer over a period of three to five days. For concrete, if your home is large enough for a floor depth of 100 millimetres and access for the machinery required to install it, a slab can be poured into place in one go and power-trowelled, while wet, to create a smooth finish.

Where can you have a poured floor? In any interior space; it's not a great option for outdoors because, once laid, it can become slippery when exposed to the elements. A poured concrete floor is normally only suitable for ground-level installation because of the risk of cracking. The finish can also be applied to staircases, but it's a tricky, labour-intensive and costly process.

How durable are poured floors? They are stain- and water-resistant, as well as being effective at absorbing sound, muting the click of heels. Concrete is much harder than resin options: if you drop a glass on a resin floor it will bounce, whereas on concrete it would shatter. In terms of maintenance, a poured floor should be treated in much the same way as good-quality timber. To prevent scratching, avoid dragging furniture across it, and, to clean it, use a microfibre mop, hot water and a non-soap-based product. More care will be needed to keep white or other light-coloured floors clean. If that all seems a bit too much like hard work, opt for a biopolymer resin floor instead. This hardy option just needs to be re-sealed with a fresh top coat every ten years or so.

What colours and finishes are there? Resin comes in virtually any colour you can imagine. Cementitious floors tend to be less vibrant, but can be stained with pigment – the most popular options are shades of grey. The floors can be buffed and polished to create a sleek surface or left with a more natural, matt look.

What's the cost? Prices start at approximately £100 per square metre. However, there is usually a minimum spend of £4,500 due to the logistics and labour costs involved in the installation process. Employing skilled professionals is worth the investment. ➤

PICTURE: JONAS BJERRE-POULSEN (OPPOSITE)



#25

CUSTOMISE THE LOOK

Poured floors don't have to be plain. Here's how to get creative

If you love the seamless quality of this type of flooring, but crave pattern and detail, the next generation of resin is for you. You can ask your supplier to sprinkle fragments of coloured glass, mirror or even glitter between layers of clear resin. Alternatively, opt for Senso's new 'Freeze' variety, which allows you to embed any digital image into the surface. Designers such as Marcel Wanders have been inspired by this new technology – check out his 'Impressions' range (pictured, from £200 per square metre; sensofloors.co.uk).

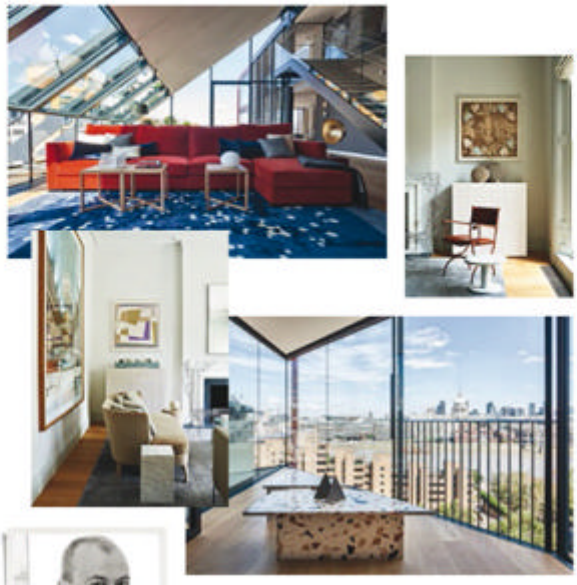

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#26
TOP TIPS FROM THE DECORATORS
TOM BARTLETT

Tom Bartlett has transformed the interiors of luxury homes and London stores (above is a selection of his projects). His studio, Waldo Works, is currently designing The Laslett hotel in London's Notting Hill, which opens this summer (waldoworks.com; @waldoworks).

1 Don't reinvent the colour wheel. I base room schemes on memories of nature. My favourite combination of grey, yellow, black and white is inspired by rocks and lichen seen on an Irish beach, while autumn hedgerows and berries call to mind scarlet, olive, black and russet. Keep looking and take photos as you amble.

2 Don't shine light on people's heads. Downlights are great for pictures and objects, but they just show off thinning hair and dye jobs if placed incorrectly. Plan lighting around your furniture.

3 Don't paint a room white. Successful white rooms are never really just white. A blend of different off-white shades across surfaces and furniture works. Look at all of your colour choices in different lighting conditions – otherwise you might find yourself in a room that looks unexpectedly pastel pink or has a green tinge.

4 Do steal room plans when you see a layout you like. Most of us live in similarly shaped homes, so thinking about the layout of your own house when you are visiting others is useful.

5 Do include items that have value to you – perhaps those that you've been given by loved ones. Perfect rooms full of new things never reflect your personality. Note: family photos are fine, but not too many, not too big, and make sure they're decent shots.

6 Do think about movement. You want the experience of walking through different rooms and spaces to have a rhythm. It might be a smooth transition or it might jar, but the effect that you wish to create should always be considered.

7 Do plan your electrics carefully. Don't plaster, wallpaper or paint until you are sure that you won't need to rip it out to rewire.

MY SPRING UPDATES I'm recolouring my sitting room this season, as my sofa by MDF Italia is not quite as white as it should be after years of abuse by my whippet. The sofa will be reupholstered in an intense navy and cobalt-blue weave by Perrine Rousseau (perrinerousseau.com) and I will be adding a powder-blue floor to the living room. I have a large glass coffee table that is covered in books and magazines, and I tend to shift them around in spring – whatever is on the top of the pile can change the feel of the space. Currently, I'm displaying old copies of *The Face*, plus books on fashion stylist Ray Petri, Constructivism and Soviet architecture.

PICTURES: TOM MANNION (TOP TIPS, TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM LEFT), DAVIDE LOVATTI/VEGA (CURATE YOUR CURIOS)



#27
CURATE YOUR CURIOS

Make a feature of your coffee-table tomes and glossy magazines. Collected in stacked towers and dotted with carefully selected artifacts, they can turn a simple surface into a quirky representation of your personal tastes. (We would, however, advise against using a pot of spilt jam, as seen above!)



#28
DIPPED ART

Vintage finds can be given an easy modern update with this bold paint-dipped effect. Inspired by Irish artist Oliver Jeffers, who has dunked 25 portraits in bright enamel for his 'Dipped Paintings' project, the aesthetic is easy to mimic. Explore your local market for artworks with striking frames, then pick a bold shade of paint and coat a section in it, leaving enough of the original picture to add intrigue.



#29

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

Create the illusion of extra space in a narrow hallway by placing a mirror opposite a window or exterior door to maximise the available sunlight. To compound the effect, use a tall looking glass with a frame that's painted in the same colour as the wall so that it blends into its surroundings, giving the impression that it is a doorway to another room.



PICTURES: KRISTOFER JOHNSSON (REVIVE A RETRO CLASSIC), HEARST STUDIOS (NAPKINS)

#30 *REVIVE A RETRO CLASSIC*

Who knew that white ceramic birds could look so modern? A group of swallows in flight forms a playful wall feature in this monochrome Swedish home – proof that even the most unlikely decorating idea can work in the right setting. Try Grandin Road's 'Birds of Flight' matt-white ceramic ornaments, £55.79 for a set of five (grandinroad.com).



#32 THE DETAILS

MONOGRAMMING

Put your stamp on textiles such as bed linen, towels or napkins by having them monogrammed in your chosen font and colour. These brands all offer high-quality products and fast delivery.

From top Napkins designed and monogrammed by Once Milano (from £5 per letter; oncemilano.com); Hawthorne & Heaney (from £5.90 per letter; hawthorneandheaney.com); Volga Linen (from £6 per letter; volgalinen.co.uk)

#31 TAKE CARE

Preserve and beautify wooden furniture with Grand Illusions' range of 'Simply' varnishes, stains and waxes. Formulas such as shellac add a natural sheen to your heirloom pieces; waxes protect furniture from bumps and scratches; and water-based stains offer a way to recolour much-loved vintage finds. Stain, £5.95; shellac, £7.95; varnish, £8.95 (grandillusions.co.uk).




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#33 SMART SURFACES

For a maintenance-free way to get the look of stone or parquetry, try these superb fake finishes

The latest faux tiles masquerade as on-trend materials so convincingly that they look – and feel – like the real thing. These fantastic fakes, which are made from porcelain, plaster or ceramic, mimic surfaces such as raw stone and distressed metals. Slim and lightweight, they're simple to install and can be laid over underfloor heating; plus, they're hardwearing and easy to clean. An ingenious combination of style and practicality.





Above 1 Cast **porcelain tiles**, £80 per sq m, Ann Sacks (annsacks.com) **2** 'Cast Concrete' **plaster panel**, £35 per sq m, Faux Brickwork (fauxbrickwork.com) **3** 'Par-Ker' **ceramic parquet tiles** in Hampton Brown, £99 per sq m, Porcelanosa (porcelanosa.com) **4 Notebook** by Dear Maison, £17.50, The Conran Shop (conranshop.co.uk) **5** '**Wood Lamp**' by TAF Architects for Muuto, £135, Occa Home (occa-home.co.uk) **6** 'Cementi Grigio' **porcelain tiles** by Phorma, £46 per sq m, Pentagon Tiles (pentagon-tiles.co.uk)

Right 7 'I Bianchi' polished **porcelain** in Calacatta, £113 per sq m, Surface Tiles (surfacetiles.com) **8** 'Par-Ker' **ceramic parquet tiles** in Hampton Brown, £99 per sq m, Porcelanosa (porcelanosa.com) **9** 'Stone Tech' **porcelain tiles** by Domus, £38 each, CP Hart (cphart.co.uk) **10** 'Furnace' glazed **ceramic tiles** in Iron, from £85 per sq m, Fired Earth (firedearth.com) **11** 'Colour Block Oak White' **porcelain tiles**, £81.60 per sq m, Mandarin Stone (mandarinstone.com) **12** 'Dibbern Carrara' **fine bone china**, from £20 for a side plate, Bodo Sperlein (bodosperlein.com)

PHOTOGRAPHY: VICTORIA LING STYLING: EMMA KAY STYLING ASSISTANTS: HARALD DONOGHUE AND TALI LEGGETT


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HIGH AND MIGHTY

Four ways to make your ceiling the focal point of the room, from colour-blocking to wood effects

Words **CHARLOTTE BROOK**

#34 CHIC CHEVRONS

The houndstooth-style ceiling in this unique New Zealand home was designed to evoke a traditional Maori cloak. **'It's a warm, woven canopy that shelters the house and** family,' explains architect Michael O'Sullivan. Chevrons of red cedarwood are complemented by paler kauri-wood wall cladding. 'For the ceiling, we used an incredible carpenter who cut the cedar by "feeling", not measuring, it,' says O'Sullivan. If you want to create a similar effect in your home, you'll need to commission a skilled woodworker to cut and install the design. ➤

PICTURE: EMILY ANDREWS



#35

SALVAGE MISSION

The ceiling of this Copenhagen restaurant (above) is made from repurposed wooden pallets.
'Normally, you have a rendered ceiling and wooden floors: we wanted to turn this idea upside down,' says Jonas Bjerre-Poulsen of Norm Architects, the studio behind the design. The timber was treated with a fireproofing fluid to preserve its original patina. If you plan to use reclaimed wood to clad the ceiling in your own home, don't forget about your acoustics. Here, the boards have been mounted with a slight distance between them and insulation above to create a softer sound. For a good range of reclaimed pallets, priced at about 60 per cent of the cost of new timber, try Associated Pallets (associated-pallets.co.uk).

#36

POWERFUL TONES

Instead of creating a feature wall in your space, opt for a brightly coloured ceiling.
Keep the rest of your decor simple by using whites and wood, and be sure to choose a deep, matt shade of paint (we like Marston & Langinger's 'Chalky Interior Matt' range, from £41.50 for 2.5 litres; marston-and-langinger.com) for maximum impact. A dramatic pendant light is also a must.





#37

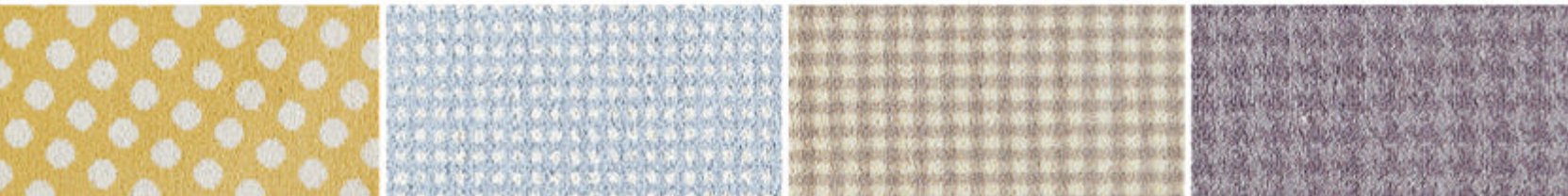
CHALK IT UP

In this Berlin apartment, the ceiling is coated in blackboard paint and used as a canvas for drawings and quotes.
A chalkboard surface can be so much more than a foil for shopping lists: it's a chance to be bold and artistic. To recreate the look, try Dulux's 'Black Matt' chalkboard paint, £18.98 for 750 millilitres, B&Q (diy.com).

PICTURE: ANNE-CATHERINE SCOFFONI (CHALK IT UP)



See the full collection at **www.brintons.co.uk** and order your free samples now.





#38

MODULAR ART

Group complementary images in clusters to form a unique statement piece for your wall. Placing the pictures in mismatched frames (see above) creates an interesting effect. Alternatively, for a quirky, improvised look, why not consider using a set of old wooden drawers (see below)? Stack them against a wall or on a shelf and change the artworks regularly. Try English Salvage for a selection (englishsalvage.co.uk).



#39 HOW TO... CARE FOR STONE

To keep your marble, slate or encaustic cement surfaces in peak condition, it's important to learn how to treat and clean them. Here are our top tips.

• Stone should be sealed. After it has been installed and the grouting has dried, treat it with a multi-use sealant – try 'Mattstone' by LTP (£14.98 for 500 millilitres; ltp-online.co.uk) – this will protect it from acidic fluids such as oil or wine.

• Apply the sealant using a soft cloth. Rub it in gentle circles and do not let it pool on the surface, as it will leave tide marks. Apply three coats, allowing an hour between doing each one.

• Splash water onto the stone to check that the sealant has worked. It should collect in droplets on the surface; if it doesn't, wipe down and follow the application process again. Some stones are highly porous and will require more coats.

• Don't use harsh cleaning products. The acidic properties of traditional sprays will damage natural stone on contact. Use Method's 'Daily Granite' (£4; methodproducts.co.uk) or 'Stone and Tile' cleaner by Dr Beckmann (£5.10 per litre, Waitrose; waitrose.com) to avoid any harm.

• Sealant should last for up to five years. However, if you notice water seeping into the stone you will need to replace it sooner. Use a sealant remover and then begin the process again from scratch.



From top 'Oriental Marble' hexagon tiles, £7.99 per 29 x 28cm sheet; 'Country Farmhouse' black slate tile, £15.45 per sq m; 'Zibo' slate mosaic tiles, £4.25 per 30 x 30cm sheet, all Walls and Floors (wallsandfloors.co.uk)

PICTURES: DAVIDE LOVATTI/VEGA (MODULAR ART)



#40 *WORD PLAY*

This Scrabble-style tiling is an ingenious idea for a bathroom wall or kitchen splashback. Simply choose words that suit the mood of your space, then arrange them in a crossword pattern. Walls & Floors sells 'Scrabble Letter' tiles in Cream and White, £7.45 per ten-centimetre-square tile (wallsandfloors.co.uk).





#41 HOW TO... PLAY WITH PATTERNS

Matthew Williamson's latest collection for Osborne & Little (pictured right; osborneandlittle.com) is full of vibrant hues and exotic prints. We asked him to share his tips on mastering the art of excess.

Layer contrasting patterns or mix traditional and modern prints to make endless combinations. Instinct and impulse play big parts in pulling this off, but you can create order by using similar tones to link everything together.

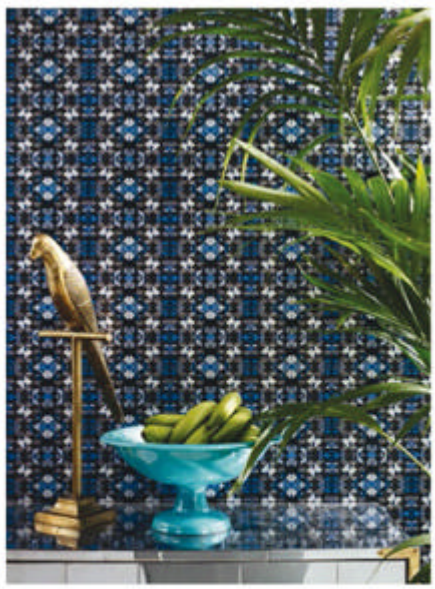
Larger spaces can be overwhelming, but they give you the freedom to play with scale. This can make it easier to incorporate bigger items of furniture and introduce bolder shades and patterns.

Don't be afraid to use colour. Start by injecting it subtly in the form of a painting or a vase, or try upholstering your old sofa in a bright fabric. I tend to favour a balanced mix of subdued chalky shades and pops of electric or neon hues. The key is understanding how you want to feel in your space and working with a palette that induces the right emotions.

Rich colours and intricate patterns often work well with period features. I love contrasting classic architecture with contemporary shades and prints.

There can be such a thing as overkill. Ultimately, though, your home is an expression of your taste, so the only thing that matters is that you can live happily within it, whatever the style.





#42 FLASH PRINTS

Two quick and effective ways to add pattern using paint

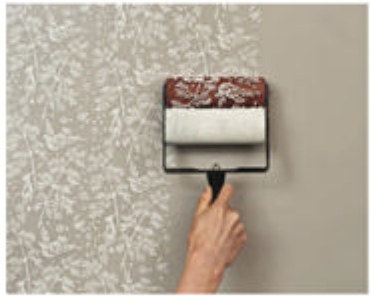
STENCILS

Stencilling is a simple method of decorating your walls. The beauty of this technique lies in the handmade effects that you can create. For a faded-wallpaper effect, opt for a repeat pattern, varying the paint coats. Use a small amount of emulsion – a little goes a long way – and apply gently over the stencil using a sponge roller. Start stencilling in the middle of the wall and work outwards. Try one of Annie Sloan's recently launched designs, available in A4 and A3 sizes (pictured below, from £6.99; anniesloan.co.uk).

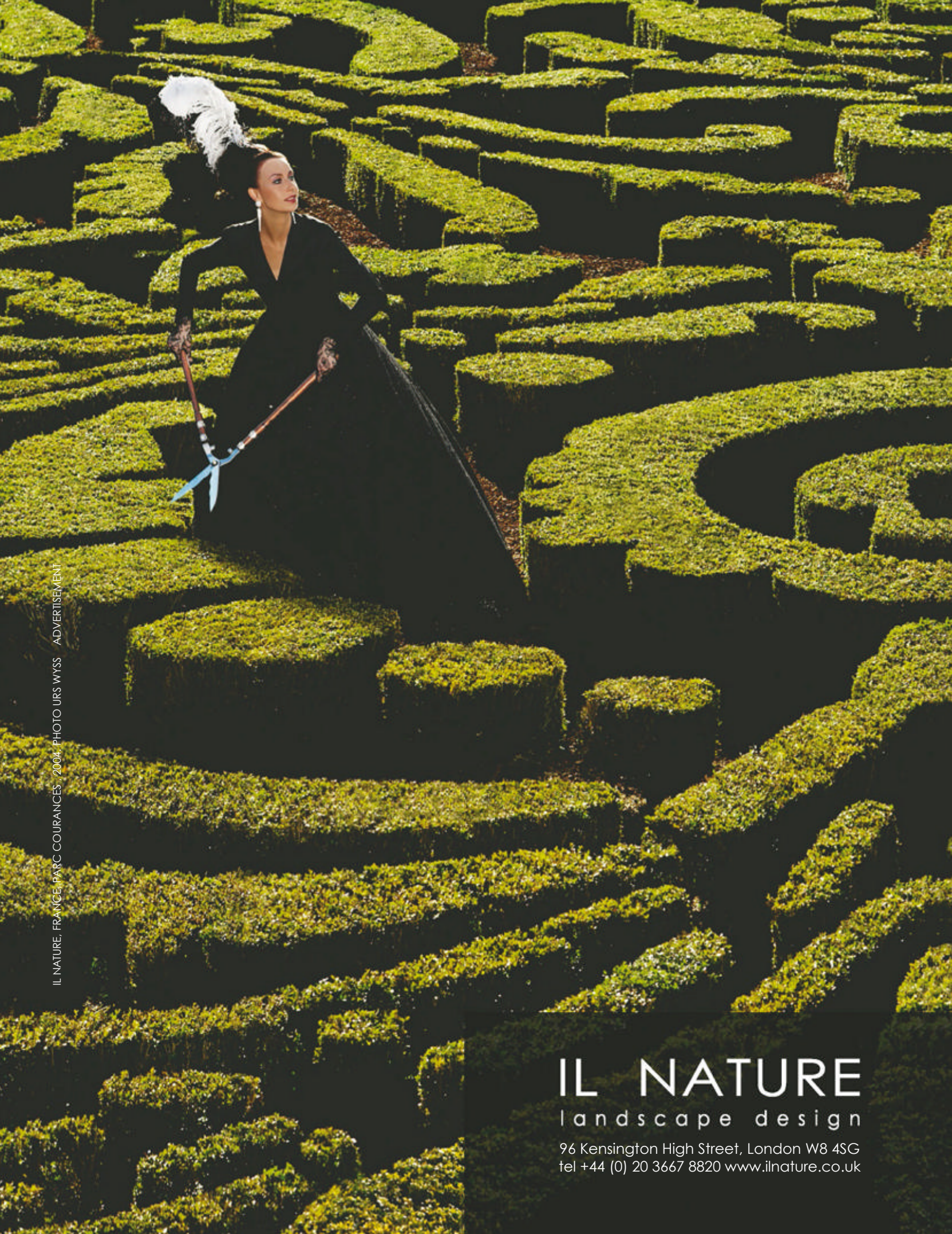


PATTERNED ROLLERS

This is a form of 'speed stencilling', explains Clare Bosanquet, who sells a collection of 21 roller designs through her website The Painted House (the-painted-house.co.uk). She came across the idea while on a photography assignment in Romania and saw a future for this forgotten form of mechanical 'potato printing'. All you need is a water-based matt emulsion and the embossed rubber roller (£20). Apply with a steady hand for an instant and thrifty alternative to patterned wallpaper. Bosanquet is currently working on a series of new designs.



INTERVIEW: TESSA PEARSON (HOW TO) PICTURES: DAMIAN RUSSELL (HOW TO, TOP), CHRISTOPHER DRAKE (FLASH PRINTS, TOP)



IL NATURE, FRANCE, PARC COURANCES , 2004. PHOTO URS WYSS ADVERTISEMENT

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MASTER YOUR ART

Artworks can make beautiful finishing touches to any decorating scheme, but how do you display them to best effect? Five experts share their top tips

Words **TRISH LORENZ**





#43 HANG IT

Luci Noel is director of the Battersea Affordable Art Fair (March 12–15; affordableartfair.com)

The secret to hanging art at home is being imaginative. 'Make the most of your space,' advises Noel. 'If your ceilings are high, try positioning art above a doorway. Hallways are great places for artworks, especially if your collection is growing.'

Displaying pieces in unusual ways can increase the impact of the work. 'Hanging art considerably higher or lower than the conventional eye level will make people wonder about its content or meaning,' says Noel. 'The rule of thumb is that the centre point of a piece should be about 165 centimetres from the floor – the average eye height. But be flexible: if your artwork is particularly large or if you are hanging it above a piece of furniture, you may need to have it higher than that.'

If you are nervous about damaging your walls, lean paintings on a mantelpiece or shelf, or even on the floor if they are big enough. 'A single oversize canvas above a fireplace can look amazing, as can a row of propped paintings, prints or photos in different sizes,' says Noel.

My art top tip To see a wide selection of work by new artists, Noel recommends looking at South London Art Map (southlondonartmap.com), which holds regular tours of galleries. There's also a South East Coast Art Map that enables you to explore galleries from Margate to Brighton (southeastcoastmap.com).





#44 FRAME IT

Kate Jones is director of North London-based company John Jones (johnjones.co.uk), which has been framing for artists, museums and private clients since the 1960s

Jones recommends thinking as much about your frames as you do about the art that's in them. In the past 15 years, people have become bolder and more individual in their framing choices. 'The frame is a link between your art and your interior,' she says. There are no particular rules about which types of frame to use, but a mix of antique and ornate styles can work well in contemporary homes. 'It's a bit like matching shoes to an outfit. Sometimes you want everything to go together, sometimes you want a more eclectic feel,' says Jones. 'In very minimal interiors, I tend to advise people to use frames that all have a similar look – perhaps in a complementing colour or material.'

Jones advocates professional framing for any artwork that has particular financial or sentimental value. She also recommends having your works reframed every eight years. This is more about protection than appearance: chemicals, particularly from older mount boards, as well as humidity, sunlight and heat, can all damage art. It's important to think about the type of glass you use in your frame, too. 'The right type of glazing can filter out harmful light, which is especially important in sunny rooms.'

At John Jones, frames start from about £150, but if you're on a tight budget and are planning to frame your own pieces, Jones suggests using museum-standard mount boards and mylar (polyester film) mounting corners for a more professional look. The latter contain non-yellowing adhesives that do not come into contact with the artwork itself, meaning that they inflict minimal damage.

My art top tip Jones is a devotee of digital artwork specialist S-Edition (seditionart.com). The site has limited-edition pieces to download by big-name artists such as Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin, with prices starting from £5. ➤

PICTURES: HOTZE EISMA/TAVERNE (OPPOSITE), SISTERS (THIS PAGE, MAIN IMAGE)
STYLING: RIANNE LANDSTRA (OPPOSITE)









#45
LIGHT IT

Harry Triggs and Andrew Molyneux run TM Lighting (tmlighting.com), which creates LED lights for illuminating art

'Accentuating a picture with light brings out its colour and changes the appearance of a room. You get pools of light on the walls, which adds to the drama and warmth of a space,' says Triggs. 'One of our most amazing projects was for an individual who had a massive Post-Impressionist collection that included 37 Picassos. Another time, we lit a seven-metre floor-to-ceiling mural in a stately home. But, even if your collection is smaller, it's still worth investing in proper lighting,' adds Molyneux.

There are several options: a picture light above a single work of art is the most traditional method, but forget clunky, museum-style lamps. Today, there are sleek and contemporary options that come in a range of finishes to match the

'It's all dictated by your style and the mood you want to create in the room. I like to light a few pictures, as this gives a less formal feel'

style of your home. If you have a group of pictures, you can choose to illuminate the whole set, or use individual lights to place the focus on one piece. 'It's all dictated by your style and the mood that you want to create in the room,' says Triggs. 'Personally, I like to light a few pictures, as this gives a less formal feel.'

Triggs and Molyneux agree that this is a job that's best left to the experts. 'It's most effective if you integrate the picture lights into your home's lighting scheme,' says Molyneux. TM Lighting's pared-back range costs from £216 for a model designed to illuminate small (up to 90-centimetre-square) canvases.

My art top tip Don't rule out a trip to big auction houses such as Christie's and Sotheby's. 'You'd be surprised – there are still bargains to be found,' he says. 'The expectation that the works will all be expensive is not accurate. At a recent Picasso ceramics auction, you could pick up pieces starting from £1,500.'



#46 DISPLAY IT

Amelie von Wedel is the founder of Wedel Art Advisory (wedelartadvisory.com), which worked with The Arts Club in London to create the backdrop for its collection

While a single piece of art displayed in the middle of a wall can make a big impact, von Wedel suggests considering a 'heavy hang', where a group of paintings are hung together. 'For an exhibition by American artist Theaster Gates at The Arts Club, we tried a traditional hang but it didn't work. Then we covered a whole wall with pictures and it was beautiful,' she says. 'I recommend experimenting. Place the pictures on the floor in different patterns until you find a layout that works.'

There are no rooms that von Wedel considers out of bounds for art. 'Think creatively,' she says. 'I always like to hang something in the loo or the kitchen. There's no reason to avoid these rooms, but you do need to choose pieces that will work in those spaces. For example, those that include neon light are more likely to be damaged in places in which there's a lot of moisture in the atmosphere, such as a bathroom.'

Although white walls are standard for galleries, von Wedel says that dark-coloured walls in a home can make a piece stand out. She warns, however, that using wallpaper can make the process of finding a place for your art more difficult. 'Patterned walls narrow your flexibility,' she says. 'If there's a clash of pattern, the artwork will lose its magic. If you do still want patterned walls, monochrome works of art are the wisest choice.'

My art top tip The key is to forge a good relationship with a gallery so that you have first pick of the artworks, von Wedel advises. 'If you're new to the art world, take your time finding a good venue that meets your budget and your taste.' Locate a gallery guide for your city – try Artforum (artforum.com/guide). Alternatively, peruse *New Exhibitions*, which provides a bi-monthly round-up of the best new openings. It's available at most good art venues, or you can order issues online (newexhibitions.com).



PICTURES: HOTZE EISMA/TAVERNE [OPPOSITE, MAIN IMAGE], SISTERS [OPPOSITE, DETAIL], SERGE ANTON/LIVING INSIDE [THIS PAGE, MAIN IMAGE]. STYLING: RIANNE LANDSTRA/TAVERNE [OPPOSITE, MAIN IMAGE]

5 OF THE BEST PLACES TO BUY AFFORDABLE ART

Sarah Ryan is the founder of New Blood Art (newbloodart.com), an online gallery that specialises in original work by artists who are at an early stage in their careers. Here are her top five suggestions for places to buy interesting pieces by emerging talent.

1 Degree shows run from April to June, and are among the best places to find high-quality work. London colleges tend to get all of the attention, but the Scottish ones are my favourites – Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee. Falmouth, Manchester and Aberystwyth are also very good. Find a full guide at newbloodart.com.

2 Axisweb (axisweb.org) is a site for fresh British artists. It is Arts Council-funded and the money from every purchase goes directly to the artist. If you can't make it to the degree shows, this is one of the few sites where you can find excellent graduate artwork. I regularly see things here that I have spotted previously at the shows.

3 Re-title (re-title.com) is a global resource for established and emerging artists. It's great if you're going travelling – you can search by area or city and find out what's going on in the art scene before you visit.

4 Flea-market experts Signed and Original (signedandoriginal.com) search for signed, authentic artworks. There's no guarantee that their finds will be by anyone notable, but the team do have a great eye.

5 If you're nervous about buying art, fairs offer assured quality. Head to Frieze (friezelondon.com), the Affordable Art Fair (affordableartfair.com) or the London Original Print Fair (londonprintfair.com). Look for signed limited-edition prints: they often go up in value and are affordable. ED

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HOME

THIS MONTH'S MOST INSPIRING SPACES



FOR MORE STYLISH INTERIORS, VISIT ELLEDECORATION.CO.UK/INSPIRATIONS



Living room Dominated by a wood-panelled ceiling, this space is decorated in a colour scheme of mint green and pale pink



The painted palace

Taking inspiration from ceilings that wouldn't look out of place in Versailles, this Copenhagen apartment eschews minimalist Scandinavian style in favour of an opulent palette

Words **HANNAH BOOTH**
Photography **ANDREA PAPINI/HOUSE OF PICTURES**



Ditte Lamptey's Copenhagen home is far from typical of Danish apartments. The ornate ceilings – a different design in every room – are worthy of Versailles, while the elaborate doorframes and dark wood panelling wouldn't look out of place in a Tudor palace. To add a finishing flourish, Ditte, who owns socially conscious clothing brands Solidary People and Skin, has painted the walls in shades of everything from the palest green to the brightest red. This is a home of bold statements.

'I wanted to resist painting the whole place white. Instead, I have picked out colours from the amazing ceilings for the walls and the decoration,' Ditte says. The living room has a mint-green and baby-pink scheme, and the magnificent dining space is an elegant *eau de nil*. In Ditte's panelled office, a pink wall adjoins one painted in tomato-soup red; in the bedroom, she has used many kinds of blue. Ditte says that this striking palette 'adds humour to the apartment's heavy carpentry'.

Ditte has lived here for a year and a half with her partner Heikki and her son Louis, ten. The corner apartment, dating from 1890, is situated in Nørrebro, a colourful neighbourhood filled with coffee shops and populated by design-conscious Danes. Buried in nearby Assistens cemetery – a beauty spot where locals go for picnics – are two Danish icons: Hans Christian Andersen and Søren Kierkegaard.

To provide a contrast with the property's extraordinarily ornate features, the furnishings have been kept simple. The tables and chairs are pared-back mid-century pieces, and the vast walls are broken up by modern artworks. Ditte's style is uncomplicated and natural: tabletops are decorated with rustic vases containing twigs and foliage or candles in simple holders, while books are piled high on shelves.

'The rooms are so special that I knew I'd have to work with the apartment on its own terms, and not be tempted to make it typically Scandinavian and minimalist,' says Ditte. 'I wanted it to be functional and inspiring, a place where there is room to be quiet and creative.'

Nordic touches aren't completely absent from Ditte's home, though. There's a selection of Danish design classics on display, from Louis Poulsen lamps to Arne Jacobsen chairs and a grand, traditional tiled stove – the sort that you only find in Scandinavian houses.

The apartment is still a work in progress, with the next big project being to tackle the dilapidated kitchen and bathroom, but it's all worth the effort. 'I feel blessed to live in a home that has the beauty of a museum,' says Ditte. 'I always get that "aahh" feeling when I arrive home – the sense of being in port.'
solidarypeople.com



Opposite This Balinese daybed is from Copenhagen design store Encoded by Bøttger and the cushions are from Olsson & Gerthel. The large abstract painting is by Lene Pors
Above The white standing lamp is Verner Panton's 'Panthella' (available from The Conran Shop). For a similar multicoloured modular sofa, try Ligne Roset
Stockist details on p236 ➤





‘The rooms are so special that I had to work with the apartment on its own terms, and not be tempted to make it typically Scandi and minimalist’





Dining room This corner area houses a small table that Ditte repainted to complement the walls **Living room** Arne Jacobsen’s ‘Swan’ chair is among the classic furniture in this space, which leads through to the dining room **Kitchen** This room is still awaiting renovation. For now, the table is a classic American diner model (find similar at Cola Red) surrounded by Arne Jacobsen’s ‘Ant’ chairs (available from Aram Store). The photograph is by Rolando Diaz **Hallway** Here, dark wood panelling is offset by bubblegum-pink paintwork. For a similar rustic bench and coat hooks, try Baileys Home **Stockist details on p236 ➤**



‘A bold, bright paint palette adds humour to the apartment’s heavy carpentry’





Office Clashing walls bring an element of playfulness to this wood-panelled room, which contains a traditional Scandinavian tiled stove. On the teak desk, designed by Börje Mogensen, is Louis Poulsen’s ‘PH 2/1’ table lamp (available from Skandium). The folding partition is a vintage find and sits next to a ‘Cone’ chair by Verner Panton (pictured above; available from Vitra) **Stockist details on p236 ➤**



MY CITY: COPENHAGEN

The best way to see Copenhagen is by bicycle. It's a cliché, but nothing is more beautiful than Danish girls riding their bikes around the city in spring.
The neighbourhood of Nørrebro was originally working class, but today it's perhaps the most diverse part of the city – a lovely mix of people from all over the world; hippies, hipsters and homeless people living together in cosmopolitan chaos. I adore it!
I love vintage shops and there are plenty of them around Nørrebro, Vesterbro and Christianshavn.
If you are into art, take the train north of Copenhagen to Humlebæk, where you will find the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art. It has the most wonderful parkland surroundings.
I am not a regular at any eatery, because in Nørrebro every second house is a cafe, restaurant or bar. There are so many that I would still like to go to.
It's essential to visit the Royal Library, aka the Black Diamond, and watch a ballet at the Royal Danish Theatre.





Bedroom Decorated in blue-grey and turquoise, this space has a slightly dishevelled, academic look – Ditte loves books and has dedicated large parts of the walls to shelving. Copenhagen-based street artist Victor Ash created the piece that hangs above the bed. For bed linen, Toast's 'Forget-Me-Not' is a close colour match
Stockist details on p236 ED





IN FAIR VERONA

Set within the Italian city's ancient walls, this 1920s apartment has an air of timeless elegance and romance. A pastel palette and contemporary lights add subtle hints of modernity

Words **HANNAH BOOTH**
Photography **FABRIZIO CICCONI/LIVING INSIDE**
Styling **FRANCESCA DAVOLI**

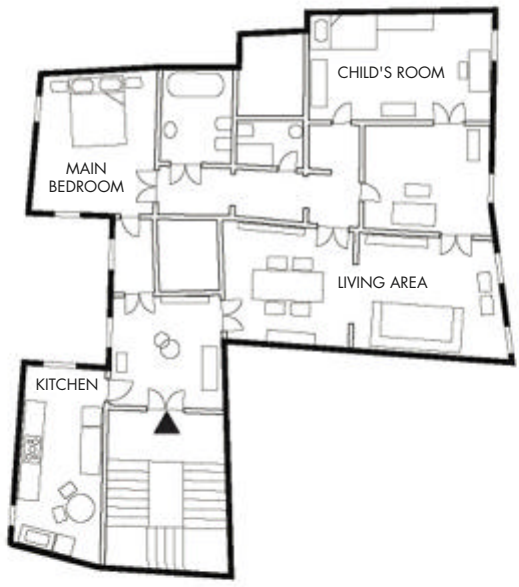




Book publisher Sara Gamberini is a seasoned house-hunter who has moved more than 20 times. This exquisite 1920s apartment in Verona, Italy, which she shares with her daughter Mariam and their dog, Rocco, is the first place that she has called home. For Sara, living in the city where Shakespeare based his star-crossed lovers in *Romeo and Juliet* is a huge attraction. 'I love Verona's mixture of bustle and quiet, its dignified architecture and the ancient stones of the old palaces,' she says.

Renovated last year by Sara Pasini from AAPA Architects, the apartment, which is the only one in the building to have retained its original fixtures, ceilings and floors, is a free-flowing, light-filled space. 'The first thing I loved about this place was its period look,' says Sara, who moved in during the summer of 2014. 'It's typical of the houses of that particular era, with its herringbone parquet, beautiful ancient cementine tile flooring and dramatic double-height windows. The proportions are classic.'

A romantic colour scheme ties the look of the home together beautifully – the pale, dusty-pink of the dining chairs is echoed in the painted vintage wooden side table and sorbet-hued crockery. This is no matchy-matchy, formulaic interior, though. 'I'm not anchored to a particular style, period or designer,' says Sara. 'I trust only when I find grace and beauty.'



Dining room The terracotta lights that hang above the table are by architect Tom Housden for London-based Hand & Eye Studio. For similar tub chairs, try 'About A Chair' by Hee Welling for Hay, available from The Conran Shop
Kitchen Katrin Arens designed the bespoke, reclaimed wooden work surfaces and cupboards in this room
Stockist details on p236 ➤



The main bedroom has a peaceful, monastic feel, enhanced by a set of soft grey and sunflower-yellow bed linen. Mariam's room, with its white bespoke bunk bed, is the brightest area in the apartment. It is filled with bold, African-inspired fabrics – a nod to her Senegalese heritage – and there's a mattress on the floor, generously scattered with colourful cushions, that's ideal for daytime relaxing and reading.

The larger items of furniture, including the chunky wooden bench and dining table, are worn yet elegant, complementing the apartment's traditional features. Comfortable seating – found even in the rooms that have the original decorative cementine tiled floors – lends the interior a calm, relaxed air. A handful of pieces by Sara's favourite creatives appear throughout the space. 'Lately I love the work of [London-based Spanish designer] Tomás Alonso,' she says.

The most contemporary element of the interior is the lighting. In the dining room and kitchen, a series of ceramic pendant lights cast a warm, cosy glow. In the bedroom, small lamps that hang loosely from coloured flexes create informal task lighting, and an exposed bulb is clipped to a doorframe in the hallway.

Sara, who works from home, is a self-confessed bibliophile, so each room of the apartment has a wall lined from floor to ceiling with well-stacked wooden bookshelves. 'I deal with literature for work and this ancient apartment is, for me, deeply literary,' she says. 'There is poetry here.' *aapa.it*



‘The first thing I loved about this apartment was its period feel. The proportions are classic’

This page and opposite The dining room leads through to a reading zone. For a similar cementine floor, try Dar Interiors’ vintage designs or Marshall Bull’s contemporary ones **Stockist details on p236 ➤**




‘I’m not anchored to a particular style, period or designer. I trust only grace and beauty’



MY CITY: VERONA

I love this place because it has a vast historical and artistic heritage, so I can stroll around downtown like a modern *flâneur*. If I were to describe Verona in one word, I'd say 'graceful'.
My go-to stores are toyshop Farfilò (Rigaste San Zeno 23/e 37123; farfilo.com) and Feltrinelli bookshop (Via Quattro Spade 2, 37121; 00 39 19 91 511 73).
There are so many great restaurants, such as La Lanterna for vegan food (Piazzetta Portichetti, 37123; 00 39 04 55 949 29) and Ciccarelli, which serves Veronese fare (Via Mantovana 171, 37137; 00 39 04 59 539 86).
The best sight is Ponte Pietra, a beautiful Roman bridge that crosses the Adige River.

Mariam's room Brightly patterned cushions and bedding add a splash of colour – try Eva Sonaike for similar designs. The bunk bed is a bespoke piece by Katrin Arens
Main bedroom White pendant lights hang above the bed – try Heal's for similar
Stockist details on p236 ED





PARISIAN WELCOME

Simple vintage pieces stand out against the ornate backdrop of this opulent French apartment, which was built for entertaining

Photography **HELENIO BARBETTA/PHOTOFOYER**

Words **TRISH LORENZ**

Moving from New York to Paris prompted a change in lifestyle for Argentinian architect and interior designer Luis Laplace. He traded a loft in Brooklyn's hipster hub of Williamsburg for this classic 300-square-metre apartment nestled among the boulevards of the ninth arrondissement.

'It was my boyfriend Christoph who found this place. We loved it instantly,' says Luis. 'The building and the neighbourhood are typically Parisian. There are lots of little shops and restaurants here – it's a bit like an up-and-coming Notting Hill.'

When it was built in 1882, the apartment consisted of a series of interconnected living and dining rooms, as well as a library and salon. The space was originally designed purely for entertaining. 'It dates back to a period of French history when wealthy people had a home for living in and another for receiving guests,' says Luis. 'The layout is perfect for our way of life.'

Today, the house includes a generous entrance hall, a living area with high ceilings, a dining room and an office, as well as a further reception space, three bedrooms and a compact, utilitarian kitchen.

Throughout the flat, original parquet flooring, Rococo-style mouldings and fireplaces with antique French and Italian surrounds evoke a bygone era. The couple have tempered this architectural exuberance with contemporary and Modernist furniture.

Colour is used judiciously: there are green 'H' stools by Tolix in the kitchen, mustard-coloured walls in one bedroom and a vivid yellow painting hanging in the otherwise-white hallway. 'I don't like monotone design, minimalism or beige,' Luis says. 'I like to be discreet and elegant with colour but, as I'm from South America, I'm confident about using strong shades.'

Much of the furniture is vintage, such as the 1960s Parker Knoll armchairs and the 1940s Swedish sofa in the living room. 'This flat is so baroque, busy and ornate that it's better to incorporate slick, simple furniture to create a balance between the architecture and the interior,' explains Luis.

The approach works perfectly. The apartment has a stylish look but is, above all, a home. In addition to the grand reception areas, there are quiet corners designed for reading and desks for working. 'We use all of the rooms,' says Luis. 'We would never choose a place just because it looks beautiful. It has to be comfortable and liveable, too.' *luislaplace.com*





Throughout the home, original parquet flooring, Rococo-style mouldings and antique fireplaces evoke a bygone era

Living area The ornate Rococo cornicing is offset by vintage pieces, such as white Parker Knoll chairs. The green velvet that covers the sofa was designed by Elsa Gullberg in the 1940s **Stockist details on p236 ➤**



'I like to be discreet and elegant with colour but, as I'm from South America, I'm confident about using strong shades'



Dining room The iron and green-glass table was designed by homeowner Luis, and the lacquered metal chairs are vintage designs that date from the 1950s. The stunning marble fireplace and mirror are both original 19th-century details ➤



Office The classic Danish rosewood desk by Bernt Petersen is paired with a vintage red-and-blue armchair
Hallway The console table, made from patinated brass and marble, is designed by homeowner Luis (pictured). On top of it is an artwork by Richard Jackson (try Hauser & Wirth gallery)
Stockist details on p236 ➤



'The apartment is so baroque, busy and ornate that it's better to incorporate simple furniture to create a balance between the architecture and the interior'



'We would never choose a place just because it looks beautiful. It has to be liveable, too'



Kitchen This space has a utilitarian feel compared with the other rooms. Its white palette is lifted by the addition of green 'H' stools by Tolix that are gathered around a metal table. The shelving unit is by Ikea
Stockist details on p236 ➤

A DAY IN MY LIFE

First thing in the morning I have coffee. I can't talk without my first cup. Christoph's family are in the coffee business and we have a great espresso machine in the apartment.
There are a lot of good bakeries in this neighbourhood. Boulangerie Arnaud Delmontel was awarded a prize in 2007 for producing the best baguette in Paris.
I buy pastries at Pâtisserie Sébastien Gaudard. If we have guests, they often think that the cakes are from somewhere really **fancy, but it's just a simple local place.**
I spend a lot of time in the living room, as it's so big and bright. I always ensure that I have a comfortable sofa. It's important to have somewhere to sit and relax.
I like many things in the apartment, but I'm not emotionally attached to them. I do have a coat that belonged to my grandfather, though – I love it because it still has his scent on it.
In the evenings we light the fire and have friends round to eat and drink beer.





Above Small sculptures, drawings and ceramics are exhibited on a shelf in the guest bedroom. The lamp on the bedside table is a vintage design by Carlo Scarpa
Left and opposite The glass-and-metal 1960s side table was unearthed at the Marché aux Puces in Paris. The classic fireplace is decorated with modern art and contemporary vignettes
Stockist details on p236 ED





EDITOR'S CUT

The former editor of ELLE Decoration South Africa lives in a stylish Cape Town apartment that brims with vintage treasures, capturing the spirit of the building's striking Art Deco architecture

Words **JO FROUDE**
Photography **GREG COX** *Portrait* **INGE PRINS/BUREAUX, GAP INTERIORS**
Production **SVEN ALBERDING**



Living area The homeowner designed the interior doors to complement the apartment's Art Deco ironwork. The copper candelabra is by local artist Michael Guy; artwork and vases are arranged on an apothecary chest ➤

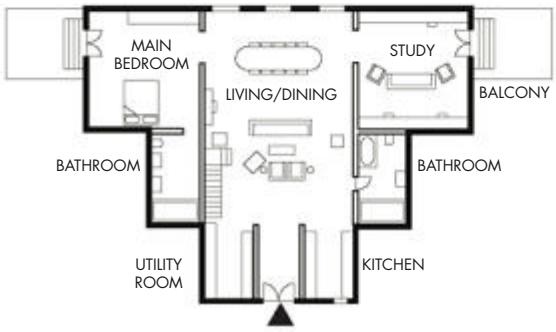

BAUHAUS



It's been ten years since Laureen Rossouw and her husband Koos decided to swap their suburban South African home for a taste of the high life in Cape Town. 'We decided that we wanted a change,' says Laureen of their move to the apartment, which is on the eighth floor of a striking Art Deco building. 'We heard that the Old Mutual office block was being converted, and that it was fairly inexpensive, so we bought off-plan,' she says. 'People thought that we were crazy to buy in the Central Business District, but it's so close to everything: the library, the station and City Hall, where the Philharmonic Orchestra perform.'

Laureen spent five years as editor of ELLE Decoration South Africa. In her own home, natural materials and animal skins create a look that Laureen describes as 'subconscious' South African style. The pieces are not showy, but blend beautifully into the elegant, considered scheme. 'I wanted to create the sense of an old-fashioned waiting room in a train station – an international inner-city aesthetic,' she says. To this end, she sourced vintage objects that have an air of antiquity; one of the most striking is the old railway clock that overlooks the steel bookcase in the study.

The sense of spaciousness in the 200-square-metre property is testament to Laureen's creative skills. A mezzanine level accommodates the guest bedroom, while glazed interior doors – designed to echo the original architecture – maintain the flow of light. There's more than a hint of old-school glamour, thanks to the original parquet floor and a gold-leaf-covered wall in the bedroom. Laureen's magpie tendencies add soul to the interior scheme. She's covered every surface with treasures: there are paintings by local artists, dried flowers and collections of vases and postcards. The apartment has already been used as a location for film and TV shoots, most notably in the award-winning TV series *Homeland*. As Laureen embarks on a series of new projects, including working with her architect daughter, her enthusiasm for collecting and styling will continue to transform her home. 'I love the energy that new objects can bring,' she says. 'This space is so beautiful that everything looks great here.'



Living area A classic Swarovski chandelier hangs above the cosy seating area. Homeowner Laureen (above) has teamed two vintage sofas – one upholstered in brown velvet by Manuel Canovas – with animal hide rugs (for similar, try City Cows) and throws to create a South African vibe **Stockist details on p236 ➤**


MANDELA

‘I WANTED TO CREATE A HOME THAT HAD AN INTERNATIONAL INNER-CITY AESTHETIC’



Study Crammed full of books, posters and personal treasures, this space is where the homeowners spend their evenings. The clock was rescued from a railway station and the double-height steel bookcase, which was made by a local company, complements the apartment’s original steel-framed windows. Glass doors lead out to the terrace, which has enviable views of Table Mountain ➤

‘THE HOMEOWNER SOURCED VINTAGE PIECES THAT HAVE AN AIR OF ANTIQUITY’



Detail A pair of taxidermied birds sit on the piano, which Laureen learned to play as a child **Dining area** Semi-circular lacquered tables have been added to both ends of the metal table. The vintage chairs are originally from a Scottish church, but were discovered at a South African village sale (try Lassco for similar pieces) **Stockist details on p236 ➤**





En suite Classic metro tiles and Art Deco-style fittings lend this space a utilitarian feel
Bedroom The homeowner used gold leaf to replace a patterned-paper feature wall. The framed prints are by her artist friend Frauke Stegmann. Fritz Hansen's 'Kaiser Idell' table lamps stand on vintage wooden tables beside the bed **Stockist details on p236**



MY FAVOURITE THINGS

The study is where we sit at night, read books and enjoy a glass of wine. I love that this room looks out over the city. **I still have the piano** that I learned to play when I was nine: **it's a treasured heirloom piece. I adore my red 'Jetson' chair** by designer Bruno Mathsson. I saw it in Sweden and tracked it down through a contact at ELLE Decoration Spain.

I enjoy visiting the park and heritage site Company's Garden (19 Queen Victoria Street, 8000). It's so close that it almost seems like part of our own garden. **The finest local bar is** inside **the colonial Belmond Mount** Nelson Hotel (belmond.com). **The best thing about travelling** is discovering new cities. I love finding little nooks that become special places. ED



POP CULTURE

Splashes of bright colour and graphic shapes bring vivacity to the cool white backdrop of this family home in Melbourne

Words **TRISH LORENZ**
Photography **BROOKE HOLM**
Styling **MARSHA GOLEMAC**



Living area This open-plan space has a wood-burning stove from Cheminees Philippe at its heart
Stockist details on p236 ➤



Dining room The 'Atticus' table from Hub Furniture is teamed with 'Flow' chairs by Jean-Marie Massaud for MDF Italia. 'Muffin' lights by Dan Yeffet and Lucie Koldová for Brokis hang above
Stockist details on p236 ➤



‘WE WANTED A LARGE, CASUAL DINING SPACE CONNECTED TO THE KITCHEN’

The 1980s is often dubbed the decade that style forgot, but there's much to love about it. Take this 500-square-metre family house located in Hawthorn, a suburb of Melbourne, Australia. It was built during the age of shoulder pads and the 'Rubik's Cube', but remains impeccably contemporary thanks to a clever redesign.

The property is home to teacher Ann-Maree Herten, her husband Rob and their three teenage children. They have lived in the house for ten years, but recently decided to create a new open-plan environment that would enable the family to socialise. 'The original layout had a formal dining room that was never used,' says Ann-Maree. 'We wanted a larger, more casual space that would be connected to the kitchen.'

The couple commissioned interior designer Fiona Lynch to realise their ideas for the home; her brief was to create a practical, spacious layout while retaining as many of the house's original architectural details as possible. 'It made sense for us to work within the bones of the building and draw inspiration from them, rather than having to knock down pieces and start again from scratch,' says Fiona.

Making period features a part of the updated design creates a subtle 1980s vibe. The front door is framed by geometric window panels and, inside, a curved wall makes a focal point of a small staircase in the main living space. 'I wanted to pick a few choice references from the era, but not to recreate it,' says Fiona. 'So I used glazed bricks on the curved wall and a flash of bright orange on the doors beyond.'

The simplicity of Fiona's scheme gives a gentle nod to Scandinavian style. Pale wooden floors are teamed with plain white walls, and a wood-burning stove sits at the heart of the house. The soft colour palette continues in the kitchen, where a striking copper column that holds up the breakfast bar adds interest and warmth to the largely white aesthetic.

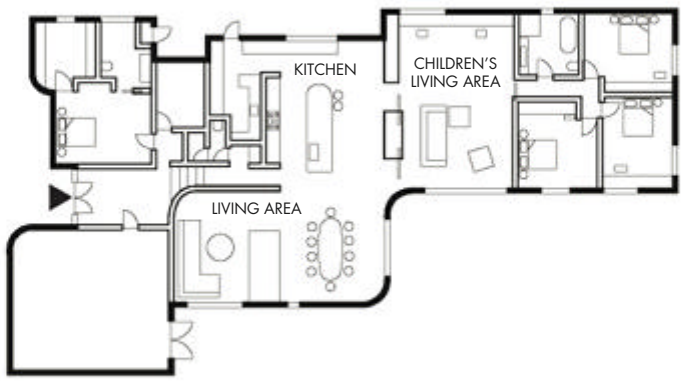
Copper reappears in the form of the triangular handles on the bespoke storage cabinet in the living area. Likewise, triangles become something of a theme throughout the house: they have been sandblasted into the glass wall that divides the study from the kitchen and are highlighted in the segments of bold, black metalwork that now decorate the windows. 'The graphic shapes help to give the space a clean, modern edge,' says Fiona.

Elsewhere, restrained bursts of colour enliven the interior. In the bathroom, an aqua-coloured mirror is offset by window frames that have been painted tangerine – the same vibrant hue that Fiona has used on the sliding doors in the living room. These doors help to separate the main part of the house from the children's living room and bedrooms, creating a separate teenage domain.

'The orange and copper highlights give our home a sense of fun,' says Ann-Maree. 'In the 1970s and 1980s, people were really bold with their use of patterns and colour. We're much more conservative today. A touch of playfulness is one of the main things that I've brought back to the house.' *fionalynch.com.au*



Above This bespoke storage unit with large, triangular handles was created by the homeowners' interior designer, Fiona Lynch
Opposite A 'Turner' sofa by Molteni and 'Cloudscape' armchair by Diesel for Moroso sit beneath a large painting by Australian artist Kathryn Ryan. The coffee tables are from the 'Monterey' range designed by Andrew Lowe (try Hub Furniture) **Stockist details on p236 ➤**





THE HOUSE HAS A PALE, NORDIC STYLE WITH OCCASIONAL SPLASHES OF BRIGHT COLOUR



Detail This steel and fluted-glass dividing wall stands between the kitchen and the study
Kitchen Fish-scale tiles from Academy Tiles (try Douglas Watson Studio in the UK) introduce a curved motif to an otherwise linear design. The breakfast bar's cylindrical copper base is a custom-made piece by Fiona Lynch
Stockist details on p236 ➤


‘THE ORANGE AND COPPER
HIGHLIGHTS GIVE OUR
HOME A SENSE OF FUN’



MY STYLE

I love this home because it's casual yet stylish – perfect for family living.
The first thing I do every morning is to open up all of the blinds and enjoy the sunshine and the views. The house benefits from wonderful natural light.
The redesigned layout is very sociable. We often entertain large groups of friends and family in the open-plan space.
Our home is a place to be used and lived in; it's not pretentious.
On a perfect weekend we have a big family lunch with the fire roaring all day.
My favourite decorative pieces are the vintage Bitossi ceramics on the storage cabinet in the dining room.

‘WE USED GRAPHIC SHAPES TO GIVE THE SPACE A CLEAN, CONTEMPORARY EDGE’



Bathroom The mirror with the aqua-coloured frame is a bespoke design by Fiona Lynch
Bedroom The bed is by Zuster Furniture and the starburst mirror is a vintage find from Angelucci. A ‘Tulip’ side table by Eero Saarinen for Knoll (try Skandium) adds a Modernist touch
Stockist details on p236 ED



Exterior The glass-framed extension of this contemporary home offers views of the pool, gardens and valleys beyond ➤

SUPER NATURAL

How a plot of land in a hamlet near Durban became the site for a modern home whose interior scheme unites elements of greenery with quirky designs

Words **KERRYN FISCHER**
Photography **SEAN LAURENZ**
Production **LUANNE TOMS/FRANK FEATURES**





Hallway Standing sentry in the entrance is the 'Shy Girl' sculpture by South African artist Francois van Reenen. A gabion wall that leads inside is decorated with an air plant in the shape of a giant stag's head ➤





Partners in life and work, designers Greg and Roche Dry are the kind of people who thrive on a frenetic lifestyle. 'We're always on the lookout for inspiring projects,' says Roche. 'We work best when we have a couple on the go.'

This contemporary South African home, which the duo share with their children – Levi, 13, and Grace, ten – doubles as a base for their interior design practice, Egg Designs. They are also behind furniture labels Egg and Egg Junior, while Roche is a partner in Chuck & Bobs, a charcuterie and organic produce shop.

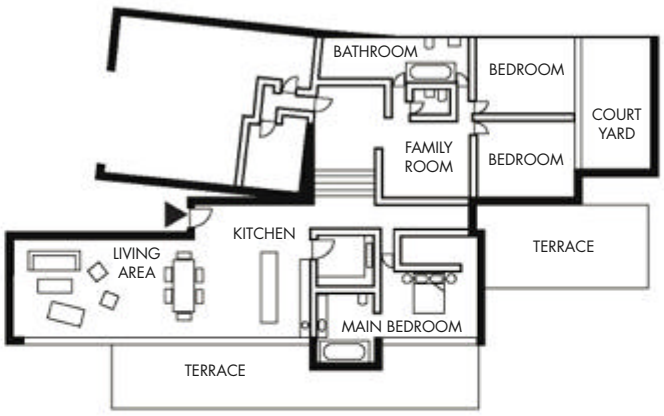
The designers moved to the countryside from their Durban city apartment ten years ago, when Roche was pregnant with Grace. 'We needed to consolidate our home and work environments,' she says. So, they opted to live in Drummond, a hillside hamlet that's a 20-minute drive from the city. They bought two buildings on the same plot and commissioned Paul Nel of Jay and Nel Architects to merge them into one property. Nel added a glass-framed extension at the front and a retaining wall to separate the old and new areas.

The modern part of the home contains an open-plan living and entertaining space that's characterised by an edgy yet playful scheme. The rear of the house – where the children's bedrooms, bathroom and family room are located – has a more sheltered feel.

'THERE'S A SENSE OF FLOW THROUGHOUT THE HOME, BUT DISTINCT PERSONALITIES ON EITHER SIDE OF ITS AXIS'

Concrete surfaces form a dramatic backdrop in the living areas. The kitchen – a sequence of wood and mirrors – has a subdued design, with a smoky palette that integrates it into the open-plan scheme. The cooking space is linked with the dining area and leads to the deck via the living room – ideal for the family's outdoor lifestyle. Among the quirky features is a wall of paintings gathered in gilt frames to create a sunset-like artwork.

In the more intimate rooms, the palette switches from shades of grey to intense blacks and blues. A large copy of a Renaissance painting, found on a trip to China, draws the focus in the dark en-suite bathroom. In the bedroom, the 'Fleur-de-Lys' wallpaper, which incorporates various South African species, is teamed with two of the couple's own designs: a floral rug and a side table decorated with a pattern inspired by a scarab beetle. Such key pieces encapsulate the pair's style. As Greg explains, 'the free-spirited, exploratory nature of our work is reflected in our home'. *eggdesigns.co.za*



Kitchen A dining table and chairs by Egg Designs take centre stage in this warm and welcoming space, which also features sapele wood cabinetry
Stockist details on p236 ➤



Living area A vintage Knoll sofa and the couple's own 'Goldilocks' rocker and footstool sit on dark concrete floors. On one wall, a series of paintings by local artist Wim Botha are grouped to form a sunset-like artwork
Stockist details on p236 ➤





MY PERFECT DAY

The first thing I do in the morning is climb into bed with my daughter Grace. She is not a morning person and needs to be woken up slowly.
I spend most of my time in the kitchen, usually sitting at the counter. It's the place where everything happens – homework, cooking and catching up – and offers the most amazing views of the valley. The barstools around the breakfast bar are our most-used pieces.
We eat mostly at the dining table, but sometimes in front of the TV when we are following some series or other. It's a real guilty pleasure.
My favourite memories here are of the great discussions we have at the dining table: on politics, family, friends and life in general. We laugh a lot!
The place I visit for local produce is the nearby Shongweni Farmers Market. We stock up on organic vegetables, craft beer, the best creamy Gorgonzola and bread. My children would kill for the macaroons we buy there!
The last thing I do at night before going to bed is to say a prayer.



Bedroom The 'Fleur-de-Lys' wallpaper – the homeowners' design – was inspired by South African flora, while the pattern on the powder-coated steel 'Bug' side table is reminiscent of an Egyptian scarab beetle. A floral rug offers the perfect counterpoint to the low-slung leather chair and footstool
Bathroom This en-suite space, which features a sunken bath overlooked by a shower, is decorated with black mosaic tiles and elements of kiaat wood ED



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ESCAPE



IF YOU VISIT ONE PLACE THIS MONTH...

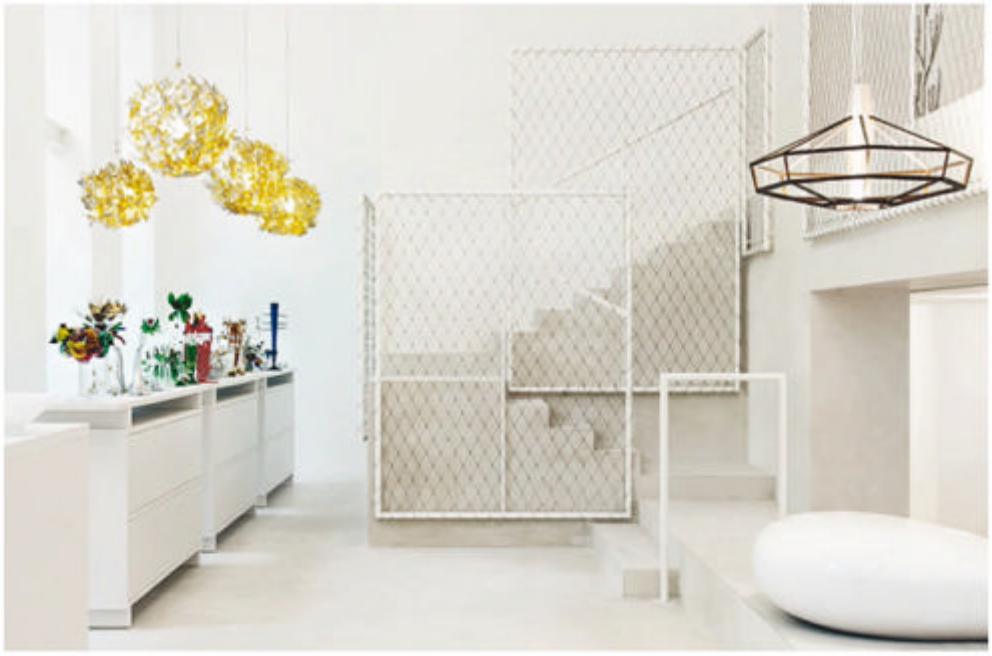
'MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE AT CHATSWORTH' is a new exhibition that features contemporary chairs from the private collection of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, plus furniture by designers including Thomas Heatherwick, Marc Newson and Piet Hein Eek. With specially commissioned pieces such as Raw Edges' 'Endgrain' bench (pictured) and 'Synthesis IV' by new talent Tom Price on display, it's the perfect place to rest weary feet after a stroll around the estate's beautiful gardens. March 28–October 23 (chatsworth.org).





IF THE SHOE FITS

Only in Italy would you find a footwear brand opening its first flagship in a fantastically ornate 17th-century palazzo. This is exactly what Aquazzura, a company renowned for crafting its shoes from the softest leathers and cashmere suede, has done, taking up residence in the historic Palazzo Corsini in Florence. The bold interior, inspired by the colours of the carefully restored ornate frescoes on the original ceiling, is by Portuguese design studio Casa Do Passadiço. The team has introduced a daring look: there's a graphic Surrealist entrance in black-and-white marble, gold French panelling, woven animal-print rugs and a Murano glass chandelier. This is shoe shopping at its most chic (aquazzura.com).



CABINET RESHUFFLE

Two years ago, Italian furniture brand Driade was on the brink of financial collapse, but today the future is looking more rosy. The company has a new artistic director, architect David Chipperfield, who has designed its newly opened showroom in Milan. Conceived as both a shop and a gallery, the all-white space is spread over three floors (plus an outside terrace) on which iconic classics sit alongside new designs (driade.com).

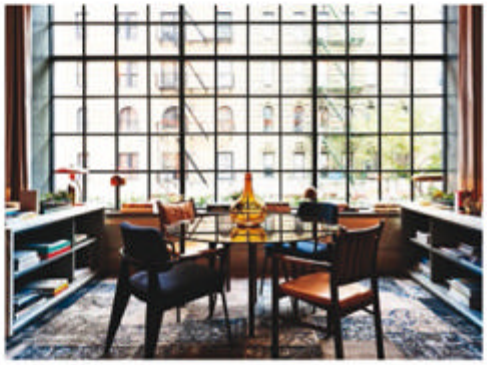




FIRED BY PASSION

Ceramic Art London is back for another year at the Royal College of Art. Held in association with *Ceramic Review*, it will exhibit work by 80 artists. Prices range from £30 to £10,000 and you'll find everything from functional homeware to ornamental sculptures. As well as work by celebrated names such as Peter Beard, Gabriele Koch and Annie Turner, there's a collection of pieces by emerging talents, a special exhibition by current RCA students and 'Discovery', a series of talks and film screenings. April 17–19 (ceramics.org.uk).







THE SWINGING SIXTY

The Sixty Soho hotel in New York (previously called 60 Thompson) has been redesigned by Tara Bernerd to feel like a 'home from home' in the city. Iron fencing frames the entrance, creating a European townhouse feel, and the suites feature handsome furniture and bespoke lacquer-and-leather bar cabinets. In the plush Gordon Bar and Sessanta Italian restaurant, the wood-panelled walls form a traditional backdrop to unique artworks by British artist Harland Miller. Doubles from £238 (sixtyhotels.com).

PICTURES: FRANCISCO DE ALMEIDA DIAS (IF THE SHOE FITS), ENZA TAMBORRA (CABINET RESHUFFLE)



MASTER STROKES

More than 100 watercolours by Eric Ravilious will be displayed at the Dulwich Picture Gallery this spring as part of a celebration of the artist's short but prolific career (he went missing in action in 1942 on a Royal Air Force mission off the coast of Iceland). A key figure in the revival of English watercolour painting, Ravilious was also known for his wood engravings. Famous pieces such as *Dangerous Work at Low Tide* (pictured) will be on show alongside paintings from private collections. April 1–August 31 (dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk).

MADE IN LEBANON

House of Today is a non-profit organisation founded by arts patron and entrepreneur Cherine Magrabi Tayeb that aims to promote Lebanese design. It currently represents about 30 creatives, most of them based in Beirut, whose work includes furniture, lighting and accessories – Tamara Barrage's vases (pictured) are a highlight. The designers' work will be shown at collectibles fair Design Days Dubai (March 16–20; designdaysdubai.ae); if, like us, you can't make it to Dubai, browse online instead (house-of-today.com).







DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Honour the occasion by enjoying a performance of *Alice's Adventures Underground*, an immersive theatre experience that takes place in The Vaults underneath Waterloo Station (April 2–May 31; the-vaults.org). As the story unfolds, you might find yourself taking tea with the Mad Hatter or meeting the Cheshire Cat.

Another entertaining note for your diary is 'The Alice Look' at the Museum of Childhood (May 2–November 1; museumofchildhood.org.uk). Focusing on Alice's style, the exhibition will feature photographs by Annie Leibovitz and book covers by Vivienne Westwood. Plus, there's a new work by Josie Smith, pattern cutter for Roksanda Ilincic, who will produce a 3D version of Alice's Wonderland outfit using fabric printed with text from the book.



MOORE'S METHOD

Henry Moore's monumental bronze sculptures often had humble beginnings, as 'Henry Moore: Wunderkammer – Origin of Forms' reveals. This exhibition at London's Gagosian Gallery recreates the studio in which the Yorkshire-born artist worked. Moore gathered natural objects – such as pebbles, shells, animal bones and bird skulls – while out walking and would display them in his workshop at Perry Green in Hertfordshire (which is now open to the public). Many of his finds were cast into plaster, and these maquettes served as the starting points for new sculptures. Moore's collections of natural ephemera will be shown alongside the drawings and scale models that they eventually inspired, offering a fresh insight into his working practices. Once you've seen the exhibition, walk the short distance to Berkeley Square, where two huge sculptures – *Relief No 1* (1959) and *Upright Motive No 9* (1979) – will be on display until May 29. 'Henry Moore: Wunderkammer – Origin of Forms' is open until April 2; Gagosian Gallery, 17–19 Davies Street, London W1 (gagosian.com).



Top British sculptor Henry Moore at work in his Hertfordshire studio, surrounded by his pieces and the ephemera that inspired them
Above A collection of maquettes, or small-scale plaster-cast models

PICTURES: PAUL ROBINS (DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE), JOHN HEDGECOE (MOORE'S METHOD, MAIN IMAGE), MIKE BRUCE/GAGOSIAN GALLERY/THE HENRY MOORE FOUNDATION (MOORE'S METHOD, DETAIL)





TRIBAL EXPOSURE

Photographer Jimmy Nelson has visited 31 tribes in 44 countries for his ongoing personal project 'Before They Pass Away'. On his travels he has encountered some of the world's most ancient and remote cultures, from the Goroka tribe in New Guinea (above) to the semi-nomadic Samburu tribe from northern Kenya. See the shots at 'Origins', a new group exhibition at the Heist gallery in West London. Images of indigenous peoples by other photographers are also on display, plus handmade artifacts from Africa and the Middle East. A rare insight into a disappearing world. March 5–April 30 (www.heist-online.com).

HALLS OF JEWELS

With more than 400 gems – divided into themes that include beauty, icons and function – on show across nine rooms designed by Patricia Urquiola, the Museo del Gioiello is a jewellery museum with Italian panache. Situated in Vicenza, its collections are displayed in cabinets made by Molteni & C. Plus, the shop sells a host of inspirational books (museodelgioiello.it).



PICTURE: COSMO AERA CHAIR, HALLS OF JEWELS

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ARCHITECTURAL ICON PILGRIMAGE CHURCH, GERMANY

Gottfried Böhm's Brutalist masterpiece demonstrates the beauty of concrete

Words **AMY BRADFORD**

'HIS HIGHLY EVOCATIVE HANDIWORK combines much that we have inherited from our ancestors with much that we have but newly acquired – an uncanny and exhilarating marriage,' read the jury citation when Gottfried Böhm was awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1986. It might have been referring to his Pilgrimage Church in Neviges, which skilfully echoes the traditional, steeply gabled architecture of this medieval German town, but does so quite unexpectedly in concrete.

Böhm, the son of an ecclesiastical architect, designed more than 60 places of worship; this one, consecrated in 1968, is his masterpiece. It is the second-largest church north of the Alps – only Cologne Cathedral is bigger. Its origins date back to the 17th century, when a dignitary claimed to have been healed by an image of the Virgin Mary in a Neviges chapel. By the 1950s, 300,000 pilgrims were visiting the town every year and it needed a bigger church. In 1959, the Archdiocese of Cologne launched an architecture competition that Böhm went on to win, partly because his was the only design that did not involve flattening the hillside site. Instead, he placed the church at the summit of a winding path. As people ascend, they can glimpse the building's jagged roof, which has been likened to a hood and a tent, fitting comparisons that suggest both a pilgrim's garb and shelter.



Inside, the geometric planes of the roof are equally impressive: resembling folds of fabric, they soar with as much majesty as any medieval gothic canopy. The building's concrete surfaces were cast against wood to create an organic texture, and bricks were embedded in the floor in circular patterns (pictured): a Modernist version of an inlaid marble pavement. Contemporary stained-glass windows inject colour; one depicts a red rose (roses are often associated with the Virgin Mary). Unlike in conventional churches, there are no rows of windows; instead, sunshine floods in through skylights.

Ninety-five-year-old Böhm aims to create connections between the old and the new, and here he certainly succeeded. The people of Neviges are said to be proud of their unusual landmark, a Brutalist building with an air of romance. Loher Strasse, 42553 Velbert, Germany (mariendom.de).

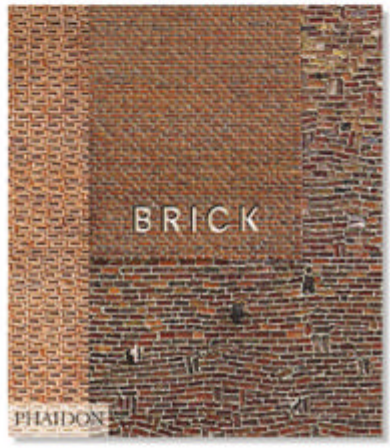
READING ROOM

Six of the best architecture books to read this month

Words **EMMA LOVE**



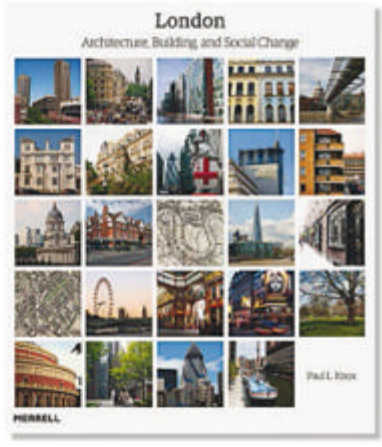
Furnitecture: Furniture that Transforms Space by Anna Yudina (Thames & Hudson, £14.95) explores the close relationship – and blurred boundaries – between design and architecture. Aspects covered include rooms within rooms, shelving systems (those in Aesop's Paris shop, for instance) and furniture, such as Muller van Severen's multifunctional pieces (pictured on cover).



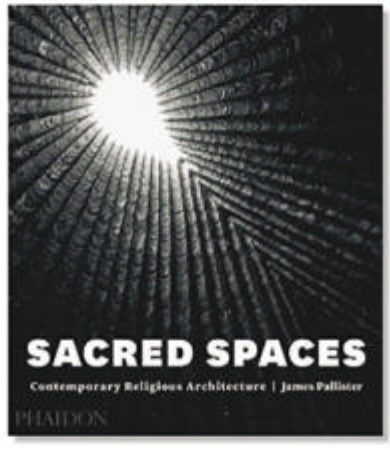
Brick by William Hall (out March 30; Phaidon, £29.95) is, as its title suggests, a celebration of a building material that is popular around the world, yet is often dismissed without much thought. A follow-up to *Concrete*, Hall's new coffee-table tome features almost 200 buildings dating from 3,000BC to the 21st century, among them spaces by Frank Lloyd Wright and Alvar Aalto.



Diego Villaseñor (out April 28; Rizzoli, £50) is filled with beautiful photographs of major works by the Mexican architect, who is renowned for designing buildings that play with light and shadow. The monograph – compiled by the architect himself – features private residential projects, plus stunning Four Seasons hotels in Mexico and the Dominican Republic.



London: Architecture, Building and Social Change by Paul L Knox (Merrell, £30) focuses on key events that have shaped London's skyline. 'The legacies of history have left every district [of London] with a distinctive cityscape and an instantly recognisable landscape,' he writes. The title explores a rich tapestry of areas in the capital, from Spitalfields and Wapping to the South Bank.



Sacred Spaces: Contemporary Religious Architecture by James Pallister (out April 27; Phaidon, £39.95) features unique places of worship, from a cardboard cathedral in New Zealand to a Modernist chapel on a Spanish hillside. For each of the 30 buildings, there are photographs, informative explanations about the design concept and architectural plans.



Le Corbusier: Ideas and Forms by historian and author William JR Curtis (out April 6; Phaidon, £100) is a revised and updated volume on the Modernist master architect, released to coincide with the 50th anniversary of his death. It has new photography and four additional chapters on the continuation of Le Corbusier's legacy, penned by today's architects.

STOCKHOLM IN THE SPRING

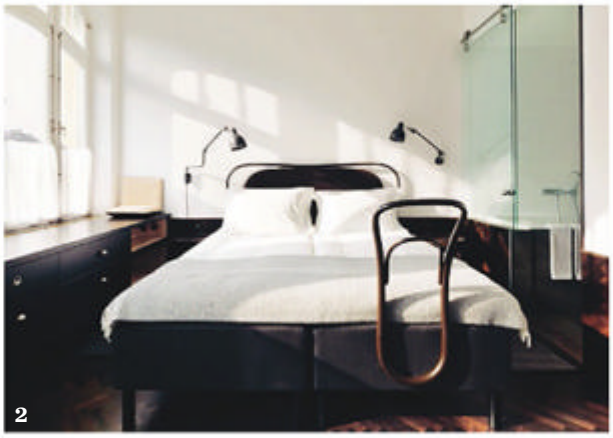
In this month's travel guide, we explain why now is the best time to explore the Swedish capital

Words **EMMA LOVE**

WITH STUNNING ARCHITECTURE, an archipelago formed of about 30,000 rocky islands and a typically Scandinavian design scene, Stockholm is perfect for a weekend break – especially now that temperatures are slowly starting to rise. If you can, time your trip to coincide with *Valborgsmässoafton* (Walpurgis Night) – an ancient pagan custom that involves lighting bonfires on the last evening of April – and head for the open-air Skansen museum for traditional celebrations and fireworks that light up the night sky. When the festivities are over, here's what else you can do in the waterfront city.




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WHERE TO STAY

❶ STORY HOTEL
Specially commissioned graffiti in the courtyard, vintage doors repurposed as headboards in the bedrooms, concrete floors and exposed brick walls: it's easy to see why this hotel has a cool reputation. Once a hangout for artists, its new additions include crockery by local ceramicist Agneta Livijn and the Story shop, which sells homeware. *Doubles from £127; Riddargaten 6, 114 35 (storyhotels.com)*

❷ MISS CLARA
Named after Clara Stromberg, the headmistress of the girls' school that once occupied this site in the Norrmalm district, Miss Clara is now a 92-room design hotel. Housed in an Art Nouveau building with a layout that was reconfigured by local architect Gert Winghårdh, it features parquet floors, white walls and marble bathrooms. Home-cured herring is on the traditional buffet breakfast menu. *Doubles from £127; Sveavägen 48, 113 34 (missclarahotel.com)*

ETT HEM
With interiors by Ilse Crawford, this smart Arts and Crafts townhouse feels like a home away from home. Typically Swedish materials such as oak, Gotland stone and sheepskin adorn the 12 rooms (the suites also have king-size beds and marble bathrooms) and chill-out zones include a library, a courtyard garden and a traditional Swedish sauna. *Doubles from £305; Sköldungagatan 2, 114 27 (etthem.se)*

HOTEL J
A short ferry ride from central Stockholm, Hotel J has a nautical vibe with oak furniture and a red, white and blue colour scheme; think laid-back living on the water's edge. There are harbour views, a brasserie restaurant with a terrace and a gentlemen's club-style bar. *Doubles from £127; Ellensviksvägen 1, 131 28 (hotelj.com)*

WHERE TO SHOP

❸ BETONGGRUVAN
The premise behind this shop is clear: simple stuff for the home that gets more beautiful with wear. The practical products range from utilitarian brushes to marble candleholders. *Sveavägen 133, 113 46 (betonggruvan.se)*

BRANDSTATIONEN
A treasure trove of vintage furniture, lighting and decorative objects, housed in a former fire station. *Hornsgaten 64, 118 21 (herrjudit.se)*

LOTTA AGATON
Agaton, an interiors stylist, picks gorgeous homeware to sell in her eponymous shop. *Rådmansgatan 7, 114 25 (lottaagaton.se)*

SVENSKT TENN
An interior design company with a strong craft aesthetic. Look out for cabinets, lighting and fabrics. *Strandvägen 5, 114 51 (svenskttebb.se)* ➤



A quiet corner
Sit back and relax in Ett Hem hotel's peaceful courtyard

PICTURES: GETTY / FLICKR VISION (OPPOSITE); FELIX ODELL (MISS CLARA); ELIN STRÖMBERG (BETONGGRUVAN)



4



5



WHERE TO DINE

THE GREEN RABBIT BAKERY

Michelin-starred chefs Martin Berg and Mathias Dahlgren created their own take on the traditional *fika* (the Swedish term for a coffee break) when they opened this bakery in Vasastan. The focus is on rye bread – from sesame to *svedje*, an old recipe using Nordic grain – but the menu also includes open sandwiches and tasty raspberry muffins. *Tegnérgatan 17, 111 40 (greenrabbit.se)*

4 OAXEN KROG & SLIP

Marine-inspired twin restaurants Oaxen Krog, a Michelin-starred fine dining room, and Slip, a casual bistro, sit side by side in a corrugated metal building on the island of Djurgården. Choose either six or ten courses at Oaxen Krog (try the herb-filled langoustine); at Slip, where the food is hearty, we recommend the ginger-baked pork belly. *Beckholmsvägen 26, 115 21 (oaxen.com)*

FARANG

Eating at Farang is an exotic journey through Southeast Asia for your taste buds; the menu includes dishes such as Vietnamese-style sushi, Thai curries and softshell crab. The main dining room is sleek and minimalist, with subdued lighting, wooden tables and concrete floors. Arrive early and sip a Singapore Sling at the bar before your meal. *Tulegatan 7, 113 53 (farang.se)*

5 MATHIAS DAHLGREN AT THE GRAND HOTEL

Dahlgren is the mastermind of two restaurants at the Grand Hotel: Matsalen, which is good for fine dining, and Matbaren, an informal bistro. Both were designed by Ilse Crawford. The highlight of the former is a gilded screen by Studio Job, while in the latter, there are 'Storängen' chairs by Mårten Cyrén for Pyra and lights by Jørn Utzon. *Södra Blasieholmshamnen 8, 103 27 (grandhotel.se)*

WHERE TO GO

GAMLA STAN

Dating back to the 13th century, Stockholm's bustling old town is characterised by charming cobbled alleys and colourful buildings. Attractions include the Royal Palace and Stortorget (the 'Big Square').

6 DJURGÅRDEN

The green island of Djurgården (the 'Game Park') is a short ferry ride or a walk away from Gamla Stan. After a Sunday stroll along the canal, head to the cafe inside the old greenhouses at Rosendals Garden (rosendalstradgard.se) for lunch, where delicacies are made at the on-site bakery.

7 SÖDERMALM

For a mix of vintage stores, fashion boutiques and independent galleries, trendy Södermalm (nicknamed SoFo) is the place to be. Divide your time equally between the main shopping streets: Fjällgatan, Monteliusvägen and Hornsgatspuckeln.



Hot wheels

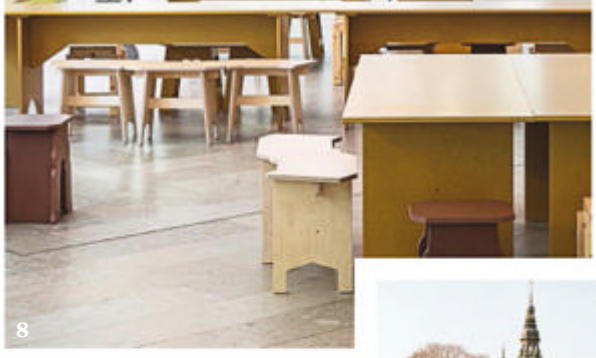
The best way to explore Stockholm is by bike: take an organised tour with Bike Sweden (bikesweden.se)


8




8


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9

Stockholm's landscape is a rich mix of historic architecture and contemporary buildings


8

WHAT TO SEE

8 A TRIO OF MUSEUMS

Visit the Moderna Museet to see pieces by Picasso, Dalí and Matisse (Exercisplan 4, 111 49; modernamuseet.se); the Nordiska Museet, which displays examples of Swedish furniture from the 16th century onwards (Djurgårdsvägen 6–16, 115 93; nordiskamuseet.se); and Gustavsbergs Porslinsfabrik, Sweden's only porcelain factory (Chamottevägen 2, 134 40; gustavsbergsporslinsfabrik.se).

9 THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

The Kungliga Operan has been Sweden's national venue for opera and ballet for more than 240 years. Take a backstage tour to visit the royal rooms and peer into the orchestra pit. This spring, the programme includes *Othello*, *The Magic Flute* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. *Gustav Adolfs Torg, 103 22 (operan.se)*

THE ROYAL PALACE

The King's residence in Gamla Stan is an imposing baroque-style building designed by architect Nicodemus Tessin. You can visit the Royal Apartments, the Treasury and the Kronor Museum – it's worth taking a guided tour to learn about the palace's medieval history. *Slottsbacken 1, 111 30 (kungahuset.se)*

SKANSEN

This open-air museum charts five centuries of Swedish history. There's also a zoo – go in spring and the brown bears will be out of hibernation. *Djurgårdsslätten 49–51, 115 21 (skansen.se)*

THE ULTIMATE ABBA EXPERIENCE

Immerse yourself in the story of Sweden's most famous pop band; there's a chance to see costumes, records and memorabilia. *Djurgårdsvägen 68, 115 21 (abbathemuseum.com)* ED



1 Ett Hem
2 Miss Clara
3 Gamla Stan
4 Moderna Museet
5 Skansen
6 Djurgården
7 Södermalm

PICTURES: PHOTONONSTOP/GETTY (BICYCLES), MODERN MUSEET/ÅSA LUNDÉ (MODERNA MUSEET, 8 TOP AND CENTRE), ALAMY (9)



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'The Last Emperor' is also available in a bronze colour scheme.
Have a closer look at **www.scandinaviansurface.com**
Scandinavian Surface mural designs are to be found in public spaces and private homes all over the world. The designers are: Åsne Midtgarden, Ann-Tove Engenes, Kristine Dybwad and Elisabeth Ellefsen. Order at **www.photowall.co.uk** (or the webshop for your country) and check out their remarkable customer service!



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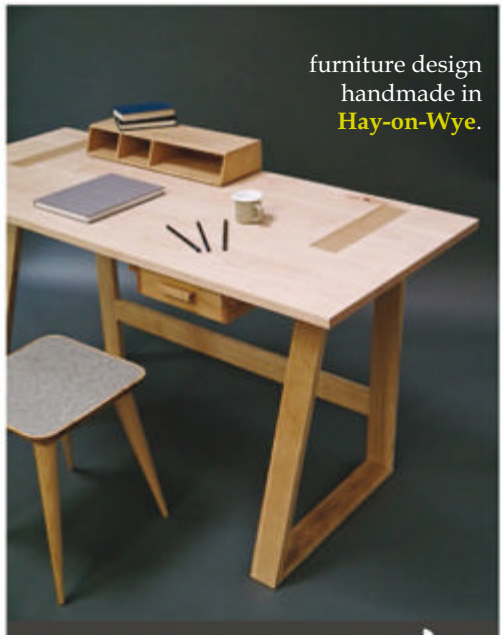
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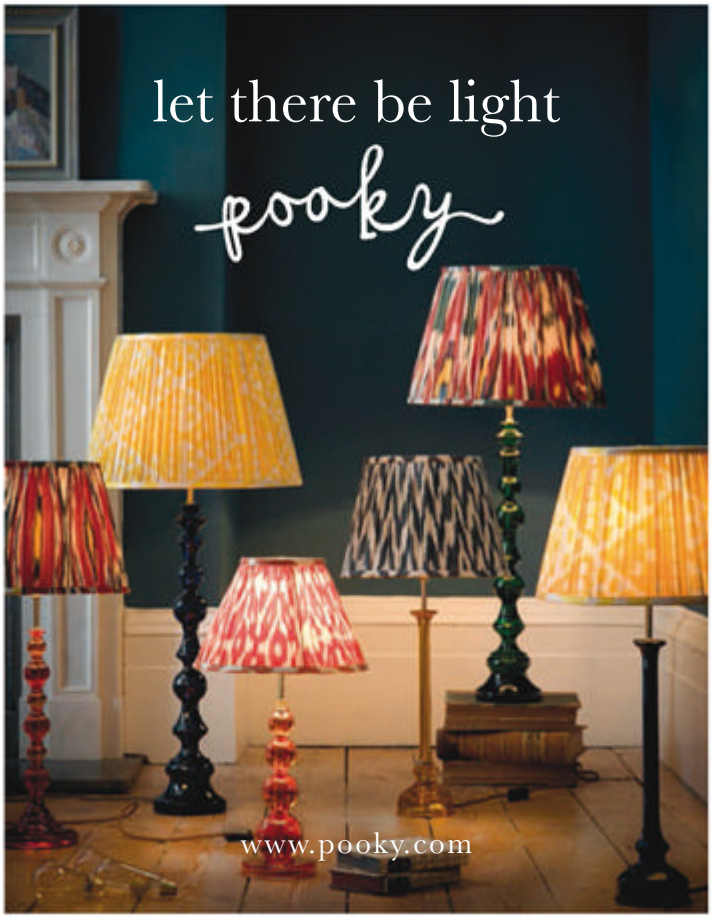


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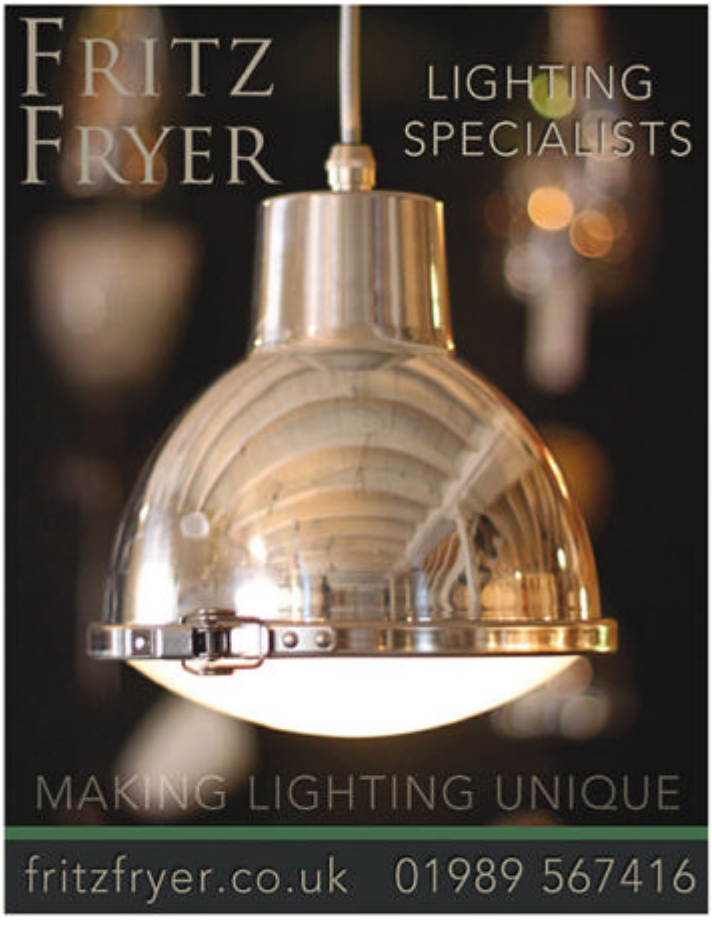
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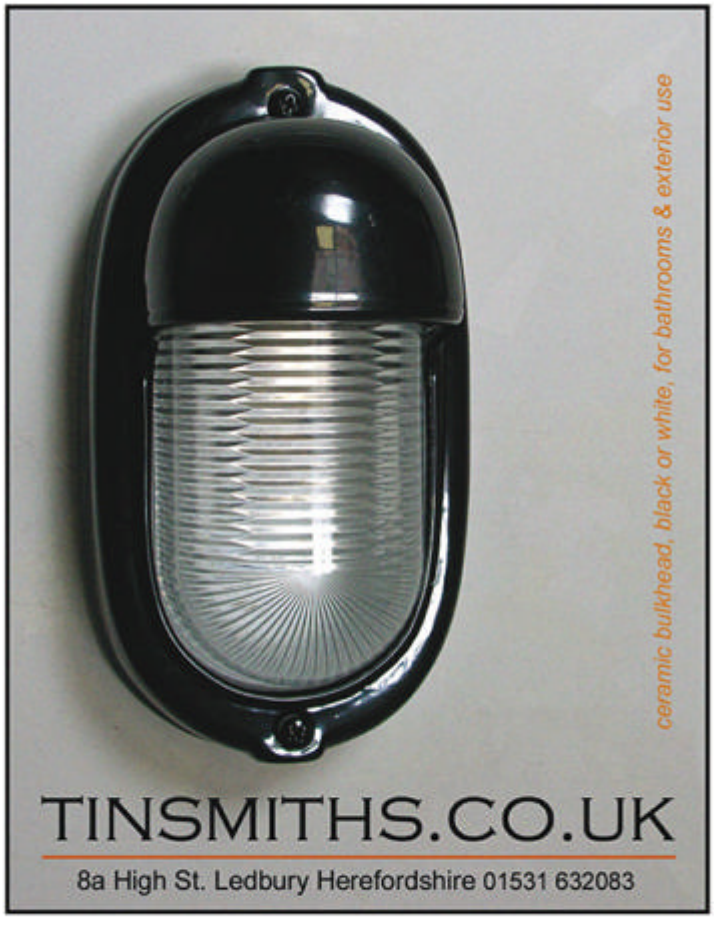
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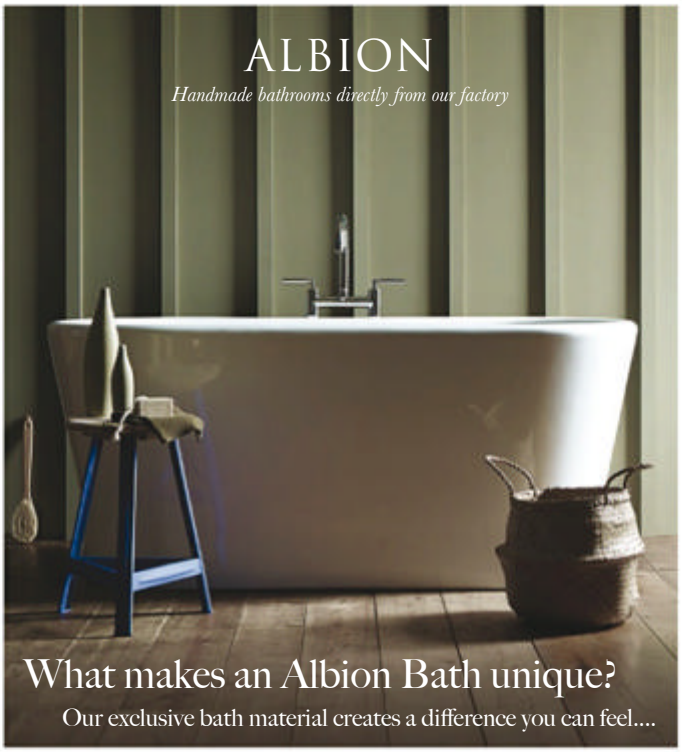


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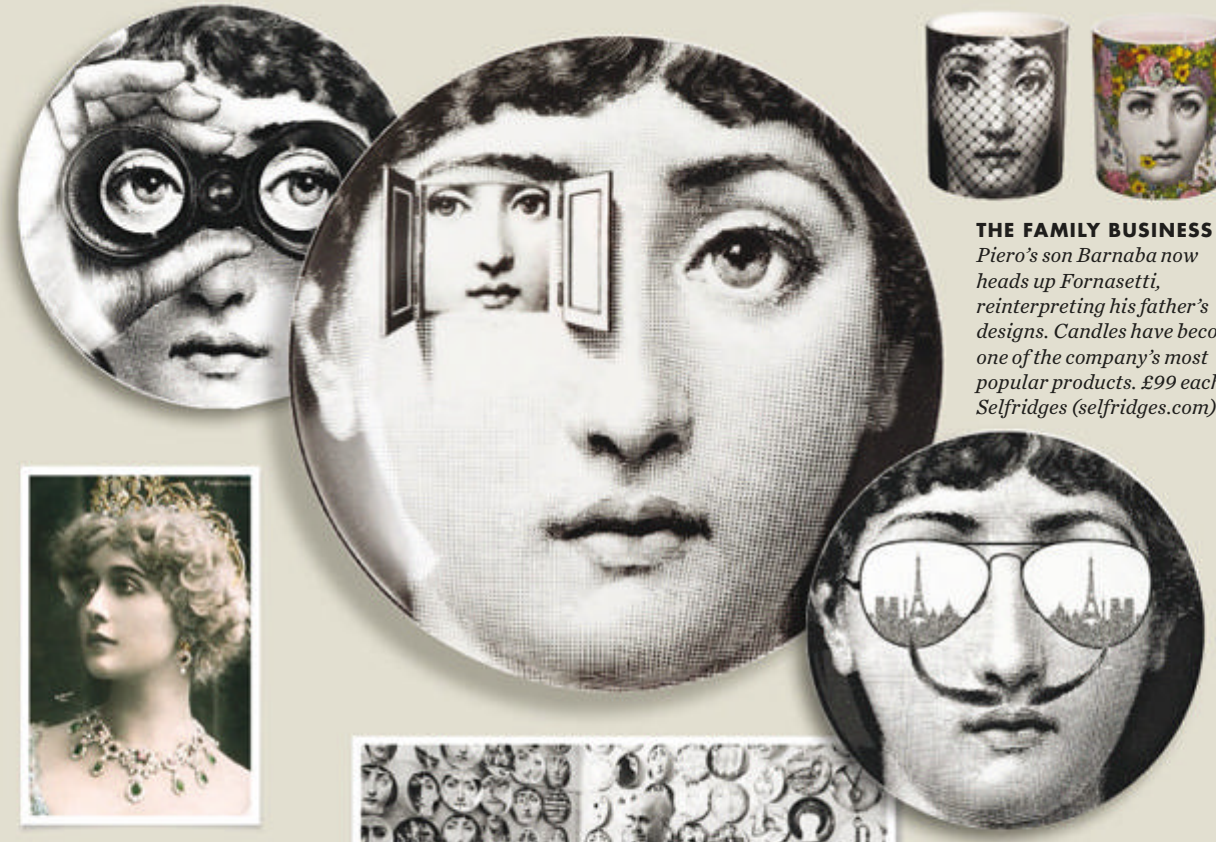
10. 'Tema e Variazioni' plate by Fornasetti

Words **JAMES WILLIAMS**

Piero Fornasetti (1913–1988) was a designer in the broadest sense of the word. He was not just an artist, but also a painter, printer and decorator – a true 'style creator', as architect Andrea Branzi described him in 2010. Fornasetti's father wanted him to be an accountant, but he rebelled by going to study drawing at Milan's Brera Academy. 'I was born a painter,' he once said. Fornasetti was expelled from the Academy for refusing to draw from photographs, but went on to establish himself as a graphic designer, working with luminaries such as Giò Ponti and Elsa Schiaparelli. Ponti became one of Fornasetti's biggest supporters, collaborating with him on his first furniture collection, 'Architettura' (1951).

The 'Tema e Variazioni' (Themes and Variations) collection (1950–1988), commonly known as the 'face plates', is Fornasetti's most famous series of works. Handpainted at the Fornasetti Atelier in Milan, the porcelain designs feature an ever-evolving set of images of the visage of one woman: 19th-century Italian opera singer Lina Cavalieri. Whatever it was that sparked Fornasetti's interest in Cavalieri, it wasn't her celebrity status. Perhaps it was her classical good looks, a gift for any artist, that attracted him. He saw her face as an archetype, not unlike an ancient Greek statue.

Fornasetti created more than 11,000 pieces using Cavalieri's likeness, with the collection attaining classic status as functional art for the home. Many of the designs – applied to chairs, trays, crockery and, more recently, candles – include witty, surreal touches that have added to their timeless appeal (fornasetti.com).



THE FAMILY BUSINESS
Piero's son Barnaba now heads up Fornasetti, reinterpreting his father's designs. Candles have become one of the company's most popular products. £99 each, Selfridges (selfridges.com).

THE MUSE
Fornasetti discovered a sketch of Lina Cavalieri in an old newspaper. 'What inspired me to create more than 500 versions of the face of a woman?' he once asked. 'I don't know. I began to make them and I never stopped.'



FIND OUT MORE
'Piero Fornasetti: The Practical Madness' at Les Arts Décoratifs, Paris, will put more than 1,000 pieces of Fornasetti's work on display (March 11–June 14). Plus, Thames & Hudson is publishing a book to accompany the exhibition (out April, £50). ED

PICTURE: REDFERNS (THE MUSE)

SKANDIUM



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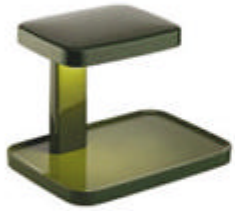
1 Cushion by Mari Isopahkala & Tanja Sipilä for Woodnotes **2** PH5 by Poul Henningsen for Woodnotes **3** Sarjaton series by Harri Koskinen & Musuta for Iittala **4** Grace One by Eva Schildt for Studio Skandium **5** London lantern by Lara Bohinc for Skultuna **6** Supernova bowl by Rebecca Uth for Georg Jensen **7** Suisto fabric by Erja Hirvi for Marimekko **8** Executive chair by Eero Saarinen for Knoll **9** Koppel wall clock by ATWTP for Georg Jensen **10** Albini desk by Franco Albini for Knoll **11** Ruutu vases by Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec for Iittala **12** Essay table by Cecilie Manz for Fritz Hansen **13** Ro chair by Jaime Hayon for Fritz Hansen **14** Flute thermal mugs by Hans Christian Gjedde for Royal Copenhagen **15** IC S1 pendant light by Michael Anastassiades for Flos **16** Panorama rug by Ritva Puotila for Woodnotes **17** Piani table lamp by Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec for Flos **18** Merivuokko cushion by Kustaa Saksi for Marimekko **19** At Ease sofa by Daniel Schofield for Studio Skandium



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Modern Monochrome

Monochrome is a trend which never goes out of fashion, this Hogarth sofa is accented by dark piping, while dark casegoods in solid wood, fresh accessories and original artwork bring a sense of character to this space.



The Alexander Range

The Sofa & Chair Company's Alexander Range gives the heritage look a new lease of life, by incorporating modern themes and cutting edge design techniques. The pulled stitch effect on the backrest of the seating will always make a statement, but never date.



ANTIQUES

Places to source a piece of history

1ST DIBS
This online marketplace connecting people, shops and galleries in the art and antiques trade began with a few dealers whom founder Michael Bruno had encountered at legendary Parisian antiques market Marché Aux Puces. Today, it is a brilliant place to find rare pieces.
(1stdibs.com)

APPS

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Five professional tools – plumb bob, surface level, spirit level, protractor and ruler – are combined in this app. No more excuses for not getting round to hanging those pictures, then.
Available via Google Play and the App Store (ihandysoft.com)

INTERIOR DESIGN FOR IPAD
Requiring very little technical know-how, this app allows users to create floorplans in 2D and 3D, drag and drop objects within a layout, move walls and customise surfaces or furniture. We still advocate calling in the experts for big projects, but this is a good way to kickstart the creative process.
Available via the App Store (interior-design-ipad.com)

MAGPIE BY CONRAN
If you, like us, are obsessive about scrapbooking, you'll love this tool; it enables you to collate photos, videos and audio clips, and then print them out as moodboards.
Available via the App Store

MY PANTONE
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Available via Google Play and the App Store (pantone.co.uk)

ART

The best places to buy prints, paintings and bespoke creations

BASED UPON
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4–7 Swan Road, London SE18 (basedupon.com)

CCA GALLERIES
A great source of inexpensive, limited-edition framed prints, CCA Galleries sells pieces by leading artists who include Sir Peter Blake, Bruce McLean and Donald Hamilton Fraser. Buy online or by appointment at its Surrey exhibition space.
Beech Studios, Greenhills Estate, Tilford Road, Tilford GU10 (ccagalleries.com)



An antique curio from 1st Dibs



'Sunbury Antiques Market and **Ardingly Antiques Fair** may be two of the antiques world's worst-kept secrets, but I have been visting them to source props for years. Get there as the doors open for the best bargains'
Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East, Sunbury on Thames TW16 (sunburyantiques.com); South of England Showground, Ardingly RH17 (iacf.co.uk/ardingly)
SUZANNE STANKUS, STYLIST

COUNTER EDITIONS
This art-retailing website, which also has a gallery space in London, sells exclusive limited-edition prints by famous contemporary artists such as Tracey Emin, Martin Creed and Jake and Dinos Chapman.
29 Charlotte Road, London EC2 (countereditions.com)



'The Japanese Gallery sells wonderful prints from as little as £10, making it a great place to pick up gifts. Choose from 18th- and 19th-century reproductions, or original works starting from £75'
23 Camden Passage, London N1 (japanesegallery.co.uk)
EMMA KAY, SHOPPING EDITOR, ELLE DECORATION

NEW BLOOD ART
Founded by Sarah Ryan, this online gallery showcases original artwork by creatives who are at an early stage in their careers. As its artists are still relatively unknown, there's real investment potential if one of your picks hits the big time.
(newbloodart.com)

SIGNED AND ORIGINAL
This shop sells signed, authentic artworks – from vintage playing cards to 1920s portraits – found at flea markets and charity shops.
The Peoples Hall, 2 Olaf Street, London W11 (signedandoriginal.com)

PICTURE: ALAMY (LETTER)



INSIDER GUIDE

*Design writer **Dominic Bradbury** selects his top three British architecture practices that everyone should know about*

Anthony Hudson, founder of the award-winning **Hudson Architects**, is based in Norfolk and London, just as I am. I have known him and his work for a decade or so. His country houses, in particular, are sublime and full of ideas. Each project is thoughtful, as well as being extremely expressive in terms of the materials used.
9–10 Redwell Street, Norwich NR2 (hudsonarchitects.co.uk)

I have loved James Gorst's work ever since I visited Whithurst Lodge in West Sussex, which he designed. It's a beautifully crafted country house with a deep sense of connection to the landscape. His practice, **James Gorst Architects**, specialises in the sensitive conservation and restoration of listed buildings and the design of new homes.
The House of Detention, Clerkenwell Close, London EC1 (jamesgorstarchitects.co.uk)

One of the most accomplished and intelligent English architects working today, the eponymous founder of **John Pardey Architects** never repeats himself stylistically. His houses are full of life and vitality (see one of his sketches below), and always relate to their surroundings in a considered manner. If I had the budget to build a house, John would certainly come high up on my wish list of architects.
Beck Farm Studio, St Leonards Road, Lymington SO41 (johnpardeyarchitects.com)





ARTISTS' MATERIALS

Everything you need to kickstart that creative project

L CORNELISSEN
Visit this store – whose history goes back to 1855 – for pigments, paints, gilding and restoration materials, and specialist products for techniques such as enamel lettering and patinating.
105 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (cornelissen.com)

TIRANTI
A superb shop that supplies tools to sculptors, modelmakers, stonecarvers, specialist plasterers, furniture restorers and ceramicists.
27 Warren Street, London W1 (tiranti.co.uk)

AUCTIONS

Keep a cool head and bid to win

CRITERION
Discover art, antiques and contemporary furnishings at this auction house's two locations.
53 Essex Road, London N1; 41–47 Chatfield Road, London SW11 (criterionauctioneers.com)

LOTS ROAD AUCTIONS
Visit this Chelsea venue on a Sunday for its two weekly sales: one focusing on furniture and the other on antiques, art and rugs.
71 Lots Road, London SW10 (lotsroad.com)

MORPHETS
This is one of the top regional auctioneers; the evening bazaar sales are great for vintage linen.
6 Albert Street, Harrogate HG1 (morphets.co.uk)



LOCAL **HOTSPOTS**

*Interior designer Kelly Hoppen divulges her secret **West London** sources*




2

My go-to place for furniture, accessories, fabric and lighting, **Birgit Israel** ❶ has an extensive range of exquisite handmade pieces.
251–253 Fulham Road, London SW3 (birgitisrael.com)


3



If you need to source extra-special antiques, furniture or lighting, **Dorian Caffot de Fawes** ❷ is your man. He helped me to find a stunning sculpture and an exquisite chandelier for a client: I highly recommend him.
(dorian-antiques.com)

For the best collection of made-to-order wall and floor coverings, I always go to **MM Design** ❸. The team works with select weaving mills and designers to create textiles that combine unusual materials such as long-fibre sisal and raffia. Each of the products is like a work of art.
1 Fairbank Studios, 75–81 Burnaby Street, London SW10 (mmdesigntextiles.com)


1

Talisman stocks a covetable collection of vintage furniture. Whether I'm looking for a bespoke cabinet or unique seating, I always find the most fabulous items and am astounded by the choice available.
79–91 New King's Road, London SW6 (talismanlondon.com)

PICTURES: ALAMY (KING'S ROAD, HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE), ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL (BIRGIT ISRAEL)



BATHS

Discover heritage-style tubs and handcrafted teak models

THE WATER MONOPOLY
This is a great place to go for freestanding bath tubs. It stocks original vintage pieces and faithful reproductions: think copper bateau baths, plus skirted and claw-footed styles. There's also a good range of taps, cisterns and basins available that are all inspired by early 20th-century designs.
10–14 Lonsdale Road, London NW6 (thewatermonopoly.com)



'The Bathroom Discount Centre in London's Fulham, though unassuming, is a fantastic source of knowledge. It's great for ordering products direct from suppliers, all at brilliant prices'
297 Munster Road, London SW6; 27 Carnwath Road, London SW6 (bathdisc.co.uk)
CARMEL ALLEN, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, HEAL'S

WILLIAM GARVEY
Bring the warmth of wood into the bathroom with a statement tub. Garvey makes all of his designs out of teak – a wood that is used extensively for boat decks – which is naturally water-resistant and antiseptic. Each piece is crafted with care at the designer's idyllic Devonshire workshop.
Leyhill, Honiton EX14 (williamgarvey.co.uk)

BEDDING

Soft linens and feather-filled duvets for a dreamy night's sleep

SOAK AND SLEEP
For high-quality bedding without the mark-up, check out this well-stocked online store. The website has everything from pillows to toppers in a range of fillings such as feather, down, silk and anti-allergen options.
(soakandsleep.com)

THE FEATHER COMPANY
This family business specialises in feather- and down-filled bedding and cushions. As well as buying standard sizes, you can send in your preferred measurements and density for a custom-made product.
36 Canaan Lane, Edinburgh EH10 (thefeathercompany.com)



Soak and Sleep

BLOGS

Online inspiration for interiors addicts and style mavens

DECOR8
Interior designer, stylist and author Holly Becker is something of a legend in the blogosphere. Founded in 2006 as an offshoot of her design studio, the Decor8 blog is jam-packed with creative ideas, expert decorating tips, shopping news and glimpses inside beautiful houses from around the world.
(decor8blog.com)

DECORENVY
Calling itself 'a scrapbook for interiors ideas and inspiration', this is an easy-to-navigate site that showcases design trends, artisan creations and new pieces. It's particularly strong on DIY ideas, with projects ranging from the simple to the more ambitious.
(decorenvy.co.uk)

BLOGS

Continued...

EMS DESIGNBLOGG
We've been avid followers of Stockholm-based stylist Emma Fexeus's blog since it launched in 2005, so we were delighted when she officially entered the international ELLE Decoration family this year, co-branding her site with our sister title in Sweden. The blog is an inexhaustible source of design and decorating inspiration. ***(em.elledecoration.se)***



Modern homeware from Holly's House (see opposite page)

LOCAL MILK
This is a beautiful blog by stylist, photographer and foodie Beth Kirby. 'The pictures will make you swoon; the recipes always have me reaching for my linen apron and enamelled cookware,' says stylist Amanda Smith-Corston. ***(localmilkblog.com)***

OLLIE AND SEB'S HAUS
Deborah Gordon's background in design and visual merchandising has given her an eye for inspiring photography. We'd describe her style as monochrome minimal, as seen in the shots of her white-walled family home in Glasgow. ***(ollieandsebshaus.co.uk)***

BOOKSHOPS

Independent stores for browsing beautiful design tomes

ARTWORDS
A specialist in visual arts books, this shop is full of beautiful reads. Plus, if you're a magazine fiend, you'll love the range of arty titles. ***20–22 Broadway Market, London E8 (artwords.co.uk)***

POTTERTON BOOKS
Founder Clare Jameson has an encyclopaedic knowledge of books on design and architecture, and can track down titles that aren't in stock. ***The Old Rectory, Thirsk YO7 (pottertonbooks.co.uk)***

MY SOURCEBOOK

Stylist, art director and creative consultant ***Laura Fulmine*** *has worked with prestigious clients such as Modus and Ercol, so she knows exactly where to go to get things done*



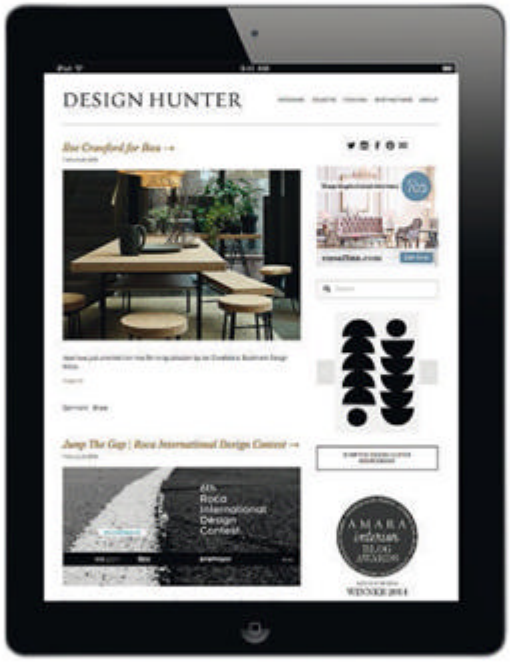
1 Furniture dealers Sophie Pearce and Augustus Greaves have founded a beautiful gallery, **Béton Brut**, in London's Hackney Wick. Open by appointment, it has a fantastic stock, such as the 'FM60 Cube' chair (pictured). ***30 Felstead Street, London E9 (betonbrut.co.uk)***

2 Try **East London Finishing** for spray-painting services. The company works with interior designers and artists to give a smart finish to everything from lights to cupboard doors. ***(eastlondonfinishing.com)***

3 Best known for building sets and making props for photoshoots and window displays, **East Productions** also produces bespoke furniture. ***32 North Street, Lewes BN7 (eastproductions.co.uk)***

4 If you have lighting that needs a little love, I'd recommend the wonderful **Jolene Farmer**, who can rewire, repair, restore or refinish your lights using methods that include gilding and lacquering. ***69a Southgate Road, London N1 (jolenefarmer.com)***

5 Want a fabulous furniture maker who'll do bespoke commissions? Try **Simon Jones**, whose projects span architecture, interiors and installation design. He has previously created an exhibition to commemorate 150 years of the London Underground and a pop-up shop for Studio Voltaire. ***115 Bartholomew Road, London NW5 (simonjonesstudio.com)***



'I often browse **Design Hunter**, the award-winning blog by freelance writer and editor Helen Powell. It covers interiors, architecture, fashion, property and travel. From stylish homes to beautiful objects, it focuses on designs that have an understated, contemporary aesthetic' ***(designhunter.co.uk)***

FRANCES HEDGES, DIGITAL EDITOR, ELLE DECORATION



Alex Eagle's boutique in West London

RICHARD BOOTH'S BOOKSHOP

Browse the titles at this Hay-on-Wye shop, enjoy cake in its cafe, and then sip a glass of wine while watching a film in the cinema.
44 Lion Street, Hay-on-Wye HR3 (boothbooks.co.uk)

SÉRENDIPITÉ

This Swiss online store sells specialist titles on subjects ranging from fashion and design to crafts and travel. There's also a lovely stationery range.
(serendipite.ch)

BEST FOR
BOOKBINDING
Shepherds
30 Gillingham Street, London SW1 (bookbinding.co.uk)

BOUTIQUES

You'll find yourself lingering in these beautifully curated spaces

ALEX EAGLE

This eponymous shop represents a new breed of experiential retail. The owner, whose background is in brand management for luxury fashion labels, curates fashion, art and design pieces that echo the look of the stunning space **she previously created in Soho House Berlin.**
91 Walton Street, London SW3 (alexeagle.co.uk)

DINOSAUR DESIGNS

Australia-based design duo Louise Olsen and Stephen Ormandy have opened a shop at Kit Kemp's new London retreat, Ham Yard Hotel. Here, they sell striking handmade resin bowls, vases and jewellery in bold hues. A colourful edit that's worth a look.
35 Great Windmill Street, London W1 (firmdalehotels.com; dinosaurdesigns.com)

EGG

Owner Maureen Doherty has worked with Japanese fashion designer Issey Miyake and was one of the first people to exhibit Edmund de Waal's ceramics. The emphasis in this small mews shop is on the clothes, but Doherty does stock the occasional handcrafted item of homeware. The store itself is as much of a draw as the products, from the packaging to the gorgeous smell of Japanese incense that permeates the shop.
36 Kinnerton Street, London SW1 (eggtrading.com)

HOLLY'S HOUSE

Situated on a tranquil street near leafy Parsons Green, this store has a carefully selected range of homeware and accessories, from furniture and lighting to textiles and accessories such as hooks and handles. There's a nice line of jewellery and stationery, too.
283 New King's Road, London SW6 (hollys-house.com)



'Set in a 1920s Edwin Lutyens building revamped by interior designer Guy Oliver, **Maison Assouline** isn't so much a bookshop as a temple for books. Assouline's coffee-table tomes are among the most covetable in the world; combine them with luxurious relaxation zones, cabinets of curiosities and a bar and you have a bibliophile's paradise'
196a Piccadilly, London W1 (assouline.com)
AMY BRADFORD, FEATURES DIRECTOR, ELLE DECORATION

PICTURES: OLIMPIA CASTELLINI BALDISSERA (MAISON ASSOULINE)

BOUTIQUES

Continued...

LITTLE PARIS
London's Crouch End has an array of design shops, including this quaint vintage emporium. Run by its French owner Hélène, the store sources all of its period wares directly from Parisian markets.
39 Park Road, London N8 (littleparis.co.uk)

MONOLOGUE
Interior designer Pavel Klimczak founded Monologue in September 2014. Taking pride in showcasing new creative talent, the shop sells a selection of homeware, art and fashion accessories. The space is constantly being reinvented, with installations appearing each week.
93 Redchurch Street, London E2 (monologuelondon.com)

NEOM
Relax in the stress-relieving environment of Neom's first store, which is located in London's Wimbledon Village. Aside from selling the company's all-natural products, it offers talks and classes on subjects such as fitness, along with pampering treatments.
38a High Street, London SW19 (neomorganics.com)

NOM LIVING
Visit this shop for textiles and ceramic pieces that have been handcrafted by Vietnamese and Cambodian artisans.
9 Newell Street, London E14 (nomliving.com)

SIEGLE & CO
Ben Siegle opened his eponymous store to celebrate the talents of Devon's craftspeople. Situated on Dartmouth's historic Smith Street, the shop focuses on handmade goods, from leather to furniture. 'None of these pieces are mass-produced,' says Siegle. 'Each one involves thousands of hours of work and requires great skill.'
2 Smith Street, Dartmouth TQ6 (siegleandco.co.uk)

BEST FOR
ONLINE BOUTIQUE BUYS
L'Arcobaleno
(arcobaleno.com)



INSIDER GUIDE

*ELLE Decoration's associate features editor **Emma Love** shares her pick of the places to view and buy original crafts*

A dealer worth knowing in the capital is **Adrian Sassoon,** who sells lovely contemporary and antique ceramics, glass, metalwork and wooden creations.
14 Rutland Gate, London SW7 (adriansassoon.com)

The ideal way to buy craft pieces is to meet the makers first, which is why I love **Cockpit Arts**. Its Open Studios' arts trails, held across the UK, are great for watching new artisans in action.
Cockpit Yard, Northington Street, London WC1 (cockpitarts.com)

For modern and classic pottery, I recommend the **Joanna Bird** gallery, which represents ceramicists such as Pippin Drysdale and Halima Cassell.
19 Grove Park Terrace, London W4 (joannabird.com)

I came across **The Cold Press Gallery** during London Design Week, but it has a permanent base in Holt, Norfolk. The team look after a host of international artists, whose work is often shown in group exhibitions: go for prints, ceramics, vessels and exquisite etchings.
18–20 Albert Street, Holt NR25 (thecoldpress.com)

One of the best craft spaces around, **The New Craftsmen** in Mayfair sells beautifully made pieces that include ceramics by Billy Lloyd, furniture by Gareth Neal and glass by Michael Ruh. The owners are very good at encouraging unexpected collaborations, so you never know what you might find.
34 North Row, London W1 (thenewcraftsmen.com)



CERAMICS

Where to browse and buy original, handcrafted pieces

GALLERY ECLECTIC
Visit this venue in London's Marylebone for a selection of unusual, hand-painted ceramics and one-off works by a range of new and established artisans.
66 Marylebone High Street, London W1 (eclectic66.co.uk)

WILLER
From tableware and lighting to *objets d'art,* the products on offer here are pricey but exquisitely tasteful. The gallery offers a bespoke service to help you select (or even commission) the perfect display piece for your home.
12–14 Holland Street, London W8 (willer.co.uk)

CURTAINS

Add colour and warmth with these brands' bespoke creations

NEST DESIGN
Lucy Bathurst, founder of Nest Design, has been commissioned to create curtains and blinds for well-known individuals and spaces, including the new Spring restaurant at Somerset House. She specialises in reinventing vintage fabrics, such as lace and tapestry, to create curtains, blinds, headboards and cushions. 'She may be my sister, but she really is talented and it's not just me who thinks so,' says ELLE Decoration's photography director Flora Bathurst.
(nestdesign.co.uk)

MY SOURCEBOOK

***Jess Seaton**, co-founder of clothing and homeware emporium Toast, shares her favourite design destinations*



1 I loved the concept of **Botany** (pictured) so much that we are working with this East London-based brand on a pop-up in our Notting Hill shop this spring. The team's love of all things green is an inspiration.
5 Chatsworth Road, London E5 (botanyshop.co.uk)

2 Natural plaster looks great in both **modern and traditional settings.** When we were searching for a textural finish for the walls of our King's Road store, we found **Clayworks** and loved its environmentally friendly clay plaster. Owners Adam and Katy were so helpful and the finish is gorgeous.
(clay-works.com)

3 Both my husband (Jamie Seaton, co-founder of Toast) and I love colour. **KT Color** uses raw earth and mineral pigments in its paint to give real depth and a super-matt finish. It also reproduces a range of original shades to the exact recipes used by Le Corbusier.
(ktcolor.com)

4 We are fans of mid-century furniture, especially the work of Hans Wegner. **The Modern Warehouse** presents a well-chosen selection of classic Scandinavian designs.
3 Trafalgar Mews, London E9 (themodernwarehouse.com)

5 We have sourced various woods from **Whitney Saw Mill**: fragrant cedar of Lebanon, unplaned poplar, and beautiful elm. Working with solid timber requires craftsmanship, but the pieces will last longer than you or me.
Whitney-on-Wye, Hereford HR3 (whitneysawmills.co.uk)



Nest Design

PICKWICK PAPERS
This family-run business sells made-to-measure curtains, blinds and wallpapers. Its owner has an in-depth knowledge of William Morris fabrics, so don't be afraid to ask if you're looking for a specific historic design. There's a six-week lead time from ordering to hanging your curtains, but it's worth the wait.
6 Nelson Road, London SE10 (pickwickpapers.co.uk)

SIAN COLLEY
Customised fabrics are key to finishing a home, says Another Country's Paul de Zwart. He recommends North London-based specialist Sian Colley, who has the experience and the eye to help you choose the right curtains.
Bounds Green Industrial Estate, London N11 (facebook.com/siancolleysoftfurnishings)



Superfront's kitchen upgrades displayed in its Stockholm showroom



CUSTOMISE

How to get a personalised piece without the hefty price tag

HEM
You can buy this Berlin-based brand's slick storage, tables and seating in many sizes, colours and shapes. Simply go online and design your future classic with Hem's user-friendly software. Select one of the 'inspiration' images as a base to build on, or start from scratch if you know exactly what you're after.
(hem.com)

SUPERFRONT
We could spend hours playing around on Superfront's website. The Swedish brand specialises in customising Ikea kitchen units and offers a wide range of cool door fronts – comprising eight patterns and 13 colourways – along with handles and feet, all designed to breathe new life into your flatpacked buy. It's pure genius.
(superfront.com)

BEST FOR
CARPETS
Bowloom
127 Queenstown Road, London SW8 (bowloom.co.uk)

THE SOFA & CHAIR COMPANY
Known for opulent furniture that would not look out of place in a luxury hotel, this company makes its pieces in its West London workshop. Use the brand's extensive library of fabrics and finishes to modify your item.
4–5 Roslin Road, London W3 (thesofaandchair.co.uk)

UNTO THIS LAST
This East London-based workshop sells modern wooden furniture that is handcrafted in its on-site studio. Meet the team and see them at work at the shop, or visit the website, where you can choose from a range of sizes and finishes.
230 Brick Lane, London E2 (untothislast.co.uk)



Goodhood

DESIGN CAFES

Coffee-shop culture and stylish homeware, all under one roof

GOODHOOD
From its beginnings as a self-funded project aimed at curating the finest clothing and objects from around the world, Goodhood has grown to incorporate an online store and a split-level flagship shop in London's Shoreditch that sells a mix of fashion and homeware. Pop in to browse the products before relaxing at the in-store cafe, which was launched in collaboration with Australian chef Brett Redman.
151 Curtain Road, London EC2 (goodhoodstore.com)

I GIGI
The ground floor of I Gigi general store and cafe in Hove, East Sussex, is filled with furniture and home accessories that are sourced, designed and manufactured by owners Alex Legendre and Zoë Ellison. The duo only sell things that they would happily have in their own homes (see inside Alex's home and learn her personal design sources on p33), which means a combination of locally made furniture and restored antiques, alongside Scandi, French, Indian and British finds. Head upstairs for a light bite, lunch or afternoon tea.
31a Western Road, Hove BN3 (igigigeneralstore.com)

PICTURE: ALAMY (LETTER)

PEDLARS
A real treasure trove of vintage stock, colourful homeware, gardening accessories, gifts and – of course – a bustling coffee shop, Pedlars is a great West London spot. The cafe serves light lunch dishes and a selection of cakes and pastries.
128 Talbot Road, London W11 (pedlars.co.uk)


Pedlars

DOORS

Where to go if you want to upgrade your entrance

BLACK MILL DOORS
Based at a 19th-century mill in Lincolnshire, this family-run business sells doors and flooring made from reclaimed pine. As well as stocking classic, Victorian-look panel doors and boarded, barn-style options, the company offers a bespoke service.
Sleaford Road, Beckingham LN5 (blackmilldoors.co.uk)

THE LONDON DOOR COMPANY
A good all-rounder, this Battersea showroom sells a wide range of contemporary and historic styles.
155 St John's Hill, London SW11 (londondoor.co.uk)

VOYSEY AND JONES
Specialising in traditional designs, this door company can age your new brassware to match your front door.
59b Park Road, London N8 (voyseyandjones.co.uk)

PICTURES: TIM WINTER (PEDLARS), ALAMY (LETTER, DULWICH, CRYSTAL PALACE)



LOCAL **HOTSPOTS**

*Head of design for Liberty Art Fabrics Emma Mawston reveals her **South London** names and addresses to know*





My nearest garden centre, **Alexandra Nurseries**, is hidden within a small 19th-century housing estate. It sells locally sourced plants, vintage homeware and delicious coffee and cake. I look out for logs for my open fire and reclaimed chimney pots.
Estate House, 56b Parish Lane, London SE20 (alexandranurseries.co.uk)



Jim at **Doorz** supplied original 1930s doors with bespoke glass for each room of my house. Just a few steps away is another great shop: **Avalon**, an antique fireplace specialist.
Doorz, 130 Kirkdale; Avalon, 144 Kirkdale, both London SE26

When I go to the **Midcentury Modern** show at Dulwich College, I look out for Vintage Unit, which sells retro furniture, lighting and accessories. We have bought many treasures from them, including unusual swivel chairs and ladder stools (pictured right).
(modernshows.com)



As long as you're happy to have a rummage, you can find great architectural salvage at **The Old Bath House**. I bought a six-foot-long tub there and redesigned my whole bathroom around it. I've also purchased all kinds of other things, from radiators to wall brackets.
65 Bell Green, London SE26 (theoldbathhouse.co.uk)



ECO

Where to go if you want to get a greener home

GREENSHOP
The online and Gloucestershire-based Greenshop has an incredible selection of environmentally friendly products for your home, including renewable-energy systems, water filters, natural paints and biodegradable cleaners. There's also a good array of organic, sustainable and Fairtrade gifts.
Calf Way, Bisley GL6 (greenshop.co.uk)

NATURALMAT
This company's mattresses – which are manufactured in the UK using only organic materials – are of equal quality and comfort to models by more established brands. They're competitively priced, too.
99 Talbot Road, London W11 (naturalmat.co.uk)



Naturalmat

INSIDER GUIDE

*Environmental journalist **Lucy Siegle**'s favourite addresses for sustainable finds*



A resurgence in homegrown wool has been spearheaded by companies such as **Corry Moor**, run by Stephen and Jenny Whitley, whose vibrant mohair throws are produced using angora from their own goat herd.
Corrymoor Farm, Honiton EX14 (corrymoor.com)

Feel Good Eco Beds is committed to using sustainable timber and disposing of waste without resorting to landfill. Its handmade beds are made from solid ash grown within 20 miles of its Devon workshop.
Haynes Farm, Haynes Lane, Exeter EX6 (feelgoodecobeds.co.uk)

Weaver Kim Ravenscroft of furniture restoration workshop **Former Glory** makes eco-friendly seats from materials such as seagrass and rush.
258 Station Road, Ferndown BH22 (formerglory.co.uk)

Slowing down consumption is crucial to making life sustainable, but the other end of that chain is to preserve a gentler pace in terms of making the products in the first place. **Galapagos Designs**, run by Lucy Mortimer, champions this methodology by recycling and upcycling furniture.
Unit 1, Trafalgar Works, 50 Station Road, Chertsey KT16 (galapagosdesigns.com)

Social enterprise **Gone Rural** creates products that have been hand-woven by women in Swaziland. Its collection of 'Fluoro' vases, made by weavers in the Lavumisa region, combines waste fabrics and sweet wrappers with native lutindzi grass and sisal fibre.
(shake-the-dust.co.uk)

Visit the **Nudie Jeans** shop in London's Soho to find traditional Swedish rag rugs made from shredded pieces of old denim.
29 D'Arblay Street, London W1 (nudiejeans.com)

Online store **Rêve en Vert** stocks items by sustainable brands and champions independent designers who share their values. Look out for LA-based brand Cuero & Mør's ethically sourced leather bags, plus carafes by Bib & Sola, which donates 40 per cent of the price of each purchase to The Water Tank Project – a campaign to place artwork by new designers and local schoolchildren on the roofs of New York's buildings.
(revenvert.com)



PICTURES: ALAMY (LETTERS)



Victorian Woodworks' floor surfaces



FIREPLACES

From restoration services to grates and accessories

FIRECREST STOVES
If you're looking to build or upgrade a wood-burning or multi-fuel stove, this Essex-based company can help with everything from supply and installation to advising on issues surrounding planning permission and carrying out annual maintenance checks. The cast iron and steel stoves come in a range of designs and finishes.
Leighams Road, Chelmsford CM3 (firecreststoves.co.uk)

JAMB
Jamb's range of chimneypieces includes reclaimed antiques and reproduction marble and stone models inspired by the work of designers such as Sir Edwin Lutyens.
95–97 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (jamb.co.uk)

RPS FIREPLACES
Specialising in the restoration and fitting of fireplaces, this outfit brings together the high-quality workmanship of a traditional manufacturer with the efficiency of an internet retailer. Its restoration service includes a full site survey – free in most parts of London.
Kangley Bridge Road, London SE26 (rpsfireplaces.co.uk)

ZIGI'S
This small family business, which sells wood burners and fireplaces, has six showrooms across South East England. The company's engineers can carry out all necessary building works as part of the installation process.
Bentalls Farm, Sudbury Road, Halstead CO9 (zigis.co.uk)

FLOORS

Perfect parquet, resin finishes and reclaimed boards

ECORA
This company takes pride in sourcing ecologically sound timber from well-managed forests. Expect to find everything from oak, walnut, maple and larch to exotic species such as ipe.
20 England's Lane, London NW3 (ecora.co.uk)

FLOORING CENTRE
The location on London's North Circular might not be especially glamorous, but this place is worth the trip for its excellent selection. The parquet flooring blocks, available in a range of grades, are recommended by photographer Sean Myers for their quality and price. A fitting service is available.
158 Coles Green Road, London NW2 (flooringsuppliescentre.co.uk)

FLOOR STORY
This company has everything you need to create a bespoke design for your floor. Whether you're looking for hardwood or vinyl, there's a stylish mix of options by leading new designers such as Kangan Arora and Eve Spencer.
(floorstory.co.uk)

SENSO
Senso is the UK's only supplier of resin floors made from natural plant oil. Plus, all of its products are environmentally friendly and free from harmful substances. Warm to the touch, resin flooring is ideal for creating a seamless look within a home – you can even use it in shower rooms.
The White Building, 555 Harrow Road, London W10 (sensofloors.co.uk)

VICTORIAN WOODWORKS
There are more than 80 different antique, reclaimed and aged wooden floors on display at this spectacular showroom in London's Mayfair. Choose from the eight collections, which include luxurious Versailles parquet panels, or commission a bespoke solution from your selected textures, finishes and sizes.
4 Farm Street, London W1 (victorianwoodworks.co.uk)





'I was looking to buy some flowers as birthday gifts for the girls in my studio and I came across **Jam Jar Flowers**. The shop has a beautiful, natural selection of blooms displayed in an eclectic collection of jam jars and other vessels. They're a lovely team to work with, too, which makes all the difference'

7a Peacocks Yard, London SE17 (jamjarflowers.co.uk)

DONNA WILSON, DESIGNER

FLORISTS

Places to find exotic blooms and gorgeous floral displays

GRACE & THORN

Located behind London's bustling Columbia Road flower market, this thriving boutique has a busy workshop in its basement. Owner Nik Southern creates cool, contemporary bouquets.

338 Hackney Road, London E2 (graceandthorn.com)

PULBROOK & GOULD

This smart shop counts members of the Royal family among its illustrious clientele. Displays often combine flowers, foliage and fruits, so expect to see sprigs of cow parsley mixed in with showier blooms.

19 South Audley Street, London W1 (pulbrookandgould.co.uk)

Swallows & Damsons creates artistic bouquets

REBEL REBEL

If you're looking for flowers that offer something out of the ordinary, this East London shop should be your first port of call. The team specialises in creating loose, natural arrangements using seasonal English blooms.

64–66 Brooksby's Walk, London E9 (rebelrebel.co.uk)



Grace & Thorn

SCARLET & VIOLET

Long revered by stylists, the secret is out on this North London florist, which is located in Kensal Rise. Scarlet & Violet is the capital's go-to flower shop for British-grown varieties arranged in owner Vic Brotherson's signature informal style.

76 Chamberlayne Road, London NW10 (scarletandviolet.com)

SWALLOWS & DAMSONS

Founded by fine arts graduate Anna Potter, this Sheffield-based florist creates modern-looking displays. Visit the brand's Little Flower Shop for contemporary bouquets and fresh cut flowers, or order online for same-day delivery across the UK.

326 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield S7 (swallowsanddamsons.com)

FRAMERS

Where to go when you need to mount your masterpieces

A BLISS
Founded in 1799 as a hand-colourist of maps and plans, A Bliss is now a specialist provider of dry-mounting and framing services. Its Clerkenwell workshop is the go-to place for artists, architects, photographers and students who need professional help with anything from standard jobs to more complex projects.
5 Baker's Yard, Baker's Row, London EC1 (abliss.co.uk)

DARBYSHIRE
This framemaker works on behalf of many well-known galleries, often selecting or fabricating frames to meet the particular specifications of an artist. The company can also make bespoke display solutions, such as plinths, cases and cabinets for your home.
19–23 White Lion Street, London N1 (darbyshire.uk.com)

JOHN HAWKINS' PICTURE FRAMING
This family-run business in London's East Dulwich comes highly recommended by regular ELLE Decoration photographer Sean Myers. 'When framing precious works by my late great-uncle, I went straight to John Hawkins' Picture Framing. The owners have impeccable taste and reasonable prices,' he says.
350 Lordship Lane, London SE22 (southlondonguide.co.uk/hawkins)

JOHN JONES
Having mounted pieces for the likes of Francis Bacon and David Hockney, John Jones in North London is a master of museum-quality framing and preservation techniques. The shop's extensive collection of frames includes everything from hand-gilded pieces to Perspex presentation boxes. If you need a more tailored service, the fine-art installation team can help you with anything from hanging pictures to mounting sculptures.
The Arts Building, Morris Place, London N4 (johnjones.co.uk)

MY SOURCEBOOK

*Interior designer and creative director of his own eponymous design store, **Staffan Tollgård** trawls the breadth of the UK to give us his industry contacts*



1 **Daniel Newlyn**, based in Bishops Stortford, breathes life into furniture with his upholstery skills. He can turn his hand to anything, from creating sumptuous headboards to clever seating.
(facebook.com/danielnewlyn)

2 Look to **Longden Doors** in Sheffield for beautiful handcrafted doors. **With generations of tradition and** craftsmanship behind them, the staff are consummate professionals.
55 Parkwood Road, Sheffield S3 (longdendoors.co.uk)

3 The team at **Neil Stevenson** have garnered an unparalleled reputation as makers of fine furniture. I have worked with them on a number of projects, and cannot speak highly enough of the quality of their joinery work and custom-made pieces.
Church Lawford Business Centre, Limestone Hall Lane, Rugby CV23 (nejstevenson.co.uk)



4 If a project dictates the need for bespoke ironmongery, **Philip Watts** in Nottingham is my first choice. Everything is **made on site, and** the people are a pleasure to work with.
Byron Industrial Estate, Brookfield Road, Nottingham NG5 (philipwattsdesign.com)

5 For curtain hardware (pictured), look no further than Suffolk-based company **The Bradley Collection**. My studio team loves the 'Elysian' range, which has beautiful, hand-forged finials. The products work well in both period and contemporary settings.
(bradleycollection.co.uk)



John Jones



Hendzel + Hunt's 'Made in Peckham' chairs and table

FRAMERS

Continued...

J WHITE FRAMING
ELLE Decoration's photography director Flora Bathurst loves this family-run shop. 'I frame everything from small postcards to huge prints, and J White Framing always does a fantastic job,' she says. 'Take a simple postcard and display it properly using a mount and a good black or wooden frame, and you elevate it to something impressive.'
489 Latimer Road, London W10 (jwhiteframing.co.uk)

TAYLORED FRAMING
Whatever the scale of your image or artwork, Alan Dean can offer expert advice on choosing the perfect frame; his client portfolio includes major arts venues such as the Barbican Centre and Somerset House, as well as smaller private commissions. The London-based shop shares its premises with the Curious Duke Gallery, so you can pick up some brand-new works while you're there, too.
173 Whitecross Street, London EC1 (curiousdukegallery.com)

FURNITURE MAKERS

Expert teams who craft beautiful items to order

EAST LONDON FURNITURE COMPANY
Contemporary woodworker Christian Dillon and his team create pieces from timber found in and around the capital, turning discarded materials into original tables, chairs and lighting. You can buy in store or online; the team also accept private commissions.
46 Willow Walk, London SE1 (eastlondonfurniture.co.uk)

FRANK
Lulu Roper-Caldbeck of contemporary design store Darkroom has turned to furniture designers Pam West and Matt Edmonds at Frank a number of times over the years. 'When we initially set up our shop, the pair designed and built our bespoke shelving, cash desk and jewellery cabinets, and they're now involved in the fitting of our forthcoming Selfridges outlet,' she says. As well as commercial work, the team at Frank can carry out bespoke projects for individual clients, from working on small pieces of furniture to building larger-scale commissions.
(frankhome.co.uk)



DESIGN DAY TRIP
POWYS

The Workhouse Gallery and Cafe, Industrial Estate, Presteigne LD8 (theworkhousegallery.co.uk)

'A visit to **The Workhouse Gallery** to see David Bamford's hand-knotted carpets is not to be missed. As well as creating their own designs, the dynamic team repair historic pieces'

EDWARD BULMER, INTERIOR DESIGNER AND FOUNDER, POTS OF PAINT





Gareth Neal's wooden carafe, designed with Zaha Hadid



LOCAL **HOTSPOTS**

*Katie Fontana is creative director of Plain English and British Standard Kitchens. She maps out her **local gems** in **Norfolk and Suffolk***





Sophie and Michel are Framlingham-based neighbours of mine and their **great taste is showcased at Dix Sept Antiques** ❶, where they specialise in 20th-century furniture. They will source pieces for me if I have something specific in mind, and their prices are very reasonable.
17 Station Road, Framlingham IP13 (dixseptantiques.bigcartel.com)




1

Owned and run by antiques dealer Richard Atkinson and interior designer Rob Wyn Yates, **In Da Cottage** ❷ sells furniture and lighting. I bought an antique stool, which provided the inspiration for one that I subsequently designed for Plain English. The couple now have an outlet in a timber-framed former fire station in Framlingham.
Crown & Anchor Lane, Framlingham IP13 (indacottage.co.uk)


2

The architectural salvage yard **Mongers** was recommended to me by one of my customers. Owner Sam Coster sells antique and reclaimed sanitaryware, fireplaces and doors alongside a great selection of building materials, including timber and stone. I have used several sinks and taps from there as part of my own projects and in Plain English showrooms over the years.
15 Market Place, Hingham NR9 (mongersofhingham.co.uk)


2

James Webster is a true eccentric who is passionate about antique building materials. He and his wife collect gems from old or dismantled Suffolk buildings and store them in their large reclamation yard, **Tower Reclaim**.
Tower Farm, Norwich Road, Stowmarket IP14 (tower-reclaim.co.uk)

GARETH NEAL

Based in East London's Dalston, this bespoke furniture-making studio fuses contemporary style with a mixture of organic forms. Neal is definitely a name to watch – in recent years, he has created extendable tables for furniture giant SCP and iron lighting with Made by the Forge. He has also designed a carved wooden water carafe with architect and designer Zaha Hadid; you'll be in good hands at his studio.
Unit 3, 89a Shacklewell Lane, London E8 (garethneal.co.uk)

GREG COX

This East London furniture maker's strengths are, in his own words, 'attention to detail, practicality and craft'. His finely made wooden pieces – which include stools, benches, shelving and tables – bear out this claim. Cox also crafts bespoke storage solutions for private homes.
(madebygregcox.co.uk)

HENDZEL + HUNT

The goal of this dynamic, multidisciplinary design team is to combine creative flair with engineering skill. The company uses locally sourced waste materials to build beautiful furniture both for its own range, 'Made in Peckham', and for commissions. The result? Original pieces that are also ecologically sound.
Unit 4, 9 Gowlett Road, London SE15 (hendzelandhunt.com)

LIAM TREANOR

Designers Keith Stephenson and Mark Hampshire (aka interiors brand Mini Moderns) speak highly of furniture maker Liam Treanor, whom they have encountered at various trade shows over the years. They say: 'Liam manages to combine the quality of a true craftsman with mid-century influences, and traditional British woodworking with a Scandinavian modern aesthetic.' Visit Treanor's South London workshop to find out for yourself.
Studio TB-08, Telegraph Building, Harrington Way, London SE18 (liamtreanor.co.uk)

PICTURES: ALAMY (FRAMLINGHAM, BEACH HUTS, NORFOLK SIGN)



INSIDER GUIDE

***Dan Pearson**, the landscape gardener behind the proposal for London's Garden Bridge, shares his secret addresses for green-fingered folk*

Mosaic artist **Cleo Mussi** collaborated on one of my first Chelsea Flower Show projects and has gone from strength to strength since then. Her work is strong and original, and engages with social issues. She works to commission, so can create a piece especially for you. ***(mussimosaics.co.uk)***

We teamed up with **Denis Milovanov**'s studio to design bespoke outdoor furniture for a project that we worked on with Zaha Hadid Architects. Milovanov's products are visceral and energetic. I would love to own one. ***(denismilovanov.com)***

The annual plant fairs at the famous **Great Dixter** gardens in Rye attract the very best UK and European nurseries. I never miss them. ***Northiam, Rye TN31 (greatdixter.co.uk)***

Derry Watkins at **Special Plants** is always finding gorgeous new things for the garden and has very good taste. ***Greenways Lane, Chippenham SN14 (specialplants.net)***

The best garden secateurs I have ever owned came from **Suwada**, a beautiful shop where you will find Japanese garden tools that are functional and practical, yet look like pieces of art. ***10 Fitzroy Square, London W1 (suwadalondon.co.uk)***

Housed in an old greenhouse within the Victorian Barley Wood walled garden, **The Ethicurean** is my favourite restaurant. Owners Matthew and Iain Pennington make dishes using incredibly fresh home-grown produce. ***Long Lane, Bristol BS40 (theethicurean.com)***

What Were the Skies Like is a blog by American gardening **journalist and writer Stephen Orr.** It's not just a fantastic source for garden inspiration, but also touches on all sorts of things that are related to the natural world, from new books on the subject to recommendations for botanical gardens that you can visit. ***(whatweretheskieslike.blogspot.co.uk)***

It is difficult to find attractive, sturdy, hand-thrown terracotta pots for the garden. I first discovered **Willow Pottery**'s products at a garden centre in South London, so was delighted when I found out that they are made only a five-minute drive from my home in Somerset. The team also make custom-designed pots to order. ***Tog Hill House Farm, Wick NS30 (willowpottery.com)***



PICTURE AJAN ABOUD (PORTRAIT)



GARDENING

Good spots for locating fantastic greenery and top-quality pots

CEDAR NURSERY

With a range of available finishes – from powder-coated to stainless steel – this garden centre in Surrey is a valuable source of made-to-measure garden containers.
Horsley Road, Cobham KT11 (landscaping.co.uk)

HORTUS LOCI

For adventurous gardeners looking for something a little out of the ordinary, this 17-acre site in Hampshire is worth knowing. It's home to an exceptional range of exotic trees, perennials and shrubs.
Hound Green, Hook RG27 (hortusloci.co.uk)

LONDON HERB GARDEN

This subscription service (from £3 a month) delivers small packets of seeds for seasonal herbs or vegetables, plus instructions on how and when to sow them.
(londonherbgarden.co.uk)

THE GARDEN EDIT

This online store stocks a selection of horticultural gems chosen by English gardener John Tebbs. The brass-and-cane watering can by Carl Auböck is a pricey style highlight, but there's also a gorgeous choice of more affordable tools and extras.
(thegardenedit.com)



Special Plants in Chippenham, favoured by Dan Pearson for its owner's taste

THE PALM CENTRE

This is the oldest exotic plant nursery in the UK. Visit and you'll find a tropical forest of palms, olive trees, grasses, bamboos, yuccas and ferns spread across five acres.
Ham Street, Richmond TW10 (palmcentre.co.uk)

VILLAGGIO VERDE

If you want to create your own Mediterranean haven, this olive tree specialist's website is the place to start. It sources everything from young shoots to ancient specimens and delivers across the UK. The site also provides handy advice on how to plant and care for your tree.
(villaggioverde.co.uk)

GLASS

Two brilliant sources of unique hand-blown pieces

BATH AQUA GLASS

This studio's glassware is treated with copper oxide to produce a bluey-green hue that recalls the waters at the city's Georgian baths.
105–107 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 (bathaquaglass.com)

LONDON GLASSBLOWING

Artist Peter Layton's studio and gallery showcases contemporary creations and allows you to watch the glass-blowers in action.
62–66 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 (londonglassblowing.co.uk)

BEST FOR
PLANTS
New Covent Garden Market
London SW8 (newcoventmarket garden.com)



DESIGN DAY TRIP
ARUNDEL

Swaffer Antiques, 30 High Street, Arundel BN18 (spencerswaffer.co.uk)

'When visiting this village, the castle's magical walled gardens are a must-see, as is ***Swaffer Antiques***, which boasts three floors packed with top finds. Service is friendly, too'

CAROLYN QUARTERMAINE, INTERIOR DESIGNER

PICTURES: ALAN PILKINGTON (SWAFFER ANTIQUES), ALAMY (LETTER)



HABERDASHERIES

Five places to find stunning supplies for upholstery projects

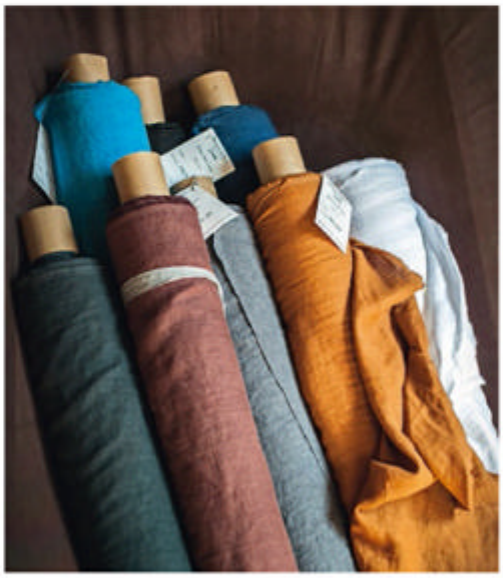
DUTTONS FOR BUTTONS
This Yorkshire institution stocks an unbelievable 12,000 button designs at its three outposts: Harrogate, Ilkley and York. There are examples in mother of pearl, Venetian glass and horn.
Oxford Street, Harrogate HG1; 3 Church Street, Ilkley LS29; 32 Coppergate, York YO1 (duttonsforbuttons.co.uk)

LONDON TRIMMINGS
This Whitechapel-based trade supplier stocks everything from zips to a fantastic range of fringing. With all of the best connections, it will be able to source even the most elusive of details for your soft-furnishing projects.
26–28 Cambridge Heath Road, London E1 (londontrimmings.co.uk)

MACCULLOCH & WALLIS
Forever abuzz with fashion students, milliners and interior designers, this London-based store has been the capital's go-to fabric shop for more than 100 years. Interior designer Kelly Hoppen is a regular visitor; she can often be spotted rummaging through the array of natural fabrics to source just the right texture or pattern.
25–26 Dering Street, London W1 (macculloch-wallis.co.uk)

VV ROULEAUX
With a huge range of beautiful ribbons, tassels and feathers, this Marylebone spot is the *passementerie* for those in the know. This is where fashion and interiors meet. Still can't find exactly what you want? The store offers hands-on workshops in tassel-making, so you can choose to create your own designs.
102 Marylebone Lane, London W1 (vvrouleaux.com)

WILLIAM GEE
Located in an industrial warehouse in East London, this is a secret supplier to the worlds of fashion, theatre, film and interiors. Since the family-run business set up shop in Hackney three generations ago, it has made a roaring trade selling spools of thread and rolls of fabric. There is an online shop, but visit in person and you can benefit from the staff's expert advice.
520–522 Kingsland Road, London E8 (williamgee.co.uk)



'You can happily get lost among the utilitarian sewing kits and the array of pins and needles at **Merchant & Mills**. We are just waiting for its range of clothing patterns to include menswear'
14a Tower Street, Rye TN31 (merchantandmills.com)
KEITH STEPHENSON AND MARK HAMPSHIRE, OWNERS, MINI MODERNS

HANDMADE KITCHENS

Bespoke fittings for the hardest-working room in your home

ARTICHOKE
Want curved kitchen cupboards or Art Deco finishes on your cabinets? No challenge is too great for this Somerset-based practice, which can help to make even the most ambitious plan a reality. The studio takes care of every detail, from concept to installation.
Unit 9, Cheddar Business Park, Wedmore Road, Cheddar BS27 (artichoke-ltd.com)

BLAKES LONDON
Furniture designer Jamie Blake creates Shaker- and Scandinavian-style kitchens with a fresh, contemporary twist. Think white Carrara marble tops, reclaimed timber drawer fronts and scaffolding-plank shelves.
5 Square Rigger Row, London SW11 (blakeslondon.com)



Blakes London

PICTURES: ALEX HAMILTON PHOTOGRAPHY (BRITISH STANDARD), ALAMY (LETTER, NEW COVENT GARDEN MARKET)

BRITISH STANDARD
This sister brand to high-end kitchen firm Plain English offers ranges starting from £8,000. It provides the same quality of craftsmanship and materials, but you configure your own design using the easy-to-follow instructions on the website. Note: prices do not include installation.
41 Hoxton Square, London N1 (britishstandardcupboards.co.uk)

MC STONE
Explore Michael Stone's range of wooden kitchen cabinetry at his West London showroom. Choose between his own designs, which are handcrafted in Norfolk, and slick Italian units. The company also carries an exceptional range of worktops, tiles, taps and appliances. Plus, the prices are reasonable and the expert, friendly staff manage to make the process of creating your dream kitchen easy.
2 Chippenham Mews, London W9 (mcstone.co.uk)



British Standard's customisable kitchen cabinets

HARDWARE

Where to find those essential nuts, bolts, bits and bobs

FARMER BROTHERS
Stocking screws, lightbulbs and more, this is a great DIY resource. Pop to neighbouring JD Beardmore for door furniture in brass.
319 Fulham Road, London SW10 (farmerbrothers.co.uk)

CLERKENWELL SCREWS
'This place is next to our studio,' says Sam Hecht, co-founder of Industrial Facility. 'It has every possible nut, bolt and screw.'
109 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1 (clerkenwellscrews.com)



MY SOURCEBOOK

***Olivia Gregory** is a creative director and stylist who counts Anthropologie and Mulberry Home among her clients. Here, she shares her top design contacts*

1 Frequented mainly by costumiers and theatre designers, **Barnett Lawson Trimmings** has a vast collection of ribbons, cords, buttons, braids and much more. A wander through the aisles of its colourful London shop always provides inspiration for soft-furnishing projects.
16–17 Little Portland Street, London W1 (bltrimmings.com)





2 When I need to source a spectacular one-off piece of furniture or a stunning curio (see above) in a particular style, **Decorative Collective**'s website is my first port of call. It's a reliable online spot for purchasing antiques from the UK and abroad.
(decorativecollective.com)

3 If you're looking for original bouquets that will bring a splash of colour and life into your home, I recommend a visit to **Ronald Porter & Sons** in New Covent Garden Market (pictured). Its team uses interesting foliage and flora from around the world.
Nine Elms Lane, London SW8



Staffan Tollgård's Chelsea showroom



INTERIOR DESIGN SHOWROOMS

From design inspiration to bespoke support for your project

CARAVAN
Emily Chalmers disseminates her thrifty style through books, styling and, of course, her East London store. Book an appointment to see quirky finds by the likes of Ruth Winding and Deborah Bowness.
5 Ravenscroft Street, London E2 (caravanstyle.com)

CHRISTIAN LIAIGRE
The Parisian interior designer's first London showroom displays furniture inspired by his own projects. Each piece epitomises the refined and elegant style for which Liaigre is renowned.
52–53 Conduit Street, London W1 (christian-liaigre.fr)

GUILLAUME ALAN
The Mayfair showroom of this architectural designer – whose pieces have featured in fashion shoots for Chanel and Tom Ford – portrays his understated, luxurious aesthetic. Alan's inspirational room sets are a monochromatic ode to French minimalism.
1 Hay Hill, London W1 (guillaume-alan.com)

PENTREATH & HALL
Co-founded by architect and interior designer Ben Pentreath (whose Bloomsbury practice is just around the corner) and decorative artist Bridie Hall, this shop stocks contemporary and classic homeware, from mugs bearing Eric Ravilious illustrations to stripy Provençal-chic tea towels by Les Toiles du Soleil.
17 Rugby Street, London WC1 (pentreath-hall.com)

STAFFAN TOLLGÅRD
Interior designer Staffan Tollgård's Chelsea showroom represents his inimitable style. While each of the global brands on display has its own look, Tollgård envisages a 'red thread' that connects them all. Products are made to order and the design team can provide everything you need for a project, from fabrics to wallpapers. Look out for folded-silk lights by Aqua Creations.
Grosvenor Waterside, Gatcliff Road, London SW1 (tollgard.co.uk)

BEST FOR
JUMBLE SALES
Sue Ryder Nettlebed
Nettlebed Hospice, Henley-on-Thames RG9 (sueryder.org)

IRONMONGERS

Useful sources of metalwork, from latches to lettering

CHLOE ALBERRY
At exactly the place where Portobello Road turns from market stalls to antiques shops, you'll find this shop, which overflows with handles, knobs, pulls and hooks. There's something for every home, whether you need semi-precious fittings or antique brassware.
84 Portobello Road, London W11 (chloealberry.com)

JIM LAWRENCE
For hand-forged door and window furniture, head to Jim Lawrence's showroom in the town of Hadleigh, Suffolk. This is a great place to buy good-quality ironmongery: latches, bolts, letters and numbers. You'll also find an impressive range of switches and sockets in a number of finishes.
The Ironworks, Lady Lane, Hadleigh IP7 (jim-lawrence.co.uk)

JOSEPH GILES
This company produces modern and traditional ironmongery. Its wide selection of products makes it easy to find matching door handles, window pulls and door stops. As well as creating its own range and selling items sourced from around the world, the team run a bespoke service – so if you can't find exactly what you're after, they can make it for you.
7 Imperial Way, Croydon CR0 (josephgiles.com)



JOINERS

Highly skilled craftsmen who can build bespoke pieces

INTERIOR ID
This ingenious company comes highly recommended by interior designer Staffan Tollgård, who commissioned the team to make an unusual, heat-treated reception desk in solid wood and liquid metal for his showroom. Based in West London, the contemporary joiners, who are meticulous in their approach, are known in particular for their unusual metallic finishes.
27a Pembridge Villas, London W11 (interior-id.com)

PICTURES: RICHARD GOODING (STAFFAN TOLLGÅRD'S SHOWROOM), ALAMY (LETTERS)

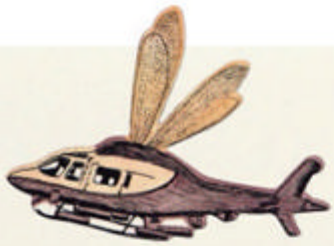
PAUL MCCORMACK
Visit Klaus Haapaniemi's East London shop to see an example of Paul McCormack's innovative work. The Essex-based designer can apply his skills to anything from furniture to fitted wardrobes and bespoke kitchens.
The Horse Yard, Place Farm, Place Farm Lane, Brentwood CM15 (mccormackjoinery.co.uk)

WARDOUR WORKSHOPS
'Every house benefits from custom cabinetry and this Dorset company manufactures it to the highest standard while offering a great, personal service,' says Paul de Zwart, founder of contemporary interiors brand Another Country. 'Wardour Workshops plays a key role in the development and prototyping of Another Country's furniture collections,' he continues, 'and the team always fulfil our needs.'
Unit 13, Semley Industrial Estate, Station Road, Shaftesbury SP7 (wardourworkshops.com)



'When it comes to cabinet making, few people understand wood quite like **Kevin Butcher**. He is based in Workhaus Studios, a creative community near Brighton'
18a Arthur Street, Hove BN3 (workhausfurniture.co.uk)
TERENCE WOODGATE, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER





INSIDER GUIDE

ELLE Decoration's associate editor ***Alex Kristal****'s top design brands for kids*

An online emporium of all that is **stylish for little ones**, **Alex and Alexa** really has everything: toys, homeware, furniture and a mini-me wardrobe of designer clothes to boot. Niche Scandi childrenswear brands such as Bang Bang Copenhagen sit next to classic French toymaker Djeco. There's no excuse for primary-hued plastic now!
(alexandalexa.com)

For a touch of luxury, look to British company **Bambizi**. Sarah-Jane Matthews' nursery collection includes made-to-order beds, cots, dressers and chairs. She also hand-makes lovely bespoke wall stickers.
The Old Post Office, 1 Old Square, Warwick CV34 (bambizi.co.uk)

Bobo Kids is a charming boutique tucked away in the Brompton design district. Look out for the luxurious range of linens for children's beds, plus tatami mattresses, interesting wallpapers and an imaginative collection of fancy-dress outfits.
29 Elystan Street, London SW3 (bobokids.co.uk)

For wallpaper with a difference, visit **Inke Heiland**'s online shop. Her handcrafted designs feature everything from silver trees in bloom to whimsical fairytale scenes.
(inke.nl)

Who doesn't love a freebie? **Mr Printables** has an online archive of downloadable activities for kids. From colouring-book pages to puzzles and templates for constructing paper toys, the selection will provide hours of fun. The number and letter activities are a good option for pre-schoolers.
(mrprintables.com)

Produced by parents for parents, online shop **Nubie** sells smart furniture and accessories for babies and children. With a great edit of products including Danish company Oliver Furniture and Sian Zeng's magnetic wallpaper and character magnets (pictured), this is the place to find everything for your nursery.
(nubie.co.uk)

Featuring a huge range of hard-to-find gems collated into one handy online shop, **Smallable**'s website will leave you spoilt for choice. It's hard to resist the stunning bed linens by Italian sisters Numero 74 or the magical soft-toy birds by New-York based Tamar Mogendorff – just two of the 350 brands on the site.
(en.smallable.com)

For the ecologically minded (or allergy conscious), **The Little Green Sheep** makes chemical-free mattresses stuffed with sustainable materials such as coconut fibre and organic wool, as well as selling baskets and cribs. Your little one is (almost) guaranteed a good night's sleep.
(thelittlegreensheep.co.uk)





INSIDER GUIDE

*ELLE Decoration's homes editor **Jackie Daly** gives us the lowdown on the capital's best kitchen-and-bathroom showrooms*

CP Hart is usually one of the showrooms to stock brand-new bathroom designs, which is why its flagship Waterloo branch is a great place to hunt for on-trend items.
Newnham Terrace, Hercules Road, London SE1 (cphart.co.uk)

Design Space London is the home of ultra-contemporary kitchen design: think copper worktops and double islands linked by bridge-style work surfaces. Pop into one of its two London showrooms – Battersea and Wigmore Street (an area known among designers as 'kitchen alley') – to see German brand Schiffini and Italian style-setter Modulnova's ranges.
33 Parkgate Road, London SW11; 126 Wigmore Street, London W1 (designspacelondon.com)

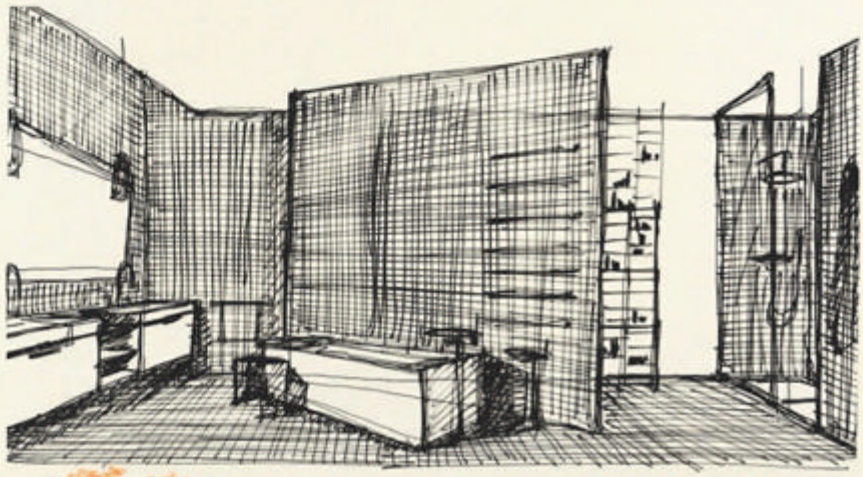
Immerse yourself in cool, discreet design at **Molteni & C Dada**'s Shaftesbury Avenue store. A great place to see designer collaborations by the likes of Giò Ponti and Patricia Urquiola, it's also the London home of Dada kitchens. This Italian maker's style is sleek and simple: we love its 'Tivali' kitchen by Dante Bonuccelli, which is hidden within a cabinet.
199 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (molteni.it)

Design hunters flock to **Poliform** for Italian furniture and Varenna kitchens. We love this Italian manufacturer's simple aesthetic and savvy, modular storage systems. The 'Twelve' kitchen (the doors and worktops are all 12 millimetres thick), designed by Carlo Colombo, sums up the brand's style.
278 King's Road, London SW3 (poliformuk.com)

Designed by Zaha Hadid, **Roca London Gallery** is a jaw-dropping architectural space. Take a moment to appreciate Hadid's genius before browsing Roca's impressive selection of bathtubs, taps and other bathroom accessories.
Station Court, Townmead Road, London SW6 (rocalondongallery.com)

For jet baths that soothe tired limbs and head-turning modern bathroom designs by creatives such as Luca Scacchetti and Fabio Lenci, head to **Teuco**'s Islington showroom.
52 Upper Street, London N1 (teuco.com)

Tisettanta's swish Mayfair store is a must-visit for modern storage and kitchens by Italian brand Elam. The range includes chic pieces in stainless steel with stone and wood accents.
11 Grosvenor Street, London W1 (tisettanta.ltd/uk)







KITCHENALIA

Our favourite shops for cookware and utensils

GILL WING COOK SHOP

Plywood and black iron form an appropriately functional backdrop to the excellent selection of practical kitchen kit at this shop in well-to-do Highbury. The buying process is overseen by the former head of Harrods' kitchenware department, so whether you're looking for cutlery, linen, china or glassware, you can expect the best.
190 Upper Street, London N1 (gillwing.co.uk)



Workshop Living's simple, stylish kitchenalia, sold at its Brighton store

LABOUR AND WAIT
It's not just kitchenalia that's on offer at this hip East London store – you'll find utilitarian-style products for every room of your home. The collections are unified by a simple, honest approach to design: think vintage-style glasses and retro washing-up brushes. Some visitors may remember the functional yet stylish enamel tableware from their childhood kitchens.
85 Redchurch Street, London E2 (labourandwait.co.uk)

WORKSHOP LIVING
There's something comforting about the atmosphere of this Brighton shop. Handmade stoneware is displayed beautifully alongside recycled-glass bottles and storage jars, beneath shelves stocked with solid-wood utensils and cutting boards. It is hard to resist leaving without something, even if it's just a bar of the brand's simply wrapped olive-oil soap.
13a Prince Albert Street, Brighton BN1 (workshopliving.co.uk)



Adolfo Harrison



LANDSCAPERS

Three names to know when planning your garden

ADOLFO HARRISON
ELLE Decoration's associate editor Alex Kristal recommends commissioning this East London-based studio to transform your outdoor space. Harrison is also co-founder of Cityscapes, which works with some of the UK's most renowned cultural organisations, designers and contractors to create both temporary and permanent public gardens.
Kingsland Road Studios, 284–288 Kingsland Road, London E8 (adolfoharrison.com)

HEDGEHODGE GARDENS
Chris Hodge and Ed Heneage's London firm takes a practical approach to landscape gardening, producing timeless, organic designs. The duo also construct a range of high-quality garden sheds from reclaimed wood.
(hedgehodgegardens.com; shackadelic.com)

THE OUTDOOR ROOM
For a comprehensive service, look to this West Sussex brand. It offers a landscape-architecture service through its sister company, Longview Design, alongside landscape construction. In short, it takes care of the entire project, from planning to build.
Luxford House, The Street, Cowfold RH13 (theoutdoorroom.co.uk; longviewdesign.co.uk)

LEATHER

Where to find luxurious finishes

ALMA 1938
The walls, floors, stairs and furniture of this Mayfair townhouse are all covered in leather, displaying every available texture and colour.
8 Vigo Street, London W1 (alma1938.com)

BATCHELORS
This is Islington's hidden gem, stocking a huge range of vegetable-tanned skins in all sorts of shades.
9–10 Culford Mews, London N1 (jtbatchelor.co.uk)

GENEVIEVE BENNETT
Bennett makes beautiful wall panels to order. She inlays, embosses, engraves and sculpts leather into one-off designs.
5 Torrens Street, London EC1 (genevievebennett.com)

SHINOLA
The American brand sells its finely crafted watches, leather goods and bicycles from a shop in Soho.
13 Newburgh Street, London W1 (shinola.com)



'For decorative wall panels of unparalleled beauty, we look to artist **Helen Amy-Murray**. She sculpts sumptuous three-dimensional surfaces to order out of unusual materials including leather, suede and alcantara'
5 Swanfield Street, London E2 (helenamymurray.com)
ROBBIE SPINA AND JOE ZITO, CO-OWNERS, SPINA



Designer Michael Anastassiades in his studio/home



‘I discovered **Urban Cottage Industries** when I was searching online for some old-fashioned, twisted fabric cable for my pendant lights. I now buy bulbs, cable and light fittings from this website and I love the stylish packaging that everything arrives in’ ***(urbancottageindustries.com)***
KATIE FONTANA, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, PLAIN ENGLISH AND BRITISH STANDARD

LIGHTING

From designer lampshades to beautiful bulbs and switches

ATELIER ARETI

‘Areti’ means ‘virtue’ or ‘excellence’ in Greek. It is a fitting word to describe the sculptural lights produced by the London-based Kerschbaumer sisters. The duo’s instantly recognisable designs feature simple, geometric forms. ***(atelierareti.com)***

DERNIER & HAMLYN

Experienced in designing, producing and restoring lights for palaces, cathedrals and even 10 Downing Street, these skilled artisans will work on anything from wall lamps to the grandest of chandeliers. ***Croydon Business Centre, 214 Purley Way, Croydon CR0 (dernier-hamlyn.com)***

BEST FOR
TASK LIGHTING
Sensio
Unit 7, Speedwell Road, Castleford WF10 (sensio.co.uk)

LUTRON

The global leader in the design and manufacture of lighting-control systems, Lutron is the name to know when you’re looking for stylish dimmers and switches that you can install in minutes. It also produces gadgets that enable you to control your lighting wirelessly, sensors to help you save energy and plenty of other ingenious solutions. ***(lutron.com)***

MICHAEL ANASTASSIADES

The minimalist lighting designer’s five-storey Victorian townhouse in London’s Waterloo is his showroom, creative studio and home – his private residence is located on the upper levels. On display is a selection of his covetable, purist designs, each piece an exploration of the essence of light. ***122 Lower Marsh, London SE1 (michaelanastassiades.com)***

MR RESISTOR

With two showrooms in London and a comprehensive website, Mr Resistor sells lights, but is best known as a source of electrical controls. It can also create bespoke lighting designs on request. ***21 Lydden Road, London SW18; 82–84 New King’s Road, London SW6 (mr-resistor.co.uk)***

ROTHSCHILD & BICKERS

This glass-blowing studio is the only one in the UK that focuses on lighting. Keeping this age-old craft alive, it makes all of its designs by hand. Every piece is free blown, so no two are ever the same. The ‘Pick ’n’ Mix’ range, nominated for an ELLE Decoration British Design Award in 2014, includes delicate shades in a jewel box of colour options. ***Unit 7, Great Northern Works, Hartham Lane, Hertford SG14 (rothschildbickers.com)***

PICTURE: PHILIP SINDEN (MICHAEL ANASTASSIADES)



Society Limonta

LINENS

Purveyors of the finest sheets, napkins and tablecloths

HEIRLOOMS BEDLINEN
Ideal for those who prefer a higher thread count, these Italian-woven fabrics feature state-of-the-art embroidery. Every design is produced in the firm's West Sussex workshop to your specifications. Even the Queen is a fan.
2 Arun Business Park, Bognor Regis PO22 (heirlooms-linens.com)

L&B LONDON
Peruse this Belgravia boutique's extensive range of luxurious Italian and French linens. The store also offers the only fully made-to-measure linen service in London, with a near-limitless choice of colour and design.
6–7 Motcombe Street, London SW1 (lblondon.com)

SOCIETY LIMONTA
This Italian brand finally reached the UK last year. It's currently stocked at Harrods, but there is talk of a stand-alone London store. The company is favoured for its unfussy crumpled linen that comes in a wealth of glorious colour choices, from powdery pastels to acidic brights.
Harrods, 87–135 Brompton Road, London SW1 (societylimonta.com)

THE CLOTH SHOP
Visit to browse the selection of Swedish linens in beautiful shades, plus vintage and hand-woven textiles from around the world.
290 Portobello Road, London W10 (theclothshop.net)

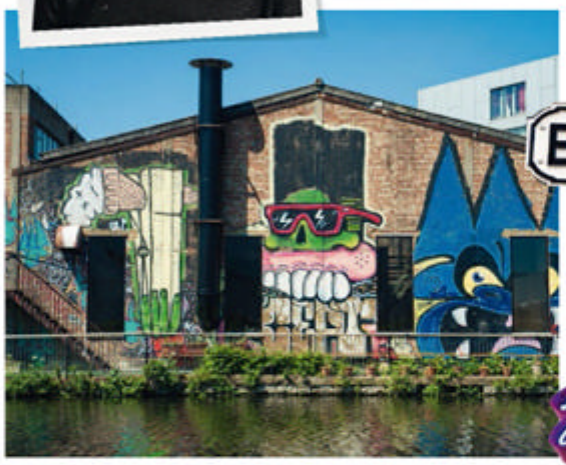
VOLGA LINEN
This British, family-run company specialises in exquisite pure linens made in Russia. It also offers a monogramming service, from just £6 per embroidered letter.
Unit 6, The Gasworks, 2 Michael Road, London SW6 (volgalinen.co.uk)

PICTURES: ALAMY (BRICK LANE SIGN, REGENT'S CANAL PICTURES)



LOCAL **HOTSPOTS**

*John Lewis home design manager Philippa Prinsloo lists her top three **East London** design destinations*







My recent discovery is **God's Own Junkyard** 1, the ode to neon that was started and run for 37 years by Chris Bracey. Visit the Walthamstow unit, which is open every weekend, to see new and **vintage neon light art**.
Unit 12, Ravenswood Industrial Estate, Shernhall Street, London E17 (godsownjunkyard.co.uk)



1

For specialists in staircase spindles and newels, head to **Nichols Brothers woodturners** in Walthamstow. It can provide anything from bespoke replacement pieces to an entire staircase, and can either match the look of existing components or work to contemporary architects' plans.
2a Milton Road, London E17 (nichols-brothers.co.uk)



The skilled team at **Reclaimed Flooring** 2 in Clerkenwell believe that your floor should be the centrepiece of your home, imbued with 'spirit, personality and a heart of its own'. The company's unusual timbers with custom patinas certainly live up to this philosophy.
64 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1 (reclaimedflooringco.com)


2



METALWORKERS

Made-to-order railings and more

MAKING METALWORK

With 50 years of experience, this family firm has even produced railings for Alexandra Palace. It works with architects and designers to create unique products.
6–40 Durnford Street, London N15 (makingmetalwork.com)

PLATINUM STEEL WORKS

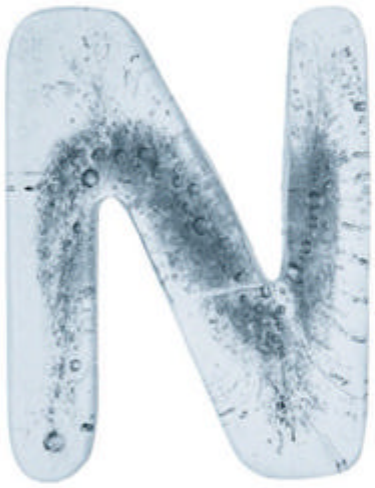
There's almost nothing that this company can't make using sheet steel, from studio lights to structural and architectural projects.
Unit E8, Cumberland Trading Estate, Loughborough LE11 (platinumsteelworks.co.uk)



Chase & Sorensen



Nya Nordiska's Nordic-inspired fabric range



NORDIC

Scandinavian design and culture, from fabrics to smoked fish

CHASE & SORENSEN

The owners of this Hackney shop recently relocated to Denmark, giving them the time to hunt down even more beautiful, modern Scandinavian furniture, which they ship to the UK. There's an in-store upholstery service that uses fabrics sourced from Kvadrat and Bute. The *smørrebrød* (open sandwiches) are a tasty treat at the shop's cafe.
238b Dalston Lane, London E8 (chaseandsorensen.com)

DESIGN VINTAGE

A short bus ride away from the centre of Brighton, Design Vintage is run by a lovely lady called Lisa Brass, who has a fantastic eye for a gem. It's small, but filled with Scandi pieces by brands such as House Doctor, By Nord and NLXL, as well as vintage finds. If you can't make it down to the coast, check out the extensive online shop.
84 Lowther Road, Brighton BN1 (designvintage.co.uk)

HANSEN & LYDERSEN

The proprietor of the best fish smokery in London now has several clients who are such devoted fans that they have been known to arrive by helicopter to stock up on his traditional fare.
3–5 Shelford Place, London N16 (hansen-lydersen.com)

NYA NORDISKA

This is a fantastic source of innovative and pared-back Scandinavian-style fabrics. The collection includes stylish sheers – a beautiful, modern alternative to net curtains. With a massive 6,500 designs to choose from, there's bound to be a pattern that will suit your interior.
132–134 Lots Road, London SW19 (nya.com)

PICTURES: ALAMY (LETTERS)



HOME IN DETAIL

***Alex Legendre**, co-owner of Hove-based homeware boutique I Gigi, reveals her sources for the vintage curios that fill her Edwardian seaside home*

I bought my wonderful dining room chandelier ❶ and a large oil painting from **Alex Macarthur**'s shop. Sold by appointment from her Regency home in Brighton, this showcase of antiques and decorative objects reveals her eye for detail, making it hard to resist a purchase. ***(alexmacarthur.co.uk)***

I always make a trip to **Baileys Home & Garden** in Bridstow for presents. I just love the whole experience and never fail to pick up some additional treats for myself (I have bought ceramics and wooden crates ❷ for my kitchen here). The store supplies a range of classic homeware and basics, along with one-off pieces and antiques sourced by the owners Sally and Mark. ***Whitecross Farm, Ross-on-Wye HR9 (baileyshomeandgarden.com)***

I love the 19th-century building that houses **Butlers Emporium** in Hastings because the owner, Rose, has managed to keep most of its history intact. The walls and ceilings still have the original hooks, shelving and cubby holes. Shopping here is so much fun: Rose gives you her undivided attention and occasionally allows her customers to buy some of the amazing props. I have picked up lovely old kitchen jars here. ***70 George Street, Hastings TN23 (butlersemporium.com)***

Radenedge Architectural Antiques in Llanelli is so old school that there's no website – you just have to visit. If you do, you'll be rewarded with finds that range from doors, baths, taps, staircases, stone columns and arches to whole buildings! This is a must for any big construction project. I bought sinks ❸ and my bathtub from here. ***Dafen Inn Row, Llanelli SA14 (01554 755790)***

The Period House might be an obvious choice for purchasing historic lighting, ironwork and architectural salvage online, but the shop in Ludlow is a joy, with friendly, knowledgeable service. ***141 Corve Street, Ludlow SY8 (periodhouseshops.com)***

The **Three Angels** in Hove is an antiques centre with a selection of individual stalls. The owner, Susannah, specialises in lighting and beds. I bought my beautiful carved headboard ❹ from her collection. ***5 Hove Street, Hove BN3 (threeangels.co.uk)***

If you love vintage, you'll adore **Warp and Weft**. Owner Leida is passionate about her store, which features a careful edit of vintage garments, accessories and homeware. I have bought many pieces here, from 1920s beaded bras to silk coats. I hang her items like art ❺ around the house. ***68a George Street, Hastings TN24 (warpandweftstyling.com)***


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PICTURES: MICHAEL PAUL (HOME IN DETAIL)



OBJETS D'ART

Unique pieces to enjoy forever

DALE ROGERS AMMONITE
This fossil and mineral emporium is an awe-inspiring showcase of one man's worldwide travels uncovering rare natural finds for luxurious interiors. His collections include everything from small decorative pieces and wall hangings to museum-quality discoveries such as 'The Atlas Medusa', a 90-million-year-old cluster of ammonites.
77 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (dalerogersammonite.com)

LES COUILLES DU CHIEN
The real star of this Aladdin's cave of weird and wonderful objects in West London is its owner, Jerome Dodd, who uses his stock of curiosities to make unusual artworks.
65 Golborne Road, London W10 (lescouillesduchien.com)


Isokon Gallery

OPEN HOUSES

Visit these historic venues for design inspiration

2 WILLOW ROAD
Ernő Goldfinger's Modernist flat in Hampstead is full of original furniture and an impressive art collection. The National Trust organises regular guided tours.
2 Willow Road, London NW3 (nationaltrust.org.uk/2-willow-road)

ISOKON GALLERY
The Isokon Lawn Road flats development, inspired by Le Corbusier, was a design for modern urban living. Once home to Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer and Agatha Christie, the iconic building is open to visitors every weekend.
Lawn Road, London NW3 (isokongallery.co.uk)

THE HOMEWOOD
Designed by architect Patrick Gwynne for his parents, this striking Modernist home, set in stunning gardens, was donated to the National Trust in 2003. Visits are by prior arrangement.
The Homewood, Portsmouth Road, Esher KT10 (nationaltrust.org.uk/homewood)

THE TOWN HOUSE
This former weaver's shop retains all of its 1720s features, including the original wood panelling. A time capsule in the centre of London, it's worth a visit for its period details and Huguenot heritage. Plus, enjoy the homemade cakes, which have been made to historic recipes.
5 Fournier Street, London E1 (townhousewindow.com)

MY SOURCEBOOK

Whether working on interior and retail installations for Heal's or art-directing shoots for Tom Dixon, ***Despina Curtis*** *is always on the lookout for design resources. Here are her top five addresses*



1 **Curious Science** houses scientific equipment and props. It's well known among set designers and although the wares are only available for hire, it's fascinating for a browse.
United House, 5–7 Commercial Way, London NW10 (curiousscience.com)

2 **Print Club** (pictured) is a great place to find unique or limited-edition screen prints from as little as £20. It offers screen-printing services to artists, illustrators and designers, and runs regular workshops.
Unit 3, 10–28 Millers Avenue, London E8 (printclublondon.com)

3 Founded by two of the UK's most talented makers of props and sets, **Puck Studio** offers screen printing and vinyl cutting for signage and display. It's also the sister company and neighbour to **Facility**, a maker of bespoke frames.
Arcola Street, London E8 (puckstudio.co.uk; wearefacility.co.uk)

4 For any plastic imaginable, from colourful mirrored acrylics to polycarbonate shed windows, make a beeline for **The Plastic Shop**. It's brilliant for bespoke projects.
(theplasticshop.co.uk)

5 My favourite independent shop of the moment is **Triangle Store**. It sells amazing vintage geometric objects and interior accessories by local makers alongside a number of more established Scandinavian brands, such as Normann Copenhagen.
92a Chatsworth Road, London E5 (trianglestore.co.uk)



PAINT

Where to find your perfect palette

ANNIE SLOAN
This store stocks a gorgeous edit of eco-friendly chalk paints in a unique palette of full-bodied hues. Go online or book a workshop in store for tutorials in how to use the products on your furniture.
(anniesloan.com)

FRANCESCA'S PAINTS
Originally dedicated to creating limewash and chalky emulsions, Francesca Wezel's company now sells a wide range of paints; all of her finishes are hand-mixed on site.
34 Battersea Business Centre, 99–109 Lavender Hill, London SW11 (francescaspaint.com)



'To select paint shades, I use the **NCS Colour System**, which is based on how the human eye sees colour, rather than a computer. Most paint shops can then mix your chosen hue'
(ncscolour.co.uk)
LULU ROPER-CALDBECK, CO-FOUNDER, DARKROOM



LOCAL **HOTSPOTS**

Interiors journalist Hannah Booth reveals her top three ***North London*** *gems*





1

Now bigger and better after a move to a new location, **Future and Found** ❶ is a quirky homeware emporium run by Andrea Bates, a former buyer for Heal's. I love this shop because it is so unusual, stocking things that you wouldn't find anywhere else. It sells a particularly good range of ceramics and cushions.
225a Brecknock Road, London N19 (futureandfound.com)



Located in an old stable yard, **Highgate Architectural Antiques** ❷ is an amazing salvage emporium. It sells everything from busts to reclaimed doors and stained-glass windows. All of the products are one-offs and everything is good value, too.
96a Highgate Road, London NW5



2

3

You will find a mini Ottoman empire of rug shops ❸ on Highgate Road. **Orientalist** features three rooms of handmade Persian and Afghan designs, plus carpets and kilims. Its elegant wares, particularly the faded antique rugs, might not be cheap, but they're worth the money.
74 Highgate Road, London NW5

PICTURES: ALAMY (LETTERS, ISOKON GALLERY, DOORS, RUG, STATUE)



QUINTESSENTIALLY ENGLISH

Beautifully British destinations

RENNIES SEASIDE MODERN
Folkestone's hilly Old High Street is the picturesque setting for this lovely shop full of 20th-century British ephemera. There are posters, vintage scarves, ceramics and glass, books and curios.
47 The Old High Street, Folkestone CT20 (rennart.co.uk)

SOANE BRITAIN
From blacksmiths and saddle-makers to rattan-weavers, British craftspeople are the driving force behind the made-to-order furniture, lighting and textiles at this West London institution.
50–52 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (soane.co.uk)



Soane Britain's team of experts handcraft furniture and home accessories to order



RADIATORS

High-tech and classic models to suit your home's style

AEON
For radiators that are more like artworks than heating appliances, our first stop is Aeon. Choose from sculptural and geometric designs, as well as panels sporting cool prints and patterns or those that replicate the look of natural stone.
Bradbourne Point, Bradbourne Drive, Milton Keynes MK7 (aeon.uk.com)

CAST IRON RADIATORS
A purveyor of traditional designs, this company has showrooms in Yorkshire and Essex. You can buy accessories such as stays and valves, all at fair prices.
Unit D, Barrys Lane, Scarborough YO12 (castironradiators.ltd.uk)

CAST IRON RADIATOR CENTRE
A dedicated arm of Coventry Demolition, this supplier is based in the Midlands, but delivers throughout the UK, offering a wide range of salvaged radiators and reproductions via its website. It recently provided pieces to dress the set of the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Hamlet*.
Ryton Fields Farm, Wolston Lane, Coventry CV8 (castironradiatorcentre.co.uk)



DESIGN DAY TRIP
STROUD

Unit 3, Griffin Mill, London Road, Stroud GL5 (antiquesgriffinmill.co.uk)

'The **Antiques Emporium Griffin Mill** has a huge collection of pre-loved furniture, antiques and bric-à-brac in its vast reclamation warehouse. We picked up a Hans Wegner rocking chair here for just £100'

LULU ROPER-CALDBECK, CO-FOUNDER, DARKROOM



INSIDER GUIDE

ELLE Decoration Country editor ***Tessa Pearson****'s top destinations for a taste of idyllic rural life*

Book a tour of **Albury Vineyard** on the southern slopes of the North Downs. It produces an incredible rosé made from Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier grapes and has just launched a sparkling variety. All of the wine is made without chemicals; the owners even light small lanterns under each vine when temperatures drop below freezing rather than using chemically based products to protect against frost. ***Shere Road, Albury GU5 (alburyvineyard.com)***

If you're driving through Kent, stop off at **Macknade**. This Faversham food hall started life as a family farm shop six generations ago and now sells every fresh delicacy you can think of. ***Junction of Selling Road and A2, Faversham ME13 (macknade.com)***

Rose and Wolf is a wonderful London-based florist that creates relaxed-looking, meadow-inspired designs. Its wedding flowers are always stunning and unusual. ***(roseandwolf.tumblr.com)***

Architecture firm **Rural Design** is the go-to practice for a contemporary take on country living. It specialises in beautifully made sustainable houses, often set in dramatic landscapes, that are constructed to meet the rigours of nature's elements. The company's ethos has been applied to a new pre-fab housing solution called 'R House' (pictured), designed to provide affordable homes in the Highlands and islands of Scotland. ***The Green, Portree IV51 (ruraldesign.co.uk)***

For utilitarian homeware with a distinct country style, browse **Two Sisters Home** in Wimbledon Village. Here you will find vintage and modern textiles, ceramics and kitchenalia that will bring a touch of rural charm to any inner-city home. ***3 Church Road, London SW19 (twosistershome.com)***



PICTURES: ALAMY (QI), GETTY (R), ALEX WALLACE (PORTRAIT)



SCENT

Purveyors of the finest fragrances

LES SENTEURS
Tucked away on an unassuming street behind bustling Marble Arch is this specialist perfumery. Go for high-quality fragrances – for yourself or your home – produced by niche luxury brands such as Maison Francis Kurkdjian, Cloon Keen Atelier and Caron.
2 Seymour Place, London W1 (lessenteurs.com)

ROULLIER WHITE
This East Dulwich boutique is run by scent expert Michael Donovan and stocks everything from fragrances to a line of all-natural home-cleaning products, as well as an eclectic mix of crockery, glassware, sheepskin slippers and old-fashioned door knockers. Its perfume edit includes heritage brands such as E Coudray from Paris, Alvarez Gómez from Madrid and British candlemakers Birch & Brook, who use organic wax.
125 Lordship Lane, London SE22 (roullierwhite.com)



Les Senteurs



A selection of retro-style stationery by Present & Correct

STATIONERY

The best places to buy beautiful writing supplies

BLADE RUBBER STAMPS
Just around the corner from the British Museum, this shop is dedicated to keeping the art of correspondence alive with its traditional stamps. Pick an existing design from the myriad options available or create your own.
12 Bury Place, London WC1 (bladerubberstamps.co.uk)

CHOOSING KEEPING
Small but perfectly formed, this East London shop is the place to source the world's finest stationery. You'll find notebooks by Parisian brand Astier de Villatte and Japanese fountain pens by Kaweco.
128 Columbia Road, London E2 (choosingkeeping.com)

PRESENT AND CORRECT
Relive school days with retro-looking stationery, from graph paper to rulers. The products are functional and beautiful.
23 Arlington Way, London EC1 (presentandcorrect.com)

THE JOURNAL SHOP
For stationery magpies, this online shop is irresistible. Cult names such as Hobonichi and Metaphys appear alongside classic favourites; also on sale are tools designed for artists.
(thejournalshop.com)

TOM PIGEON
Metallics and geometric designs are the trademark of this studio in Fife. Pete and Kirsty Thomas produce notebooks and cards that have a modern, luxe aesthetic.
St Ann's, Fowler Street, Cellardyke KY10 (tompigeon.com)

PICTURE: ALAMY (LETTER)

STONE

Specialists in everything from slate to onyx and marble

LAPICIDA
An amazing resource for semi-precious surfaces, from rose quartz to yellow tiger eye. Visit the vast showroom near Harrogate or head to the brand's West London outpost.
St James Park, Harrogate HG5; 533 King's Road, London SW10 (lapicida.com)

LIVRA
This London company can deliver precious onyx, marble and stone direct to your doorstep. Its owners travel the globe to source brilliant natural materials to be used for flooring, kitchens, bathrooms and even unique furniture.
Unit A, 1 Riverside Road, London SW17 (livra.co.uk)

MARBLE GRANITE LIMESTONE WAREHOUSE
This cavernous Battersea warehouse has an extensive range of stone types sourced from quarries around the world, including Turkey, China and India. What's more, you can choose the specific slabs you want when you visit – complete with the perfect veining – before they are sent to a stonemason for cutting.
44 Linford Street, London SW8 (mglw.co.uk)

PICTURE: TOM FALLON (SALVAGE)



'Brogue' table by Bethan Gray for Lapicida



INSIDER GUIDE

ELLE Decoration's photography director ***Flora Bathurst*** *goes on a salvage hunt*

English Salvage is my one-stop-shop for larger items such as cast-iron baths, sinks and outdoor furniture. You can also find one-offs here, such as a 1950s tricycle that I still regret not buying. Herefordshire is a reclamation hunter's haunt, so haggling can be tricky. Be prepared to pay close to the asking price, and arrange pick-up and delivery swiftly.
North Road, Leominster HR6 (englishsalvage.co.uk)

Love Salvage is a mecca for historic pieces. Its stock ranges from reclaimed flooring and architectural designs to furniture by G Plan and entire 1950s kitchens. It also offers a sourcing service to help you find specific pieces.
8 Harmony Square, Govan G51 (lovesalvage.com)

Owned by Adam Hills and Maria Speake, **Retrouvius** specialises in reinventing old materials. Look out for reclaimed lab worktops, copper lights and unique furniture (pictured).
1016 Harrow Road, London NW10 (retrouvius.com)

Stoneage Architectural sells everything from fireplaces and mirrors to tiles and taps. Restoration services include paint-stripping for doors and fireplaces, radiator refurbishment and metalwork on old gates and railings.
Kings Oak Nursery, Tingeys Top Lane, Enfield EN2 (stoneagearchitectural.com)

The French House, which has showrooms in London and York, is – as the name suggests – a collection of pieces sourced from classic French homes. Think elegant, shabby-chic furniture and architectural pieces. I once found some lovely internal doors here, and the range of lighting available is particularly good.
41–43 Parsons Green Lane, London SW6 (thefrenchhouse.co.uk)

The Reclamation Yard in Kent sells flooring, doors, bricks and tiles. It has an especially wide range of soft- and hardwood floors, as well as flagstone and slate. It is best for raw materials rather than decorative finishes.
Charles Anthony House, Manston Road, Margate CT9 (reclamation-yard.co.uk)





LOCAL **HOTSPOTS**

*Discover the best places to shop in **Herefordshire**, as selected by Mark and Sally Bailey, owners of Baileys **Home Store***





Every Thursday, **Hay Market** is held in Memorial Square, in the Butter Market and around the town clock. You'll find artisan bakers, fresh fish and even Moroccan artifacts. ***(hay-on-wye.co.uk/market)***

Knowles & Christou are a local duo who design patterned wallpaper, fabrics and furniture from their studio in the Brecon Beacons. We have one of their 'Peggy' mirrors decorated with natural oak pegs ❷ in our home. ***(knowles-christou.com)***

Artisan cheesemakers Charlie and Grainne Westhead of **Neal's Yard Creamery** ❸, situated on Dorstone Hill overlooking the River Wye, make the best crème fraîche and soft cheeses. ***Caeperthy, Arthur's Stone Lane, Dorstone HR3 (nealsyardcreamery.co.uk)***

Small Farms Butchers sells beef and lamb direct from its two local organic farms, Ciliau and Lower Porthamel. It also has camping pitches in the apple orchard at Lower Porthamel. ***8 Broad Street, Hay-on-Wye HR3 (smallfarms.eu)***

For a well-edited collection of vintage and second-hand clothing, head to **Bain & Murrin** in Hay-on-Wye. You'll find everything from 1950s ball gowns to retro 1960s coloured glassware. The shop's team are, according to co-owner and ex-stylist Becki Bain's description, 'purveyors of the finest junk'. ***24 High Town, Hay-on-Wye HR3***

Simon Hulbert of **Brook Street Pottery** ❶ makes simple, hand-thrown terracotta plant pots, which we sell in our store. He also designs bespoke garden vessels to commission, and runs a contemporary ceramics gallery. ***Brook Street, Hay-on-Wye HR3 (studiopottery.co.uk)***



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PICTURES: ALAMY (COUNTRYSIDE), GETTY (HAY-ON-WYE SIGN)



Concreation's modern concrete kitchen worktop

SURFACES

Well-made worktops in classic and contemporary styles

CONCREATIONS
Concrete is the on-trend finish for kitchens this year and this company offers pre-cast (made in the factory) and poured concrete designs (cast in situ) in cool, creative styles. Opt for a bold modern kitchen island, fire-pit or inglenook in your home.
(concreations.co.uk)

DECO GLAZE
The design insider's go-to maker is Deco Glaze, which creates colour-coated glass worktops in a choice of shades. It produces surfaces for bathrooms, too.
Unit 4, Amalgamated Drive, West Cross Industrial Park, Brentford TW8 (decoglaze.co.uk)

INTERIOR METAL CRAFTS
Looking for a distressed-metal worktop? This company makes and installs custom-made copper, zinc and brass surfaces.
124 Burnt Ash Hill, London SE12 (interiormetalcrafts.com)

NORFOLK OAK
A relatively cost-effective way to spruce up a kitchen is to add a solid-oak worktop. Norfolk Oak sells timber in different widths and finishes, providing detailed maintenance instructions, too.
Hangar 4, Blenheim Way, West Raynham Business Park, Fakenham NR21 (norfolkoak.com)

PRESTIGE WORK SURFACES
With more than 20 years' experience of fabricating and installing Corian worktops, this firm will travel anywhere in the UK to measure up and deliver the finished product. The service is speedy, too.
(prestigeworksurfaces.co.uk)

TIPFORDS
This copper specialist makes bespoke worktops and units. Copper is heat-resistant and its patina improves with age and wear, so it's a great option for kitchen surfaces.



'Zen' tap by The Watermark Collection



TAPS

Where to find the finishing touches for baths and sinks

ABODE
This company's innovative taps are designed in the UK and produced using traditional techniques. All of the pieces are easy to install and – whether traditional or more contemporary in style – have a sleek look.
Zenith Park, Barnsley S75 (abodedesigns.co.uk)

THE WATERMARK COLLECTION
This import from Brooklyn brings with it a collection of tap designs that you won't see anywhere else. There are 14 materials on offer, from polished copper to oil-rubbed bronze. We love the copper 'Zen' design, finished with solid-marble magnetic handles (see left).
(thewatermark collection.co.uk)

WATERWORKS
Every one of this brand's classic and modern bathroom fittings is hand-forged in Normandy. If you can't find exactly what you're after at the King's Road showroom, you can design your own combination from a selection of reflective and matte metal finishes instead.
579–581 King's Road, London SW6 (uk.waterworks.com)

PICTURE: ALAMY (LETTER)



HOME IN DETAIL

Luke McLaren of London-based architecture practice ***McLaren Excell*** *tells us which companies he called in to help him renovate an 18th-century barn in the Chiltern*

All of the kitchen and door joinery was completed on site by **BHL**, an Oxfordshire-based building contractor, to our exact specifications. We reused the barn's original oak boards to clad standard fire-door blanks and fitted them onto vintage black-steel runners ❶ purchased from Ebay. BHL also made the bespoke kitchen: commissioning it was a more affordable option than the equivalent off-the-shelf design.
Slade Farm, Kidlington OX5 (bhlbuilders.co.uk)

Architectural metalworking brand **G&S Sheet Metals** produced the bespoke staircase ❷. The hot-rolled black steel design has an industrial feel that fits the building's aesthetic.
1a Lea Road, Waltham Abbey EN9

The basalt stone worktops in the kitchen ❸ were sourced from specialist supplier **Stone Age**. You do have to be fastidious with cleaning and maintaining basalt to avoid staining, but it's a great material and has appealing blue-grey hues. Stone Age supplies good-quality stone and has an installation team.
Parsons Green Depot, Parsons Green Lane, London SW6 (stone-age.co.uk)

We wanted to keep the whole interior light and airy, so we opted for a whitewashed, Scandinavian aesthetic for the flooring. The engineered-oak boards ❷ were sourced from **Ted Todd**, which has a great selection of particularly wide boards available that perfectly complemented the scale of our space.
Ted Todd, 18 Chelsford Grange, Warrington WA1 (tedtodd.co.uk)

All of the taps ❹ are from **Vola**. Its minimalist, Scandinavian-style designs are a favourite among architects: we find that the quality is always reliable, too.
32–36 Great Portland Street, London W1 (vola.com)

Our main objective in terms of the light fittings was to make them as unobtrusive as possible. To this end, they were recessed into the walls and ceilings, in keeping with the clean, minimal design of the rest of the house. **Whitegoods** and **Kreon** are two companies that specialise in small, discreet fittings.
Whitegoods, Unit 19, 14 Southgate Road, London N1 (whitegoods.com); Kreon, 79 Maltings Place, 169 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 (kreon.com)


1

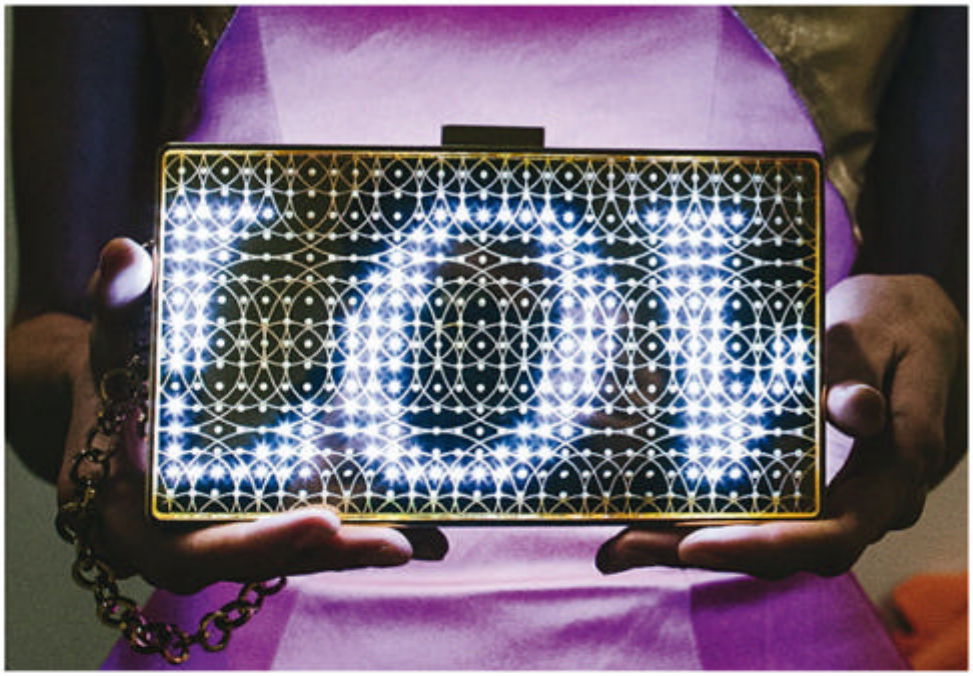

2


3




4

PICTURES: MCLAREN EXCELL/HANNAH J TAYLOR (HOME IN DETAIL)



This striking 'Mirror' clutch bag is by wearable-tech brand Cute Circuit

TECHNOLOGY

Discover smart designs and the latest gadgets for your home

CORNFLAKE
This company's 'Smart APP-artment' in London's Soho is the perfect place to road-test clever innovations. The knowledgeable staff – who are experts in design-led tech – will help you to understand the workings and benefits of a connected home. Still baffled? Round-the-clock technical support is available.
37–41 Windmill Street, London W1 (cornflake.co.uk)

CUTE CIRCUIT
Designers Francesca Rosella and Ryan Genz blend smart circuitry with fashionable fabrics. They're pioneering a futuristic trend that is sure to have an impact on interiors.
144 Shoreditch High Street, London E1 (cutecircuit.com)

MAKERS CAFE
Turn your ideas into reality at Makers Cafe, where your designs can be 3D-printed or laser-cut while you sip a flat white. Costing from £5 for 30 minutes' printing time, this is manufacturing at its most accessible.
Old Shoreditch Station, 1 Kingsland Road, London E2 (makerscafe.com)



'I've been following textile artist **Ptolemy Mann**'s work for years; it's so fabulously eye-popping that you can't miss it. She is a brilliant colourist whose forte is hand-woven stripy fabrics. She describes her work, which is inspired by traditional ikats, as "chromatic minimalism"'
(ptolemymann.com)
DOMINIC LUTYENS, DESIGN WRITER

TEXTILES

From Fairtrade fabrics to intricate embroidery

DOVECOTE STUDIOS
This galleried Edinburgh studio, housed in a renovated Victorian swimming-pool hall, is a great place to watch tapestry-weavers at work. Like what you see? The designers also take commissions.
10 Infirmary Street, Edinburgh EH1 (dovecotestudios.com)

JOEL & SON FABRICS
Now situated opposite the spot where the family opened its first market stall, Joel & Son Fabrics has connections with factories in Italy, France, Switzerland and India. It sells a staggering selection of materials, including patterns by designer brands, plus all of the trimmings. Look out for the bins full of amazing offcuts.
73–87 Church Street, London NW8 (joelandsonfabrics.com)

JOSS GRAHAM
This West London shop is a fabulous source of textiles from around the world. Expect to find kilim rugs, dhurries and embroidered cotton quilts alongside a fantastic array of artwork and other accessories.
10 Eccleston Street, London SW1 (jossgraham.com)

KIRSTEN HECKTERMANN
This Suffolk-based textile designer produces velvets and linens that are hand-dyed or hand-painted in a broad spectrum of muted colours. She uses these to create everything from embroidered cushions to curtains and wall panels. Plus, look out for her wooden spoons, which are made by hand in Kenya.
(kirstenhecktermann.com)

LUMA
The linens, silks and wools that this company uses are environmentally friendly and produced in an ethical way (its supplier in India is an official Fairtrade partner with Oxfam and Greenpeace). The attractive range of homeware includes cushions, bedding, rugs and blankets.
98 Church Road, London SW13 (lumadirect.com)


Made a Mano

TILES

Cheerful colours, bespoke designs and hand-painted motifs

LUBNA CHOWDHARY

This talented Tanzania-born ceramicist creates bespoke glazed-tile artworks at her studio in London. Her colour palette runs the gamut from cool, shrimp pink to inky indigo and molten-lava orange. Chowdhary can create any texture or finish you like, and her designs often feature retro or abstract motifs.
162 Sunnyhill Road, London SW16 (lubnachowdhary.co.uk)

MADE A MANO

Nanaki Bonfils designs tiles that blend international influences with a distinctly Scandinavian style. All of the studio's pieces are cut and glazed by hand, with decorations painted on by artists. The company's most exclusive range is made using lavastone sourced from Mount Etna and Vesuvius.
70 Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 (madeamano.com)

MILAGROS

Situated on London's Columbia Road, this shop imports its colourful tiles from Mexico. The company's name comes from the word for the silver or gold-coloured offerings that Mexicans attach to images of the Virgin Mary for good luck.
61 Columbia Road, London E2 (milagros.co.uk)

BEST FOR
RECLAIMED TILES
Bert & May
67 Vyner Street, London E2 (bertandmay.com)

MY SOURCEBOOK

***Sania Pell**, creative director, author and ELLE Decoration stylist, tells us about three of her favourite places in London*



1 **Books for Cooks** is a cookery-book shop in Notting Hill that has a tiny cafe serving up delicious food. Each day's offering is taken from one of the titles it stocks, and the cafe also has its own cookery book. This shop is a great inspiration for my food-styling shoots, and it's also one of my favourite places in London to meet a friend for a quick bite.
4 Blenheim Crescent, London W11 (booksforcooks.com)



2 Almost without exception, rain or shine, I get up early on the first Sunday of the month to go and buy props at **Chiswick Car Boot Sale**. Expect to find house-clearance traders, antique dealers and homeowners selling furniture, artwork and bric-à-brac.
Chiswick School grounds, Burlington Lane, London W4 (chiswickcarbootsale.com)

3 The British design-graduate show **'New Designers'** may not be such a secret, but I have been going every year since I was there exhibiting my own work. I think it's so important to support young designers; plus, it's a great place to discover fresh talent for editorial shoots. You will find everything from jewellery to furniture and pottery (above).
Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 (newdesigners.com)

POPHAM DESIGN

Based in Marrakech, this brand makes traditional Moroccan cement tiles with modern patterns. The production process is eco-friendly, with all of the materials sourced locally and every tile finished in a hydraulic press, rather than kiln-fired, to save energy.
(pophamdesign.com)

STORY TILES

Designed by Marga van Oers and made in Holland, each tile features a charming illustration. Printed on Dutch Whites, a type of tile that dates back to the 16th century, the individual motifs can be combined to produce beautiful storyboard walls.
(storytiles.nl)


Story Tiles



LOCAL **HOTSPOTS**

Photographer Uli Schade's personal guide to the best design spots in ***Edinburgh***







1

My husband Andrew and I relocated to his home town of Edinburgh in 2012 and opened our men's clothing store **Dick's** 1 in a beautiful Georgian terrace. We sell a broad range of men's garments, accessories and homeware.
3 North West Circus Place, Edinburgh EH3 (dicks-edinburgh.co.uk)

I love the work of fine artist **Fiona Dean**, whose studio is based here in the city. She applies her training as a taxidermist to produce striking small-scale sculptures 2.
(fionadean.co.uk)

We came across carpenter **Gaetan Richard** when we commissioned him to make the shop fittings for Dick's. He can create bespoke solutions for any space.
Unit 6, Mayfield Industrial Estate, Dalkeith EH22 (gaetanrichard.com)

Namon Gaston is a furniture maker whose pieces have a mid-century aesthetic. His 'Oxbow' chair is in production with Benchmark Furniture.
1 Airfield Workshops, Cousland EH22 (namongaston.com)

I'm a big fan of Simon and Angie Lewin's collection of fabrics and papers, **St Jude's** 3. Their studio is not open to the public, but they run exhibitions of work by artists they collaborate with.
(stjudesfabrics.co.uk)

For inspiration, I often head to **Summerhall** 4, a centre for art and design, and **Little Sparta**, the garden of artist and poet Ian **Hamilton Finlay.**
1 Summerhall, Edinburgh EH9 (summerhall.co.uk); Little Sparta, Stonypath, Dunsyre ML11 (littlesparta.org.uk)



1



2



4



3

PICTURES: ALAMY (EDINBURGH, SIGNPOSTS), PETER DIBDIN (SUMMERHILL)



Original House



VINTAGE

Where to go to hunt for treasure

GRAHAM MANCHA
For die-hard Eames fans, a reproduction is tantamount to blasphemy. This specialist dealer sources original pieces, or parts to reconstruct on request. So, if you're after the grey 'Shell' armchair with 'Eiffel' legs, Mancha is your man.
43 High Street, Leighton Buzzard LU7 (mancha.demon.co.uk)

HOPPER AND SPACE
An online source of mid-century furniture dating from the 1950s to the 1980s. All of the company's pieces are lovingly restored and freshly upholstered in zingy retro patterns. The team can also track down particular items and cover them in your chosen fabric.
(hopperandspace.com)



IAN SARGENT
If you have a Queen Anne wing chair or a button-backed Chesterfield in need of a new lease of life, this team of experts can work their magic in just two weeks.
Unit 3, 18 Mereway Road, Twickenham TW2 (iansargentreupholstery.com)

RC DEY & SON
Experts in pattern- and colour-matching, this family-run upholstery firm can refresh existing furniture, picking similar fabrics from its extensive range.
Byermoor Industrial Estate, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE16 (rcdeyupholsterers.co.uk)

UPHOLSTERERS

Companies that will give your soft furnishings a fresh look

AMBER HEPTINSTALL UPHOLSTERY
South London upholsterer Amber Heptinstall makes an artform out of reviving tired furniture using traditional, time-honoured methods. Working with 17th- and 18th-century pieces, as well as more modern designs, she has completed a diverse array of private commissions and also sells her own collection of brand-new chairs covered in luxurious fabrics from her workshop.
Drake House Enterprise Centre, 18 Creekside, London SE8 (amberheptinstall.com)



'For unique furniture, try the second-hand shops along Wandsworth Bridge Road. Then, contact master upholsterer Tomasz Seweryn at **Shoreditch Design Rooms**, who will spruce up your finds'
(shoreditchdesignrooms.com)
CHRISTINA SCHMIDT, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, SKANDIUM

PICTURE: ALAMY (LETTERS)

INSIDER GUIDE

ELLE Decoration's editor-at-large ***Talib Choudhry*** *charts some of London's lesser-known vintage shops*



Atomic is East London's destination for savvy vintage hunters. You're as likely to stumble across a 1930s Fritz Hansen sofa here as some cheap-and-cheerful Dutch shelving by Tomado.
125 Shoreditch High Street, London E1 (atomica.me.co.uk)

Tucked away on busy Holloway Road is **D&A Binder**, which specialises in vintage shop fittings. The refurbished display cases, hosiery drawers and hat stands would make perfect storage at home.
101 Holloway Road, London N7 (dandabinder.co.uk)

For a masterclass in Italian design, head to **De Parma** in Fulham. Expect to find iconic Giò Ponti armchairs and Fornasetti cabinets, alongside classic Gino Sarfatti lamps and Venini mirrors.
247 Fulham Road, London SW3 (deparma.com)

With a great selection of Scandinavian pieces, **Førest London** is a retro lover's dream. Owner Eva Coppens ensures that her prices include upholstery costs if requested.
115 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1 (forestlondon.com)

Mar-den sells fairly priced 20th-century products. The owners source pieces from all over Europe, including this 1970s Modernist chair (pictured).
77 Asylum Road, London SE15 (mar-den.co.uk)

You'll be spoilt for choice at seating emporium **Niche Antiques**, which restores furniture – from scalloped sofas to tub chairs – to its former glory.
The Mews Coachworks, 27 Mortimer Road, London NW10 (nicheantiques.co.uk)

Sigmar is a West London favourite run by interior designer Ebba Thott and furniture specialist Nina Hertig. Visit for a carefully curated stock of classic pieces that will enable you to live like Modernist master Le Corbusier himself.
263 King's Road, London SW3 (sigmarlondon.com)



JUNK DELUXE

Hidden in a shop within a shop in the seaside town of Margate is this secret stash of affordable, vintage designs. You'll find restored furniture and lighting from the 1930s to the 1980s. Spend time searching through its wares and you are likely to stumble across something that you have never seen before, but always wanted.
RG Scott Furniture Mart, The Old Ice Works, Bath Place, Margate CT9 (junkdeluxe.co.uk)

ORIGINAL HOUSE

Make an appointment to view the vintage finds on offer at this Gloucestershire warehouse – think farmhouse tables and industrial lighting. The brand's remit is 'properly made pieces with soul that stand the test of time'.
Lyncroft Business Park, Cirencester GL7 (original-house.co.uk)



'Since 1997, **Fiona McDonald** in Fulham has sold unusual mid-century furniture. She sources, restores and sells everything from lighting to furniture, with an emphasis on post-war Italian design'
323 Fulham Palace Road, London SW6 (fionamcdonald.com)
MARTIN BRUDNIZKI, INTERIOR DESIGNER



WALLPAPER

The finest designers of pattern and print for your walls

ALLYSON MCDERMOTT
Once a conservator for the National Trust, McDermott now crafts unique wallpapers using traditional resources, from rare pigments to distemper paint and hand-carved wood blocks.
Field House, Newnham GL1 (allysonmcdermott.com)

DE GOURNAY
For hand-painted wallpaper, visit this West London shop, whose designs range from Matisse-style chinoiserie to the antiqued wallcoverings found in Yves Saint Laurent's Paris apartment.
112 Old Church Street, London SW3 (degournay.com)

MICHAEL ANGOVE
From his Wiltshire garden studio, this Welsh designer works closely with clients to create tailor-made, hand-drawn botanical and floral wallcoverings, which are then printed digitally. All of the designs start with a real plant or flower, and can be painted, gilded or matched to your decor on request.
Bath Road, Devizes SN10 (michaelangove.com)

REBEL WALLS
This online company creates digitally printed photo murals using your choice of image – upload one of your own photos or choose from the 12 million options already in the brand's image bank.
(rebelwalls.co.uk)



De Gournay's West London shop sells a fabulous range of hand-painted wallpaper

SIAN ZENG
This designer maker's hand-drawn wallpapers aimed at children feature whimsical scenes of enchanted forests, fairy-tale castles and ancient beasts. Plus, the papers have a unique magnetic liner, so kids can embellish them with colourful magnets.
Studio 112, Cockpit Arts, 18–22 Creekside, London SE8 (sianzeng.com)

TRACEY TUBB
This textile designer performs fantastical experiments with paper: think intricate pleating, origami-folding and smart stitching that creates beautifully textural wallcoverings. Pieces are available on commission.
(traceytubb.co.uk)

ZUBER
Every roll of this brand's paper is hand-painted in France, as it has been since the 18th century. Samples of the historic designs can be sent from the workshop in France's Alsace region.
67 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (zuber.fr)

BEST FOR
WELLBEING AND BEAUTY
Content
14 Bulstrode Street, London W1 (beingcontent.com)

WINDOWS

Two leading brands that can work wonders with glass

KINGSEAL WINDOWS
This glazier creates made-to-order window panes, rooflights, sliding doors and even conservatories from toughened glass. It also offers a great while-you-wait glass-cutting service for smaller projects.
23–25 Lendal Terrace, London SW4 (kingsealwindows.co.uk)

ONWARD DISPLAY
A large-format print specialist can come in useful when you want to create frosted windows with a difference. Simply provide your chosen artwork and the dimensions of the area of glass you wish to cover, and this company's knowledgeable staff can print and cut self-adhesive vinyl to fit. It also produces wall stickers. The whole range can be viewed at any of its three London showrooms.
84 Berwick Street, London W1; 58–59 Margaret Street, London W1; 52 Upper Street, London N1 (onwarddisplay.com)

PICTURE: ALAMY (LETTER)

INSIDER GUIDE

*Nutritional therapist and health guru **Eve Kalinik** tells us the latest hotspots on the wellbeing scene*



An eco-friendly dry cleaner is much better for you, your clothes and the planet. Try **Blanc**, which has outposts in Marylebone and Notting Hill, for cleaning that replaces traditional toxic chemicals with biodegradable detergents. Plus, the staff will work around the clock for you. It's a convenient service and the prices are reasonable. ***79 George Street, London W1; 77 Lonsdale Road, London W11 (blancclean.com)***

Created by former fashion designer Timothy Han, **Edition Perfumes** produces natural fragrances. Seasonally sourced, raw ingredients are blended into an organic base. The products offer an amazing sensory experience and come beautifully packaged in artist-designed boxes (pictured below). ***203–213 Mare Street, London E8 (editionperfumes.com)***

The Pure H2O Company sells water-filtration systems that provide the purest possible drinking water by applying the process of reverse osmosis to remove impurities. This is an essential piece of kit for any health-conscious individual, and it can be retro-fitted into your existing kitchen. ***Boundary Lane, Woking GU21 (pureh2o.co.uk)***

UK Juicers is a brilliant website featuring top-of-the-range, niche equipment, such as dehydrators, blenders, sprouters and spiralisers. This is a great place to find more specialised kitchen kit and gadgets for making healthy lunches and dinners. ***(ukjuicers.com)***



WOOL

Two of the best destinations for weaves and knits

MELIN TREGWYNT MILL SHOP

There has been a mill turning local fleeces into wool inside this quaint whitewashed building in rural Wales since the 17th century. Today, the company produces a bright and bold range of woollen blankets, throws, fabrics, accessories and even lampshades. ***Castlemorris, Haverfordwest SA62 (melintregwynt.co.uk)***

TOFT

This Warwickshire farm sells DIY knitting kits to help you to create a range of homeware using alpaca, which is known as the 'fibre of the gods' due to its soft, lightweight, lustrous feel. All of the kits are marked with a skill level and come with a tote bag full of yarn, wooden needles and your pattern. Need help? Toft also runs workshops in crocheting and knitting. ***Toft Manor, Toft Lane, Rugby CV22 (thetoftalpacashop.co.uk)***



'I met Roger and Andrea of **Skye Weavers** while holidaying on the stunning Hebridean Isle of Skye. They operate a bicycle pedal-powered loom to produce beautiful wool to order'

18 Fasach, Glendale IV55 (skyeweavers.co.uk)

MICHAEL SODEAU, DESIGNER



A natural display at Venusrox, a crystal emporium in London



X-CHANGE

Swap homes for the holidays with equally design-minded folk

BEHOMM

With holiday home exchanges taking off all over the world, this website offers something genuinely unique: it only features houses that have beautiful interiors. Browse the current selection to see if your space would make the grade (this is an invitation-only community). It's worth applying, if only for the opportunity to stay in the Hawaiian beach retreat – one of the site's many highlights.
(behomm.com)

BEST FOR
JAPANESE SHOJI SCREENS
John Paul Jacques
1 Strawberry Vale, London TW1 (jpjacques.com)

YACHTING

Not just for nautical types

ARTHUR BEALE

This yacht chandlers has been selling nautical equipment from its shop in London's theatreland for 120 years. Its brass fittings, ropes and pulleys can also be put to use on dry land, creating space-saving hanging storage. Industrial designer Terence Woodgate is a fan. He visits to procure steel eye-plates, shackles and other attractive-yet-functional fixings.
194 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (arthurbeale.co.uk)



Arthur Beale

ZEN

Find your inner peace thanks to two different design philosophies

SFERA

Visit this Japanese brand's online store for a taste of wabi-sabi design. You will find everyday tools and objects designed with care to enhance daily life. Its products include natural wood-grain vessels and bamboo basketry created in the ancient Momoyama tradition.
(shop.ricordi-sfera.com)

VENUSROX

Victoria and Matt Forster, the owners of this exquisite Notting Hill crystal emporium, only source natural stones with good energy (this is more scientific than it sounds: think about quartz's ability to regulate a watch). They won't blind you with any New Age philosophy; instead, the idea is to let each customer be drawn towards the crystals they like, whether a polished obsidian ball, a hunk of halite, or amethyst.
25 All Saints Road, London W11 (venusrox.com)



'I find the hammam in the **Akasha Spa at Hotel Cafe Royal** to be a deeply inspiring place. Designed by David Chipperfield, the marble surroundings are beautifully done, but also calming'
68 Regent Street, London W1 (hotelcaferoyal.com/spa-and-gym)
JANIE JACKSON, DESIGNER AND OWNER, PARMA LILAC

PICTURE: ALAMY (LETTERS), CHRISTIAN BANFIELD (VENUSROX)


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