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ANOTHER DIMENSION

LARA BOHINC MBE ON
DESIGN, TECHNOLOGY AND
WOMEN IN BOARDROOMS


FINDING *True* NORTH

KATHERINE POULTON, LILY COLE
AND ROLAND MOURET BRING
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WATCH FEATURED SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY

From the editor

Nobody knows the female form quite like Roland Mouret. So when we'd heard whisperings of a partnership with ethical fashion brand The North Circular, to create a knitted version of one of his best-selling designs, we couldn't wait to hear more. The Eugene, modelled by Lily Cole on our front cover, has been handmade my grannies in the UK from locally sourced alpaca wool, and certified to the Global Organic Textile Standard. The brand's founders, Katherine Poulton (a friend of Mouret's) and her business partner (King's Cross resident and supermodel) Lily Cole tell us why we should all be going green (p. 10).



Following the release of her new book *Mr Mac and Me*, we meet author Esther Freud, who splits her time between Highgate and Suffolk. "I must drive past my great-grandfather Sigmund Freud's statue on the Finchley Road every day," she says. "My daughter Anna always blows him a little kiss." Amazingly, she didn't learn to read or write until the age of ten – Rebecca Wallersteiner reports (p. 14).

As Lara Bohinc MBE partners with Skultuna for a home accessories collection, the Marylebone-based designer speaks to Gabrielle Lane about fusing style and commerciality – and why we need more women in boardrooms (p. 60).

Elsewhere, I get a taste for restaurant life with one of our favourite foodie magnates, Des McDonald (p. 84), while actor Kyle Soller tells all ahead of his latest film releases: "Brad Pitt really is such a great guy..." (p. 34). If you're planning a winter getaway, we bring you three very different options: a hedonistic weekend in the glittering Monte Carlo (p. 92); yoga and inner Zen at The Ananda, Himalayas (p. 96); or a week at sea, A-list style (p. 100).

And from lavish lunches with Jackie O to cooking risotto on-board the T.M Blue One, take a lesson in opulent entertaining from a new book about the colourful world of Valentino, away from the catwalk (p. 80). Got room for one more?

Kari Colmans
Editor

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Finding True North, p. 10

Image courtesy of The North Circular
Lily Cole, photography by Kate Tomlinson

Runwild Media Group
Publishers of:
Canary Wharf, The City Magazine
The Kensington & Chelsea Magazine
The Mayfair Magazine



VANTAGE

NOVEMBER 2014 ISSUE 52

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Proudly published by

RWAG
RUNWILD MEDIA GROUP

6th Floor, One Canada Square
Canary Wharf, London, E14 5AX
020 7987 4320 ♦ rwmg.co.uk



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Vantage magazine is distributed throughout Hampstead, Highgate, Primrose Hill, St John's Wood, Maida Vale, Marylebone, Regent's Park and the surrounding areas. For complete maps please visit our website.





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FINDING TRUE NORTH

With a new book and a collaboration with womenswear designer Roland Mouret, ethical accessories label The North Circular is thriving. *Gabrielle Lane* speaks to its supermodel founders, Katherine Poulton and Lily Cole

I could begin this feature with a declaration of how popular ethical fashion has become; I could cite the vegetarian approach of Stella McCartney, who uses no leather in her collections, or the various political and environmental campaigns of Dame Vivienne Westwood. But the reality is, for a while at least, sustainability wasn't on the fashion agenda. When it was, it wasn't spoken about. Consider that LVMH (the luxury goods stable that owns Louis Vuitton, Dior and Givenchy) has had a director of environment monitoring the group's production and supply chain for more than 20 years, but while, thanks to its new campaign, we're able to talk about how Vuitton's ubiquitous monogram started, few people are able to tell you about the drive to keep its carbon footprint low. For a long time, sustainability was regarded as unmarketable.

In 2009, when supermodels Katherine Poulton and Lily Cole co-founded The North Circular, a brand which recruits retired grandmothers to knit snoods, scarves and hats from responsibly-sourced British wool, they were aware of the stigma. "When we started out we thought we were going to get shot down by the industry," admits Katherine. "But that hasn't been the response at all. I think because we do work with the

elderly and we strive to create a unique product, the project does capture people's hearts a little bit."

"Katherine and I always hoped that our customers might write to their knitters sometimes and say thank you. It has happened once or twice," Lily adds.

Accessories are now stocked in Selfridges and Harvey Nichols and this autumn the brand debuts a collaboration with renowned womenswear designer Roland Mouret who, upon his own suggestion, has seen his ruched, form-fitting Eugene top crafted in paisley-print wool. Around 20 retired women now work in production. "It's our little team," says Katherine.

So why aren't more brand's following suit and putting ethics at the heart of their supply chain? "Fashion has always indulged itself in decadence and the exploration of how creative a person can be, so I think the idea of having to be restricted and worrying about where every single [material] comes from is quite a turn off for most designers who are working in high pressure situations." Giving ethical fashion a bracket, she adds, is setting up a category that people can actively examine and dislike. "If you only had to label what the problems were with things that weren't ethical, then I think people would actively change their choices."

For Lily, the issue is a lack of transparency. "Globalisation has made things very invisible. You might

"When we started out we thought we were going to get shot down by the industry"

not be unfair to your local tailor or grocer because you know him or her, but it's potentially harder to discover empathy when faced with opaque objects."

Then of course there is the issue of finance. "To be honest, fashion doesn't have the margins that the beauty industry or other industries have. Fashion is quite a tough way to make money, and so I think it goes against how the industry [naturally] works," says Katherine.

However, when big brands do commit to championing certain causes, it is an effective use of the soapbox. "Fashion is a good platform for social and environmental issues because of its position in the media; people's lives are infiltrated by images. Also, because

"I've worked with Roland Mouret as a model since the beginning of my career. I've always really respected him"

[fashion] is generally a light-hearted part of people's lives, it's an easier way to stimulate them to think about issues. Whereas they would maybe turn the page of a newspaper overwhelmed by negativity, they can instead participate in doing something about an issue by buying into [products], or by wearing a T-shirt."

Undoubtedly, the personal profiles of Katherine and Lily have served to draw attention to their own views: Katherine starred in advertising campaigns for Comme des Garçons, Kurt Geiger and Patrick Cox before quitting modelling for horticulture and business, while Lily remains a vibrant figure on the British runway. And with experience comes useful contacts.



Big Knit Bobble Hat, £89



Dip Dye Tomlin Style, £165



Furze Glove, £95

Katherine Poulton and Lily Cole





“I have been in fashion a long time and there are people I remember,” says Katherine. “It helps because if they have a personal connection too, then [ours] is not just another email in a list. I’ve worked with Roland Mouret as a model since the beginning of my career. I’ve always respected him and seen the journey that his business has gone through. He and his team have been especially supportive, because, quite often there are things you don’t know – how to use specific fashion software or how best to ship to other countries, for example.”

Indeed, when I speak to Roland Mouret a day later, it is clear that he feels an affinity with the brand and a loyalty to its founders. “I love the collaboration, it mixes two energies,” he explains. And speaking of Katherine, he says: “it is fantastic to see a young trendy model in London evolve into a woman with her own business.”

The North Circular now stocks some of its best-selling pieces online and the rise of e-commerce in fashion is something Katherine has witnessed from the start. “I knew (Net-a-Porter.com founder) Natalie Massenet when she was a stylist and I remember when she mentioned the idea of her company to Roland. It was like ‘oh really, we’re going to be buying our clothes online?’ I don’t shop a lot but I like the idea that it’s convenient for people to find what they need.”

Of course, buying products from The North Circular only represents a small part of a positive lifestyle. “The ideal version of myself meditates everyday, does yoga, lives simply and owns few things, all of which she loves,” sighs Lily. “It’s a constant process of intention and learning. I am by no means perfect.” Katherine concurs: “The North Circular is a simple idea, but it is heart-warming. I think we need those kind of sweet things in our lives – it helps to bring people together.” ■

thenorthcircular.com

A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Esther Freud talks family-life, learning to read and write, and inspiration for her new novel, *Mr Mac and Me*

INTERVIEW / REBECCA WALLERSTEINER

PHOTOGRAPHY / GRAHAM JEPSON

Together with her husband, the actor David Morrissey, Esther Freud lives in Highgate with their three children; Albie (19), Anna (16) and Gene (10). Her ubiquitous moniker ensured she was to lead a life less ordinary; her Austrian great-grandfather was the most famous psychoanalyst of all time, Sigmund Freud, her father, the artist Lucian Freud and her sister the fashion designer Bella. Born in 1963, Esther worked as an actress before writing the first of her eight novels, being named one of Granta's best young British novelists. Her first novel, *Hideous Kinky* (1992) was made into a film starring Kate Winslet. Her latest book, *Mr Mac and Me*, is a fictional account of the friendship between the architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the son of the landlord of a pub in a small Suffolk village during World War One.



I spend around a third of my time in Suffolk, and the rest in Highgate, although I'd like to spend more time in the former as I feel so inspired by nature. I love observing the Suffolk countryside. You realise just how much it has changed when you read about how people lived at the turn of the 20th century. I have in front of me a wonderful photographic book, *Traditional Crafts and Industries in East Anglia*, which shows how different life was at that time. The images were taken by the photographer Hallam Ashley who wanted to record the traditional way of life that was threatened by rapid industrialisation at that time. He has captured the landscape and people who lived and worked there so beautifully.

Although my dad was very urban he also loved animals and nature. He painted his dogs and plants throughout his life, as well as people he knew well. My mother, Bernadine Coverley, was an exceptional gardener, a job she did professionally. She spent the last years of her life in the Suffolk countryside.

At present my kids keep me in London much of the time. I must drive past my great-grandfather Sigmund Freud's statue on the Finchley Road every day. My daughter Anna always blows him a little kiss. My father said that he was incredibly sharp and intelligent with a twinkle in his eye. His youngest daughter was also called Anna



“My time at drama school taught me how to project my voice and hold an audience. I probably work more on the stage now than ever before”

and became a distinguished child psychoanalyst. She looked after him when they first arrived in London [from Austria] and they lived at Maresfield Gardens.

My children attend a school in north London, close to our home, which must surely be the least pushy school the area. It is rather like the Rudolph Steiner School, which I attended as a child. It valued arts and crafts, rather than the three traditional Rs – which was just as well for me. I really struggled to learn to read and write. But the school concentrated on developing my artistic abilities and encouraged me to make up stories rather than pressurising me to achieve academically. I didn't learn to read until I was around the age of 10 or 11. Luckily for me, the Rudolf Steiner teachers were non-judgemental and helped develop my confidence.

I went to drama school in Chalk Farm with Colin Firth. Colin had star quality from the start. He was in the year above me. I rented a room from an elderly couple in nearby Belsize Park. It had a very old-world atmosphere and was probably the closest to pre-war Vienna that you could get. My time at drama school taught me how to project my voice and hold an audience. I probably work more on the stage now than ever before; giving talks and

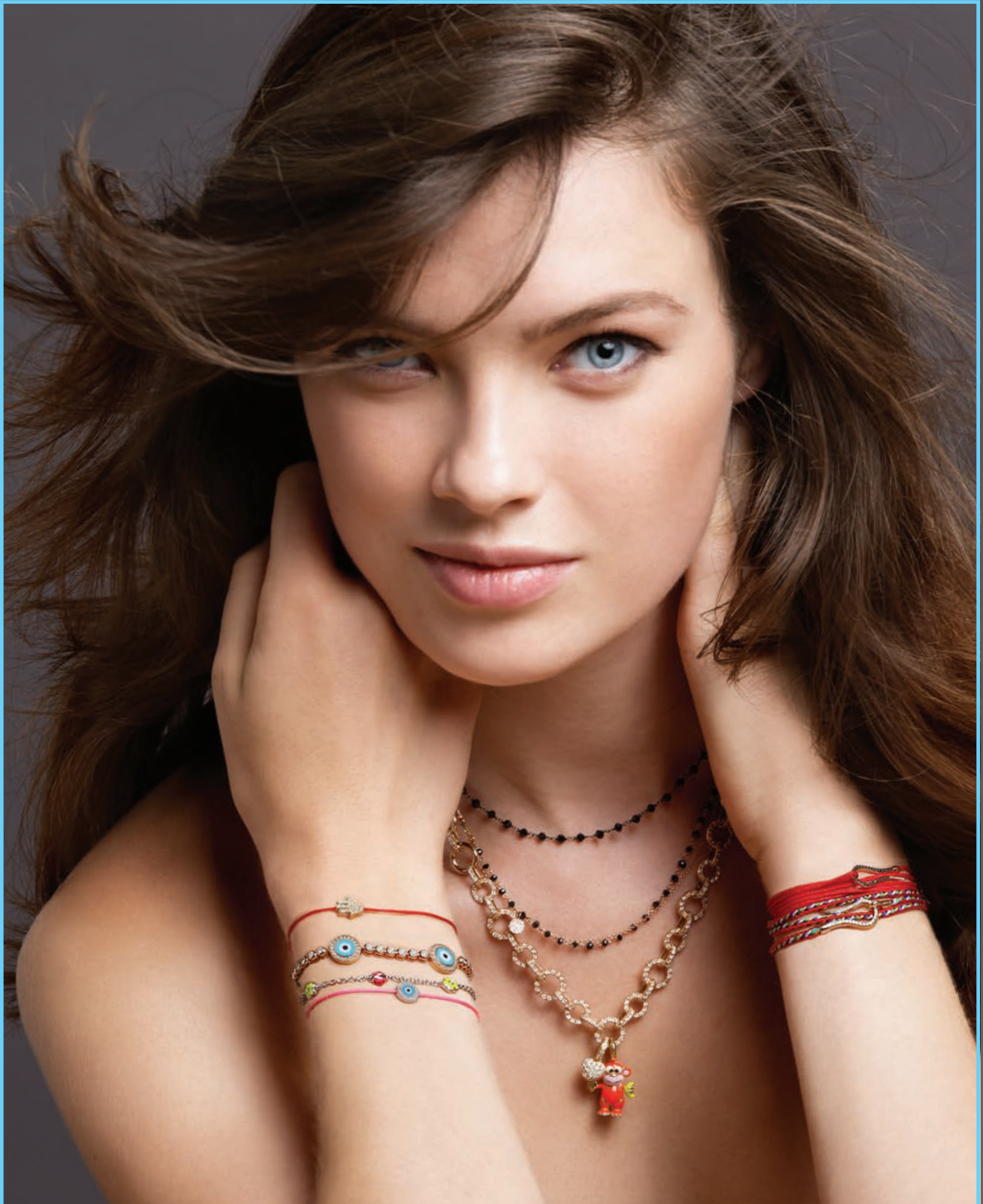
readings of my new novel *Mr Mac and Me*. Although, having said that, actors are not always very good at talking about themselves. My husband finds it easier to stand up on a stage as someone else.

David always encourages my work. It works well that I can write anywhere, as he travels a lot. And that I can juggle my work with looking after the family when he is away. While researching for *Mr Mac and Me*, I spent a lot of time in Glasgow, and visiting the Glasgow School of Art. I read biographies and accounts of life in Suffolk around 100 years ago, including a book called *Can Your Mother skin a Rabbit?* Life was tough for most people who were very poor at the time and scraping a living from the land or sea. ■



Mr Mac and Me by Esther Freud, £16.99 is published by Bloomsbury and is out now


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WISH list

SALONQP 2014

SalonQP, the UK's largest premium watch exhibition, returns to the Saatchi Gallery this month. Now in its sixth year, it has been established as a must-visit event for collectors, enthusiasts and press. More than 50 marques will be in attendance, including TAG Heuer, Zenith, Bremont, Chopard and Jaeger-LeCoultre. This year's show will also feature *Gems of Time*, a specially curated exhibition which celebrates the heritage, glamour, and craftsmanship of high jewellery timepieces. Included will be a unique set of Bulgari Serpenti watches, which Elizabeth Taylor famously wore on the set of *Cleopatra* in 1962, and the 101 mechanical movement by Jaeger-LeCoultre that HM The Queen wore on her Coronation Day in 1953.

6-8 November, Saatchi Gallery
salonqp.com

WATCH NEWS

SALUTING THE MINUTE REPEATER

Originally devised as a way of telling the time in the dark, the minute repeater has come to represent all that is romantic in watchmaking. Paying tribute to the hallowed complication, Roger Dubuis recently unveiled the Hommage Minute Repeater Tourbillon Automatic.

Thanks to a lack of dial, the watch provides a clear view of the parts in motion when the striking mechanism chimes hours, minutes and quarter hours. A flying tourbillon guarantees optimal inertia, equilibrium and anti-shock protection. Pink gold is the material of choice for the case, lugs, crown, and visible mainplate. Each piece takes 1,241 hours to make. Or put another way, more than seven and a half weeks. First deliveries start in May 2015.

Hommage Minute Repeater Tourbillon Automatic, £317,700, Roger Dubuis
rogerdubuis.com



BOUTIQUE BONANZA

One of London's most exclusive neighbourhoods is about to get even more glam. Following the recent opening of Richard Mille's first UK standalone store on Mount Street, this autumn will see Blancpain launching a flagship boutique on New Bond Street before IWC unveils its first UK premises down the road. In the wake of the summer launch of Watches of Switzerland's Regent Street showroom – the largest watch store in Europe – the openings surely cement London as the watch capital of the continent.

COMPLICATION MADE SIMPLE

It's the award-winning German brand that knocks out mechanical wristwatches with in-house movements for less than a grand. While the latest edition of Nomos Glashütte's Zurich Worldtimer, the True Blue, retails for a little more than that, £3,850 gets you a patented worldtime mechanism that will indicate the time in 24 cities at the click of a button. It also gets you a clean and elegant little number that you're unlikely to see many of while travelling around London.

Zurich Worldtimer True Blue, £3,850
nomos-glashuette.com



CUTTING EDGE

Allun Michaels, store manager at Fraser Hart in Brent Cross, selects his watch of the month:

“The Tudor Heritage Black Bay offers vintage style with modern peace of mind. With a choice of a steel bracelet or distressed leather strap, plus a complimentary fabric version, you can have a different look for every occasion”

Heritage Black Bay, £2,330, Tudor
 Fraser Hart, Brent Cross, 020 8732 8459,
brentcross@fraserhart.co.uk
 @FHBrentCross



C70

3527

C70 3527 GT CHRONOMETER – LIMITED EDITION

GT



The C70 3527 GT – named from the chassis number of the seventh Ferrari 250 GTO to leave the Maranello gates and from which it has a precious fragment of body panel in the case back – is a limited edition of 100.

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CHR. WARD
LONDON



IWC Schaffhausen assembled an all-star cast to descend upon the picture-perfect Portofino in celebration of the launch of its Portofino Midsize collection.

Annabel Harrison reports

They say that a picture paints a thousand words but to me, these campaign shots pose just three questions; who are they, where are they and can I be part of their gang? The first question is by far the easiest one to answer, as I recognise most of the faces immediately; these film stars and models go by the names of Cate Blanchett, Christoph Waltz, Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt, Zhou Xun, Karolina Kurkova and Adriana Lima. They are in Portofino, “a name that resonates with the promise of all that is best about Italy,” declares IWC passionately, somewhere that “has been maintained with breathtaking delicacy; nothing disturbs the aura of timeless grandeur... In places like this, history is written – or photographed”. Waltz enthuses, rather more simply, that Portofino is “one of the most magical places on the planet” and having visited, I can concur. The azure waters, pastel-pretty houses fringing the harbour and natural charm of this little fishing village have long attracted Hollywood’s most dazzling stars – the



standard roll-call of Bogart, Bacall, Burton and Taylor – and this has continued into the 21st century.

The final question is rather more difficult for this elite group are “friends of the brand”, the brand in question being IWC Schaffhausen, and they’ve come together to be shot by legendary photographer Peter Lindbergh. I’m not going to kid myself – this is an exclusive club and one I’m unlikely to be asked to join – but the photos draw me in nonetheless or, perhaps, for this very reason. What I find most appealing is the graceful androgyny, so elegantly achieved: the shots are black and white, as are the actors’ costumes (black tuxedos and crisp white shirts); nothing detracts from the subjects. The watches are not forcefully present; McGregor’s is barely visible and in Waltz’s photo and the ensemble picture not a single watch is shown.

The mood is relaxed and the actors appear at ease; shirt buttons undone, ties loose. “Being dressed in a tuxedo, wearing these amazing pieces of art while speeding along the Italian Riviera, I wished for nothing more than to stop time and linger just a little longer.”

Waltz said happily. McGregor was similarly moved:

“I find myself in one of the most picturesque and trend-setting places on the planet wearing a tux and an elegant Portofino.” Blanchett, the only cast brand-friend who was shot by Lindbergh in 2010, when he worked with IWC for the first time, added that “wearing a tuxedo changes the way one faces the world” and, indeed, it changes the way the world views the wearer. IWC’s CEO Georges Kern explains that the new Portofino Midsize models are intended to play with such contrasts and blur boundaries – black and white, masculinity and femininity – and as such the watches aim to have a unisex appeal.

Blunt declared that her time with Lindbergh in Portofino was an experience she won’t forget. I ask her what the atmosphere was like on set, quoting Lindbergh’s own words (“only in Portofino does time stand still”) and she declares that it was “magical... With other photographers you can feel micro-managed – told where to place a hand, when a hair is out of place – and it just

“Working with Peter was cinematic... He has this incredible ability to capture moments”

- Emily Blunt

feels stagnant. Working with Peter was very cinematic, actually, and closer to what we’re used to and more comfortable doing, just walking and talking together.

He has this incredible ability to capture moments – that’s the difference between a photograph and a moment – so it was a magical experience, especially in a place like Portofino where they just do life right!”

The Portofino, for those who are wondering, is one of IWC’s most well-known and popular watch families, launched 30 years ago in 1984. It was named after the Italian village by an IWC employee, still with the company today, who often frequented Portofino and suggested to his company, as Kern explains, “the development of a watch line that would embody the region’s fine wines, wonderful cuisine, agreeable climate and timeless elegance”. The Portofino family was chosen for this Midsize collection because “the name is more feminine and, compared with other IWC models, the collection is generally more elegant”. To this end, you needn’t think that bigger is better or smaller is weaker.

Thus these seven global stars were brought together to be part of the shots that would make up a glamorously relaxed photographic exhibition, *Timeless Portofino*, which will travel across the world to celebrate the new Midsize collection. Kern stresses that his company is “interested in more than the red carpet and logo wall” and initiatives like this go a long way towards proving that this is true. ■

iwc.com

JEWELLERY NEWS

BRING TO LIGHT

For 125 years, De Beers has been capturing the hearts of women all around the world with its covetable diamond creations. And now it has decided to celebrate its female muses through a series of portraits shot by Mary McCartney. Inspirational women, including fashion designer Alice Temperley MBE, artist Cornelia Parker OBE, choreographer Aszure Barton, Michelin-starred chef Skye Gyngell and photographer Chen Man, were chosen to front the Moments in Light initiative which aims to shine a light on the Women for Women International charity, which was founded with the aim of helping women in war-torn regions to rebuild their lives. Over the next two years, De Beers will provide financial support to six year-long programmes in Kosovo, Nigeria, Iraq and Rwanda.

momentsinlight.co.uk
debeers.co.uk



MOVING WITH THE TIMES

Founder of Boodles William Wainwright created the brand's first pocket watches almost 150 years ago; this year the British jeweller revisits its heritage with the launch of its first high jewellery watch collection. Arriving into showrooms on 1 November, the Boodles Blossom watch has looked to the company's existing, and iconic, Blossom jewellery collection for inspiration. Head designer Rebecca Hawkins explains: "We wanted to stay true to what Boodles is known for and this is of course jewellery. The new watch is delicate and feminine, and combines diamonds, mother of pearl, white and rose gold to create what we believe to be a truly special, as well as functional, piece of high jewellery".

The Boodles Blossom Watch is available in two sizes
POA, boodles.com



CROSS THE T'S

Tiffany & Co.'s Francesca Amfitheatrof, who joined the company last year, has already created quite a stir in the industry, even going so far as to hint in a recent interview with British Vogue that the iconic duck egg packaging (for which Tiffany is famous) could be up for a dramatic redesign. While this may not have happened yet, Amfitheatrof has already shown her daring side by going against the brand's traditional aesthetic in an ultra-modern collection for the house. Symbolising a new era, Tiffany T has been dedicated to New York's "relentless energy" which "drives art and culture around the world", incorporating minimalist and graphic pieces capturing the city's architecture.

tiffany.co.uk



LOOK TO THE STARS

For Jason and Sophia Hirsh, founders of the eponymous London-based jeweller, designing jewellery is about creating individual works of art that tell a personal story. This has been evoked in the latest Hirsh design, the Celestial ring, which was inspired by Jason's childhood memories of playing with his mother's rings. The three inspired designs – Pegasus, Orion and Lyra – comprise white-cut diamonds that represent stars and glide effortlessly on 26 rubies, coming in either 18-karat yellow, white or rose gold.

Celestial ring, POA
hirshlondon.com

A FINE ART

In a beautiful Belgravia townhouse is where you'll find bespoke fine jeweller Niquesa's atelier. Founded by Luigi and Elisabetta de Simone, the house draws upon four generations of Italian craftsmanship to create unique pieces. As well as the bespoke service, Niquesa also produces fine jewellery collections, the latest of which is called Harlequin. The baroque-themed collection comprises an eclectic and flamboyant selection of earrings, rings and necklaces; we particularly love the bold Ametrine Harlequin ring featuring amethysts, multicoloured sapphires and round brilliant-cut diamonds set in 18-karat yellow gold.

Harlequin collection, from £4,560
By appointment at Niquesa Fine Jewellery
19 West Eaton Place, SW1X
niquesafinejewellery.com



UP THE GARDEN PATH

Jewellers often take inspiration from nature for their pieces; consider Piaget's iconic rose motif or Chanel's timeless camellia, for instance. French jeweller Chaumet has similarly looked to the natural world for its latest collection, which has been based around the hydrangea flower. The Hortensia fine jewellery collection is made up of two parts: the first includes six exquisite pieces, while the second is the house's newest entry level range and comprises 18 pieces.

Hortensia collection, POA
chaumet.com

SANDS OF TIME

Italian artisan jeweller Pomellato's latest collection of delicate, diamond pieces, entitled Sabbia, has been inspired by the molecular, glimmering particles of sand, which cover the world's most spectacular beaches. The irregular and undulated pavé design of small and large circlets forms each ring's central motif and comes in white, brown or black diamonds, capturing the varying hues of shimmering sand. Each ring has been set in rose gold. The latest collection also includes bracelets, necklaces, pendants and earrings.

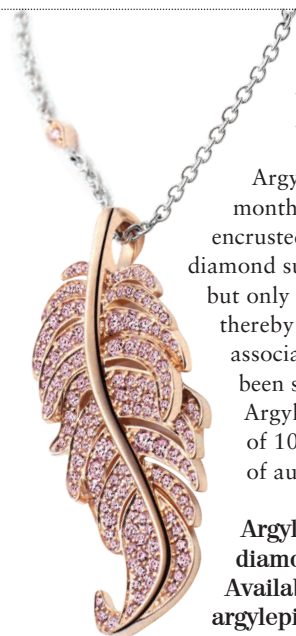
Sabbia collection by Pomellato
pomellato.com



FEATHER IN ITS CAP

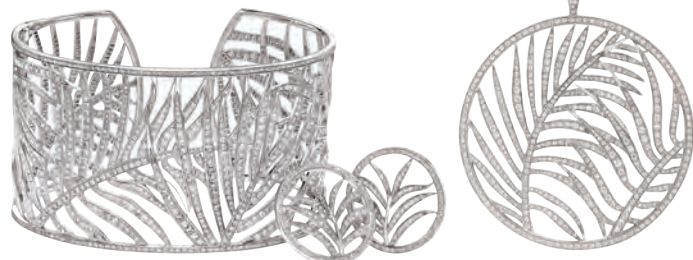
Argyle Diamonds marks its 30th anniversary this month with the launch of a limited edition pink diamond encrusted feather pendant. This is the first time the diamond supplier has created a collection of feather pendants but only 100 of these are being made available globally, thereby speaking to the rarity and exclusivity so often associated with the company. The delicate design has been set with one carat of natural and ethically supplied Argyle pink diamonds and each one has a numbered '1 of 100' laser inscription, accompanied by a certificate of authenticity and a bespoke box.

Argyle Pink Plume limited edition pink diamond pendant, POA
Available from November at select ateliers
argylepinkdiamonds.com



CUTTING EDGE

Theo Fennell's new collection of diamond pieces has been inspired by the exoticism of palm trees. Encompassing earrings, pendants and a cuff, each piece has been crafted in 18-karat white gold and pavé diamonds.



"Curiously, a lot of palm trees had begun featuring in my sketches. They have always been reminiscent of exotic, happy times when I was a boy in the Far East or on holidays in the Caribbean.

I realised their random sense of movement and light would make a fine starting point for a collection"

Palm 18-karat white gold & pavé diamond necklace, earrings and cuff, £1,500 to £22,950
thoefennell.com



From left: Panthère de Cartier collection yellow gold ring with onyx, tsavorite and garnets, and platinum necklace with cultured pearls, onyx, emeralds and diamonds, both Tania & Vincent © Cartier; Jeanne Toussaint, Cartier Archives © Cartier

CHANGING SPOTS

As Cartier celebrates the 100th anniversary of its legendary panther with a new fine jewellery collection, *Olivia Sharpe* discovers how a cultural icon was born

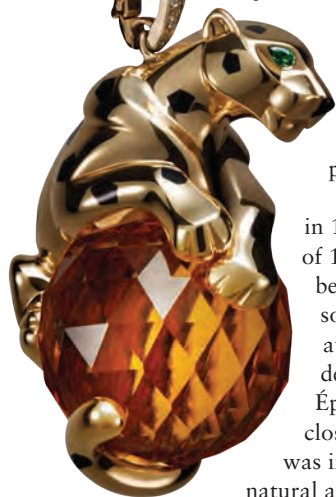
This year marks the centenary of the start of the First World War. While this particular milestone naturally takes precedence above all others, 2014 also signals another anniversary which is of particular significance to the fine jewellery world; the birth of Cartier's iconic panther motif. At first, it might seem somewhat inappropriate to be celebrating a piece of history that is frivolous in comparison to one of the most devastating events of the 20th century. And yet, it is often the case that during turbulent periods in history, creative genius is spawned. When one considers this, the Cartier panther takes on a whole new meaning, symbolising timeless beauty created in a time of adversity.

Therefore, in celebration, Cartier has launched Panthère de Cartier: a collection of 56 fine jewellery pieces that reimagines its famous big cat in a number of different forms, including a yellow gold necklace

with black lacquer, onyx, tsavorite, garnets and diamonds; a white gold ring featuring a modern, geometric openwork design and an Op Art tribal bracelet with a pattern of diamonds and onyx spots. While the panther has evolved considerably over the decades, reinvented in countless styles and unconventional materials, its main meaning has remained the same; strong, powerful and majestic. And it continues to be an emblem of freedom of expression and artistic creativity.

The first Cartier panther was created in 1914 by the house's then designer Charles Jacqueau, appearing on a wristwatch with a round case of polished platinum, paved with rose-cut diamonds and onyx, and featuring a black-and-white spotted motif inspired by the animal's coat. The abstract design not only heralded the birth of an icon, but the beginning of the Art Deco styles to come. However, it is widely considered that it was not until the arrival of Cartier's famed jewellery

Clockwise from left: Panthère de Cartier collection yellow gold necklace with onyx black lacquer, citrine, tsavorite garnets and diamonds, Tania & Vincent © Cartier; Panther sketch, Isabelle Rey © Cartier; Nils Herrmann © Cartier; 1914 wristwatch designed by Charles Jacqueau, N. Welsh, Cartier Collection © Cartier; Bangle-bracelet with two heads, Paris 1991, Cartier Archives © Cartier



director, Jeanne Toussaint, that the panther was truly brought to life. Toussaint was born in Belgium in 1887 but moved to Paris at the age of 13 to live with her sister. There she became immersed in Parisian high society, taking inspiration from the avant-garde world of artists and designers during the height of the Belle Époque. Like her contemporary and close friend Coco Chanel, Toussaint

was imbued with natural artistic talent and impeccable taste and this was immediately picked up on by Louis Cartier, grandson of the eponymous house's founder, who met Toussaint just before the start of WW1. He was immediately captivated by her magnetic personality, killer instinct and ferocious spirit.

It was this spirit, in particular, which led to her being nicknamed 'the panther' (not to mention it being an animal she was evidently fond of) having designed numerous objects themed around the feline for herself, including a vanity case and cigarette box. In 1933, having

worked at Cartier for a number of years in the small leather goods and accessories department, she was appointed head of fine jewellery and it was then that her creative powers were fully unleashed. With her unique vision and technical skill, she revolutionised the house's style with modern settings. In fact, she is responsible for having invented the principle of clip-on jewellery and for reintroducing the trend for using yellow gold following the 1920s era of monochrome, along with other non-traditional materials, such as rock crystal and platinum.

Then, in 1948, the Duke of Windsor commissioned the jeweller to design a piece of jewellery for his wife. The three-dimensional gold clip-brooch featured a spectacular cabochon emerald upon which perched a gold-and-black spotted panther; a radical departure



This year, Cartier has reinvented its famous panther motif in a number of different forms

from the traditional jewellery of the decade, it was seen as a revolutionary piece of jewellery design. As a trend-setter of her day, it was not long before other high-profile women picked up on the Duchess' new, widely reported fashion statement and the panther next appeared on the wealthy editor of *Harper's Bazaar* in Paris, Daisy Fellowes; on this occasion, the motif was reinvented in platinum with piercing yellow diamonds for eyes and a spectacular 152-carat sapphire cabochon.

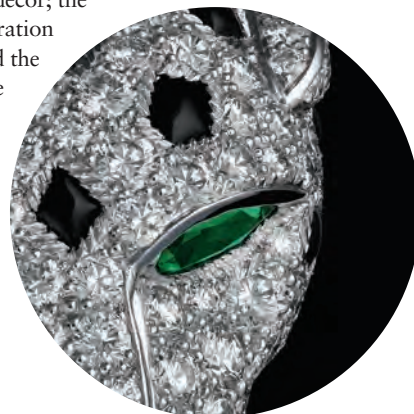


From then on, the panther has continued to be worn by influential female figures, from Barbara Hutton and María Félix to Francine Weisweiler and Princess Nina Aga Khan, all of whom no doubt were subconsciously drawn to its strong and powerful persona. Pierre Rainero, the current image, style and heritage director at

Cartier, sums up why it was so successful. "The panther, as it was for Jeanne Toussaint, became the emblem

of very independent women with their own freedom to enjoy, buying their own jewellery and in many cases making all the big decisions in life themselves."

Today, the Cartier panther appears bolder and fiercer than ever before, perhaps in order to convey how women have successfully battled through the troubles of the 20th century. Rainero comments: "In all the different creations, the common point is that the panther is at the centre of the composition, the centre of the creation. The panther is never the decor; the panther is really the inspiration of a piece of jewellery and the panther is the actor or the actress of the main role of the composition." Who knows what the next century of the panther will bring, but what we can say for certain is that the wild cat will continue to surprise and astound. ■



cartier.com

BELLE *of the* BALL

An enchanted spell has been cast over the jewellery world, with fairytale-inspired collections



1 Astre de Lumière long necklace, POA, Van Cleef & Arpels, vancleefarpels.com 2 Plume de Chanel gold yellow earrings, POA, Chanel Fine Jewellery, chanel.com
 3 Garzas pendant in yellow gold and diamonds (medium), POA, Carrera y Carrera, carreraycarrera.com 4 Butterfly rose gold and coloured diamond necklace, Red Carpet Collection, POA, Chopard, chopard.com 5 Yellow and white diamond necklace, POA, David Morris, davidmorris.com 6 Gold, ruby and diamond apple core charm, £5,500, Aurélie Bidermann Fine Jewellery, net-a-porter.com 7 Yellow diamond Sitar earrings, Red Carpet Collection, POA, Chopard, as before 8 Gold-tone Swarovski crystal butterfly ring, £140, Alexander McQueen, net-a-porter.com 9 Robe Couleur du Soleil clip, POA, Van Cleef & Arpels, as before 10 Trompe l'oeil yellow diamond ring, POA, Dior, dior.com
 11 Garzas ring in yellow gold and diamonds (medium), POA, Carrera y Carrera, as before 12 Beauté céleste ring, POA, Van Cleef & Arpels, as before
 13 Spiral diamond yellow gold earrings, £11,846, Faberge, faberge.com 14 Lumières d'Eau timepiece in yellow gold and yellow sapphires, POA, Chaumet, chaumet.com
 15 Lumières d'Eau transformable earrings in yellow gold and yellow sapphires, POA, Chaumet, as before

Calleija

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Marina Mirage
Main Beach Gold Coast
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+61 (0)7 5528 3666

calleija.com

LOCAL UPDATE



A VISION IN RED

On November 11, the last ceramic poppy will fill the moat at the Tower of London to honour Armistice Day. Created by artist Paul Cummins, each of the 888,246 handmade poppies symbolises a soldier that died during World War One. Cummins was inspired by a line in the will of a man who died in Flanders, which read 'the blood swept lands and seas of red, where angels fear to tread'. His design, assisted by stage designer Tom Pipe, will amount to 16 acres of flowers around the iconic castle's moat, intending to serve as a memorial sight for personal reflection and commemoration.

poppies.hrp.org.uk

REMEMBER, REMEMBER



The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month commemorates the time in 1918 when the guns of the Western Front ceased, after more than four years of continuous warfare. Since then, the Cenotaph in Whitehall has conducted a Remembrance Service on the second Sunday in November. Hymns are sung, prayers are read and a two-minute silence is observed to remember those who died in conflict. Wreaths will be laid on the steps of the Cenotaph and the ceremony will end with a parade of Royal Family members together with former and current service men and women.

11 November, Whitehall, SW1A

HISTORY IN COLOUR

The release of *The First World War in Colour* marks the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War by bringing together 320 coloured images assembled from archives in Europe, the US and Australia. Captured by a small group of photographers – 'the autochrome pioneers of the period' – colour pictures are far harder to come by than those taken in black and white. This early form of colour photography was introduced in 1907, and subsequently most of the pictures produced are of composed scenes: because the camera's exposure time needed to be very long, the photographer needed a still focus.



The First World War in Colour by Peter Walther, £34.99, taschen.com



From left: *Fat Boy* 1974-78 and *Midget* 1974-78 © Paul Stolper Gallery

ART HISTORY

The Paul Stolper Gallery will welcome *Side-Show* this month, an exhibition curated by pop artist Peter Blake showcasing his nostalgia for the circus. Photographs, proofs, studies and drawings from Blake's personal archive will accompany five of his wood engravings for the first time, highlighting the inspiration, process and genesis of the work and revealing an entirely new medium and style in Blake's oeuvre. As well as *Fat Boy* and *Midget*, the display will launch two new etchings – a wrestler and a tattooed girl.

27 November 2014 – 10 January
31 Museum Street, WC1A

THE OLD AND THE NEW

The Regent Street Motor Show will display over 300 cars from the very first automobiles to the latest eco and supercars, and will run from Oxford Circus to Piccadilly Circus. In preparation for the annual Bonhams London to Brighton Veteran Car Run the following day, the show will parade 100 veteran vehicles as well as celebrating 50 years of the Porsche 911 and 100 years of Aston Martin. BMW and Renault will also exhibit their latest models.

1 November, Regent Street, W1B



© Bikeworldtravel

'TIS THE SEASON

On Thursday 13 November, London's Carnaby Street will welcome the festive period. This year's Christmas lights will take inspiration from the area's music and fashion heritage and feature eight four-meter long sets of headphones and sunglasses suspended up high throughout the area. The 3D decorations will be styled with white fur and jewels. More than 150 shops, bars and restaurants will join the party, with DJs performing in stores, as well as from a stage in the centre of the street.

5 – 9pm, 13 November, Carnaby Street, W1F

NEVER FORGET

The Last Train To Tomorrow will tell the story of the Kindertransport – the rescue mission that took place during the nine months prior to World War Two – through a sequence of ten songs, originally commissioned by the Halle Orchestra. 9 November is the anniversary of Kristallnacht (also known as the Night of Broken Glass), the event that pushed the British Government to create the Kindertransport. Around 10,000 children aged between three and 17 from European cities such as Vienna, Berlin and Prague, left their families to seek refuge in Britain. The concert, held at The Roundhouse, will be introduced by television presenter and newsreader Natasha Kaplinsky. Songs will be performed by the Finchley Children's Music Group.

9 November
Chalk Farm Road, NW1



A N O T H E R D I M E N S I O N

As a new exhibition launches exploring the work of photographer
Edwin Smith, *Jack Watkins* examines his life through a lens



Edwin Smith was fond of referring to himself as an “architect by training, a painter by inclination, and a photographer by necessity”. That didn’t stop peers from heaping praise on his skills behind the lens. “A genius at photography” was poet and broadcaster Sir John Betjeman’s view. “An understanding and loving connoisseur of his subject,” said Sir Cecil Beaton, the Hampstead-born photographer and designer.

You could be forgiven for confessing ignorance of his name. Smith died in 1971 aged 59, and not one for drawing great attention to himself in his lifetime, he’s little recalled today. Yet there’s a good chance you will, without having realised it, been charmed by one of his images at some point.

For in the middle of the last century, when the heritage movement was beginning to gain momentum, Smith’s serenely composed, often nostalgic pictures of the English landscape with its villages and churches

were widely featured in such celebrated books as the *Shell Guides* of Betjeman and John Piper. He was also commissioned by Thames & Hudson to produce a brilliant visual essay *English Parish Churches*, and worked on many joint projects with his wife, the artist and writer Olive Cook.

When the pair ventured abroad, the results were scarcely less impressive. *The Wonders of Italy*, featuring Smith’s atmospheric black and white images of the stonework of Roman antiquity, was among the most successful examples. Disdaining the use of colour, Smith’s photos are a little old fashioned and on the face of it, too lovely for words. But if you’ve ever stood in a field in spring when the sun is shining, and marvelled at the silhouettes of the trees and hedgerows, and the almost ungraspable beauty of it all, then Edwin Smith is the man for you.

Born in 1912, Smith endured an impoverished childhood in Camden. He had to drop out of a course at the Architectural Association, for which he had



Previous page: Campo San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, 1961

This page, clockwise from top: Clothes line, Glencaple, Scotland, 1954; St Lawrence, Didmarton, Gloucestershire, 1962; St Columba's Wells, Londonderry (Derry), Northern Ireland, 1965; Two boys on doorstep, Kilkenny, Ireland, 1965; Kentish Town station, London 1936; All images © Edwin Smith, RIBA Library Photographs Collection

- won a scholarship because his mother, estranged from his father, could no longer afford to support him. Something of a misfit, and temperamentally unsuited to the regular working hours demanded by conventional employment, for a while he was a time draughtsman in various architects' offices. By his mid-20s, however, his sideline interest in taking pictures was earning him commissions in this field. While he would only describe himself as a "professional photographer" at the very end of his life, this dominated the rest of his career.

If Smith's commercial reputation was largely built around architecture and landscapes, in his early days he was more versatile. He was clearly good with people, and produced some wonderfully intimate photos of northern mining and other industrial communities. Another interest was in photographing fairgrounds and circuses. A Hampstead resident for many years, he took

While he would only describe himself as a "professional photographer" at the very end of his life, this dominated the rest of his career

pictures of the fairs at Vale of Heath and South End Green. There were many pictures of London streets, alleyways and pubs, as well shop window displays, always fertile ground for a photographer, with their potential for offering surrealistic juxtapositions of objects, and odd reflections in the glass. Smith even had a spell working for *Vogue*, although the fashion scene had little genuine appeal for him.

As time went on, and Smith's commissions largely became centred on static subject matter, he felt the need for a camera more suitable than the Contax II which, with its interchangeable lenses, had been ideal for fairgrounds and situations requiring the capturing of movement. So, with typical disdain for contemporary trends, in 1950 Smith bought a second hand Thornton-Pickard, a weighty quarter-glass plate bellows camera made of mahogany and brass, with a similarly immense





tripod, also made of mahogany. This antique camera had been manufactured in 1904. Smith affectionately called it The Ruby, and it accompanied him on his travels across Britain and throughout Europe right into the 1970s. As Olive Cook, in an essay on her husband in 1984, wrote: "He must have provided the inhabitants of many a city, London and Edinburgh, Bath and Bristol, Athens, Venice and Rome....with their last glimpse of a photographer huddled under a black cloth behind a ponderous wooden tripod..."

The Ruby, along with another of his battered field cameras, is on show in a retrospective of his work at the Architecture Gallery in the RIBA building, 66 Portland Place. Lovingly curated by Justine Sambrook and Valeria Carullo, it offers an overview of his life from his early struggles to his halcyon years of the 1950s and 1960s, and looks at his influence on subsequent photographers such as Fay Godwin and James Ravilious. There are also filmed contributions from writer and actor Alan Bennett and journalist Gillian Darley.

The show comes after several years of cataloguing and digitising his vast collection of 60,000 negatives and 20,000 prints, left as a bequest to the RIBA Architecture Library by Olive Cook on her death in 2002. There's a haunting quality in the best of Smith's photos, but the show seems timely beyond lending the opportunity of appreciating a fine artist. His work coincided with the growth in concern for the look of the landscape at a time when there was a desperate need to rebuild the economy after the ravages of the Second World War. Rehousing, an improved road system, new schools and hospitals and the boosting of the manufacturing sectors were the keys to the future.

Yet the 1950s also saw the birth of the Victorian Society, the first volumes in Pevsner's *Buildings of England* books, and the continued popularity of the *Shell Guides*. Smith's photos were part of this movement, reflecting the concern to protect the best of British architecture, its regional building materials and its traditional arts and crafts industries. It's easy to draw certain parallels with today; looking to the future and encouraging innovation remains critical, but not at the expense of destroying that which is valued from the past. ■

Ordinary Beauty: The Photography of Edwin Smith runs until 6 December at the RIBA Architecture Gallery, 66 Portland Place

Admission free, architecture.com

A portrait of actor Kyle Soller, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He has wavy brown hair and blue eyes. He is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt with a red and white patterned jacket over it. The background is a textured, greyish-blue wall.

THE MAGIC NUMBER

Having made a name for himself on the theatre scene, actor
Kyle Soller is about to break Hollywood with a trinity of
autumn blockbusters, writes *Louise Rose*

Having snapped up an Outstanding Newcomer gong at the *Evening Standard Theatre Awards* in 2012, Kyle Soller seems to be gliding through the industry ranks with the release of three feature films this autumn. He's calling from set during a quick break from filming *Poldark*, an eight-part series based on Winston Graham's acclaimed novels set in the 18th Century. Due to air on BBC1 early next year, it is currently being shot between Bristol and Cornwall: to say his schedule is packed would be an understatement. Chances are his name will be on everyone's lips by then, and not just the industry buffs that have followed his trajectory from RADA graduate to Olivier Award nominee.

Coincidentally, all three film roles will see Kyle wielding a soldier's gun, a fetish, he jokes, that his mum probably wouldn't be happy with. *Monsters: Dark Continent*, shot in the Jordanian desert, is a sci-fi sequel to Gareth Edwards' alien invasion film *Monster*, with directing duties handed over to Tom Green. The budget was low and the other names relatively unknown, but

Kyle, 30, is funny and affable with a dry, British sense of humour. Growing up in Alexandria, Virginia with five brothers, he's outgoing by nature: "you had to be or you didn't get fed," he jokes. All his siblings have tested the performing arts waters, some more than others – "my oldest brother would kill me for telling people he did musicals". His parents – a pharmacology lecturer at the University of California and a former concert pianist – weren't pushy, but his mum had a knack for "spotting people's talents". Having decamped to leafy north London for the foreseeable future, he's missing the home comforts of... Pop-Tarts (despite my outcry that you can get them anywhere: "No, they just don't taste the same," he says). However, he'll be shipping home armfuls of After Eights when he next goes back to visit. "They're like crack," he muses, deadpan.

Hampstead's ponds and Regent's Canal just about make up for the lack of countryside he's used to, and it's where he and his wife, British actress Phoebe Fox, like to spend their spare time, along with their cat Bob Hoskins. That's when they get some time alone; their jobs can make them like "two ships in the night".

Hampstead's ponds and Regent's Canal just about make up for the lack of countryside he's used to

he loved every minute, despite the tough conditions. A more high-brow part sees him star alongside Hailee Steinfeld, Sam Worthington and Brit Marling in *The Keeping Room*, a film about two sisters and one African American slave, left without men in the last days of the Civil War and was screened at the London Film Festival a couple of weeks ago. The three women are forced to guard their home from the ambush of soldiers who have abandoned the fast approaching Union Army. Originally from the US, Kyle's personal interest in the American Civil War made the part a no-brainer, as well as the stellar cast. The last is a supporting role in David Ayer's *Fury* alongside Brad Pitt, Shia LaBeouf, Logan Lerman and Jason Isaac. While the role isn't a lead, the big-name line up was obviously attractive – yes, Brad Pitt was as lovely as you'd hope. And while on paper it may look like a trinity of samey soldier parts, the filming was spread months apart, and each demanded a "totally different style". The similarities hadn't really occurred to him until now, he says.

He also can't get enough of the area's ever growing number of coffee shops: "As TS Elliot said: 'I have measured out my life with coffee spoons'."

Growing up, his screen idols were Paul Newman, Marlon Brando and Charlie Chaplin, and he'd love to work with Paul Thomas Anderson, Jacques Audiard, Wes Anderson, Jane Campion, David Fincher and Steve McQueen – "But I guess everyone says that. My actors list is endless, but includes Joaquin Phoenix, Michael Fassbender, Tilda Swinton, Marion Cotillard and Daniel Day-Lewis," he adds. And while the theatre roles have been up there with the best – Cyrano de Bergerac with Clémence Poésy, *The Faith Machine* alongside Hayley Atwell – this year looks set to be a blockbuster career turning point, bulking up his IMDB presence, and no doubt, the obsessive fans – of which, he insists, there are currently none. I'd say he has more than a fighting chance. ■

Fury will be released on 22 October;
Monsters: Dark Continent will be released
on 28 November

HERVE LEGER LONDON BOUTIQUE 29 LOWNDES STREET LONDON SW1X 9HX T +44 20 7201 2594

**HERVE
LEGER**

BY MAX AZRIA



WISH *list*

WHAT'S IN A NAME

It was in tribute to his father, the founder of the family-run luxury luggage business, that George Vuitton patented the LV monogram that now adorns many Louis Vuitton handbags and suitcases. Now, 160 years after the start of the company, LVMH has enlisted six of the industry's most recognisable designers to re-imagine the LV logo in a project dubbed Celebrating Monogram. The quirky interpretations – dreamt up by the likes of product visionary Marc Newson and shoe entrepreneur Christian Louboutin – have been used on a series of bags.

louisvuitton.com



STYLE UPDATE



SNOW BUSINESS

Matchesfashion.com is to launch a year-round retail destination dedicated to skiwear. Ski Studio follows the success of its online Vacation Shop which provides beach attire at the click of a button. The ski portal will stock active-wear and accessories, as well as high-end ready-to-wear clothing geared towards adventurers (and après ski lovers). Cleverly, as well as investing in brands such as Fendi and Lacroix, the range encompasses technical equipment including Zeal high-tech goggles, which have an in-built camera and GPS tracking.

matchesfashion.com



From left: £625, Aruna Seth
£1,125, Giuseppe Zanotti

BALLY: THE FLAGSHIP

Bally is to grow its UK presence following the October opening of its flagship store in New Bond Street. Since the arrival of design director Pablo Coppola, after his stints at Christian Dior and Tom Ford, he has emphasised the levels of quality and refinement that underpin the 160-year-long history of the brand. If you're unfamiliar with the label, it's probably thanks to the understated nature of its totes and tailored classics, distinguished by the suppleness of its leather and softness of its cashmere. However, ready-to-wear pieces and accessories will now sit proudly at the two-storey outpost.

45/46 New Bond Street, W1S
bally.co.uk



HOUSE OF VOLTAIRE OPENS

House of Voltaire, a biannual pop-up shop which raises funds for art institution Studio Voltaire, is to run from 12 November until 20 December in London and is sponsored by the fashion brand Chloé.

The project sees partnerships between established designers and emerging artists yield clothing, accessories and homeware: participants include Simone Rocha and Kim Gordon, Roksanda Ilincic and Eva Rosthchild and Peter Jensen and Ella Kruglyanskaya with proceeds used to provide training and exhibition spaces for new talent. "I am British and I wanted to establish a relationship with emerging British artists," says Clare Waight Keller, creative director of Chloé. In one aspect of its involvement, the brand itself will work on broderie anglaise pieces with Karen Kilimnik.

1st floor, 39-40 Albemarle Street, W1S
studiovoltaire.org



BEST FOOT FORWARD

Say goodbye to the shoe crisis: Harrods has unveiled a 42,000 sq ft space dedicated to footwear, named Shoe Heaven. Incorporating 50 leading brands, 17 boutiques, private shopping suites and gallery-type displays, the concept is one of the first projects for Helen David, the department store's new fashion director

of womenswear, accessories, fine jewellery and childrenswear, following her analysis that shoes were "becoming a key part of the business". More than 30 iconic shoes have been re-made in the colour silver to mark the project.

5th Floor at Harrods



TEMPERLEY FOR THE OUTNET

Temperley London performs so well with THEOUTNET.COM's stylish online shoppers that Alice Temperley MBE has produced 21 exclusive pieces for the online boutique. Among the edit, which is available now, are tailored suits, soft knitwear and leather separates as the brand continues to promote its knack for stylish daywear. "I wanted to create a collection that is playful and fun, perfect for the modern woman who demands a wardrobe of pieces that can be mixed and matched," she says. "Whether in New York, holidaying in Ibiza, needing something special for work or meeting friends at the weekend – the collection offers an item of clothing for all occasions."

theoutnet.com

AW14 ESSENTIALS ACCORDING TO BROWNS

Ever since Hampstead resident Joan Burstein founded fashion emporium Browns the focus has been on getting its stock right. The task now falls to buying director Laura Larbalestier who is welcoming it the first picks of the season through the store's doors including the must-haves below.

24-27 South Molton Street, W1K
brownsfashion.com



"I love this dressed down with a sweatshirt and trainers"

Sequin Silk-blend Pencil Skirt, £1,125 No21



"The beauty is always in the detail!"

Lana Wool Spider Embellished Socks £165, No21



"Simone Rocha is the master of the brogue"

Python Effect Brogues £670, Simone Rocha



Wool oversized coat, £620, Carven,
carven.com; Black plaited-front dress,
£175, Paul by Paul Smith, 9 Albemarle
Street, W1S; Saxon boots, £239, SENSO at
Harvey Nichols, harveynichols.com;
Roulette flip ring, £1,000, Boodles, 178
New Bond Street, W1S

THE COVER UP

What, this old thing? Embrace muted, down-to-earth separates
and wearable silhouettes for a classic yet stylish winter wardrobe

PHOTOGRAPHY / *PHILLIP WATERMAN*

STYLIST / *JESS STEBBINGS*

Pencil skirt, £240, Jonathan Simkhai,
shopbop.com; Blazer vest, £360,
Atea Oceanie, ateaocanie.com;
Velvet clutch, £285, Wilbur & Gussie,
wilburandgussie.com;
Sticker earrings, £2,517, Shamballa Jewels,
Harrods Fine Jewellery Room;
Bracelet, £261, CARAT*, selfridges.com



Wool blend coat, £390, Paul by Paul Smith, as before; Foresta flat calf boots, £995, Christian Louboutin, 17 Mount Street, W1K; Felt hat, £180, and dogtooth print zip top, £495, both Stella McCartney, 30 Bruton Street, W1J; Pearl ring, £242, and stud earrings, £193, CARAT*, as before



Merino wool embroidered knit, £825,
Pringle of Scotland, pringlecotland.com;
Tadley skirt, £310, Belstaff, 135/137
New Bond Street, W1S; Black patent
leather ankle boots, £575, Casadei,
casadei.com; Bathurst shoulder bag,
£850, Anya Hindmarch, 118 New Bond
Street, W1S; Hook Earrings £10,342,
Shamballa Jewels, as before




Wool coat, £225, Cos, cosstores.com;
Bianca top, £195, Rag & Bone, 13-14
Sloane Square, SW1W;
Hook earrings, £10,341, Shamballa Jewels, as before



Shawl collar jacket, £850, Burberry,
121 Regent Street, W1B; Shirt,
£210, Cacharel, Colibri boutique,
colibrifashion.com; Skirt, £298,
Madeleine Thompson, Viola
boutique, 25 Connaught Street, W2;
Ring, £242, CARAT*, as before





Cashmere sleeveless knit, £295, Pringle Of Scotland, as before; Trina pants, £335, Escada, uk.escada.com; Costello leather loafers, £300, Paul Smith, as before; Stud earrings, £193, CARAT, as before

MAKE-UP: KATIE PETTIGREW USING CHANEL
SUBLIMAGE L'ESSENCE AND CHRISTMAS 2014

HAIR: KATIE PETTIGREW USING PAUL MITCHELL

MODEL: CAROLINE RAUSCH © STORM

STYLIST'S ASSISTANT: COURTNEY ROBINSON

DIGITAL ASSISTANT: KEVIN BAKER

1 Honey bonded sheepskin hand-painted trench coat, £6,000, Burberry, burberry.com; 2 Shearling and suede earmuffs, £120, Karl Donoghue, net-a-porter.com; 3 Fang Fatale black box bag, £950, Mawi, mawi.co.uk; 4 Studded skull cuff, £270, Alexander McQueen, harrods.com; 5 18-karat white gold screw ring with white diamonds and butterfly nut motif, £5,820, Ileana Makri, doverstreetmarket.com; 6 18-karat rose gold screw ring with black diamonds, £4,955, Ileana Makri, as before; 7 Gold-plated resin necklace, £460, Marni, as before; 8 Large teardrop crystal earrings, £270, Mawi, mawi.com; 9 Shanghai Express platform ankle boot in gold textured metallic leather, £1,125, Charlotte Olympia, charlotteolympia.com

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WILD THINGS

PHOTOGRAPHER / IAN WALSH

STYLIST / BOO ATTWOOD



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BEST OF BEAUTY

November

1. La Petite Robe Noire is one of Guerlain's best-selling fragrances of all time, a scent which shifted more units than all other perfumes in France when it was re-launched in 2012. Described by those who wear it as smelling of raspberries and macarons, the brand has now created a light hair mist of the same name blended with the sweet scent of blackberries, cherries, white musk and amber.

£29, Guerlain, guerlain.com

2. Having launched in October, one of our favourite new products is Long-Wear Gel Sparkle from Bobbi Brown, an eye shadow with a matte cream texture that can also be swept on as a liner and lasts all day. Don't be deterred by the name; the colours have a slight metallic finish which makes them bolder and richer – Smokey Topaz is a particularly sultry mix of brown and grey.

£20, Bobbi Brown, bobbibrown.co.uk

3. In another show of innovation, By Terry is expanding its Terrybly Densiliss collection, which originally debuted as a foundation with an in-built anti-ageing serum. The new Terrybly Densiliss concealer is especially effective for around the notoriously sensitive eye area, as it glides on to produce a smooth film. It can be used to minimise dark circles and reduce the appearance of puffiness.

£44, By Terry, Space NK
62 Hampstead High Street, NW3

4. A self-tan mousse which gives colour that lasts up to four times longer than usual has been created by Vita Liberata. Known as pHenomenal 2-3 Week Tan, the formula, which is also scent free, is fast drying and fades slowly over two to three weeks without becoming uneven. It's available in three tones – including light – for those feeling (unnecessarily) nervous. We're all for saving time on touch-ups.

£37.50, Vita Liberata, vitaliberata.co.uk

5. Clinique has unveiled the Sonic System Purifying Cleansing Brush, a hand-held tool with two types of bristles and a rotating head to help polish the hard-to-reach contoured areas of the face. With its intense massaging action, it is said that one minute of use twice per day is enough to leave your complexion glowing.

£79, Clinique, clinique.co.uk



BEAUTY *UPDATE*

CHANEL'S NEW INSPIRATION: THE FEATHER

Going with the idea that specks of gold and soft colours are lighter than a feather, Chanel has channelled reflective textures and metallic tones for a limited edition range. The centrepiece of its Plumes Précieuses de Chanel line, available this November, is an illuminating powder with a feather motif sculpted into the compact. The subtle silver pigment catches the light when dusted onto brow and cheek bones.

£47, 020 7493 3836



TRY GUCCI BEAUTY FIRST

First spotted behind the scenes at Gucci's spring/summer 2015 show, the new colour cosmetics range created in partnership with the Italian fashion house will debut on UK make-up counters next year. However, the products (including nail lacquers and lipsticks, bases and brushes) are available now on the brand's UK website for purchasing ahead of time. As you'd expect, the colours range from shimmering Iconic Gold shadows to intense Iconic Red glosses.

From £19, gucci.com/uk



HARRODS' NEW PERFUMERY

Customers are now able to buy some of the world's rarest perfumes from a dedicated **Salon de Parfums** at Harrods. Mia Collins, head of beauty, tells *Vantage* more about the project.

1) What can we expect?

Visitors will enjoy a curated selection of the finest fragrance brands set across a vast retail space.

2) Why now?

At Harrods, we have seen a definite trend in the past year for niche, luxurious fragrances and a customer who is very knowledgeable about fragrance and high quality ingredients.

3) What are some of the most interesting services available?

Salon de Parfums will incorporate a fragrance gallery and offer exclusive bespoke and personalisation services.

4) In an era of digital beauty retailing, why do you think the department store still holds an allure?

We are reaching new heights in terms of the service proposition to better cater to a client looking for niche services.

5) How long did the Salon de Parfums project take to plan and build?

We worked in partnership with MPA Architects for over a year in order to create a truly spectacular environment.



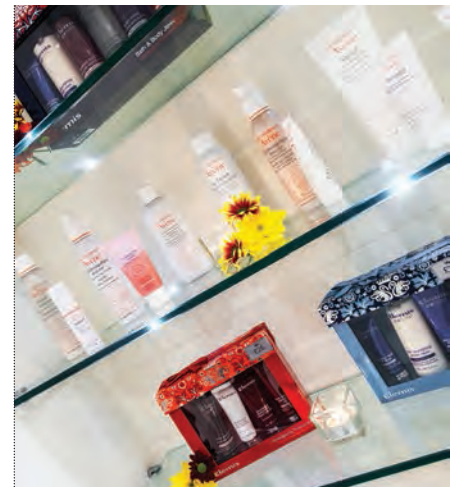
6th floor, Harrods, Brompton Road, SW1X



THE ART OF PACKAGING

NARS' creative director François wanted the packaging of its 2014 Holiday Collection to become a keepsake, so he enlisted the help of architectural designer Chris Kabatsi. Kabatsi has wrapped the cases of the new products in a glossy, angular web – a digital take on lace, inspired by a 'fashion forward woman'. Eye shadows in the collection include Canberra (shimmering lavender), Gabon (bronzed green) and Opal Coast (iridescent white). Choose Adriatic and Femme Fleur for classic lip colours in cream and red.

From £15, narscosmetics.co.uk



THE FUTURE OF BEAUTY

Swiss skincare brand Cellcosmet™ is bringing its scientific production methods to Courtenay Day Spa in St John's Wood. The brand avoids freeze-drying its ingredients in order to preserve the activity of the cells – a fact it says increases the benefits of its face and body creams. At the Day Spa, which is modelled on a discreet French pharmacy, Cellcosmet™ combines its formulations with treatments geared towards relaxation. The Swiss Relaxing Anti-Stress Therapy uses the application of a bespoke eye contour treatment and face mask, with a face and shoulder massage. The result? A visible reduction in signs of fatigue, dark shadows and dryness.

3 St Johns Wood High Street, NW8 cellcosmet-cellmen.com



night *simcha* crowd). The hotel is still elegant and genteel, and the spa, which underwent a refurbishment in 2009, is a gorgeous Art Deco space. It won the *Condé Nast Traveller* Favourite UK Hotel Spa in the 2010 Reader's Awards, but recent hotel mega-spa openings (Café Royal, The Corinthia) complete with thermal floors and stunning pools, show how much the industry has developed in such a short space of time. With nine treatment suites, a compact fitness studio, a mani-pedi parlour, a hairdressing salon, a gentlemen's barber and a relaxation room, it's all beautiful and super-luxe, but lacks the real wow factor needed to trump the ever-growing one-upmanship of nearby competition.

But that isn't to say that the décor, service and treatments aren't impeccable – which, when you get down to it, is more integral to a five-star experience than any 'steam' and mirrors. The Winter Sun Package here kicks off with a Carol Joy London Signature Facial, an invigorating and relaxing treatment that both squeezes and extracts pores and blemishes (something that is rarely offered anymore) without leaving the skin red or blotchy. In fact, I left looking fresh and dewy and went out that evening without applying even a smattering of bronzer. The expert therapist (ask for Gemma – you will want to take her home with you) then leads you to the nail boudoir, a glass box filled floor to ceiling with candy-coloured bottles of lacquer, giving it the feel of a very girly and sumptuous sweet shop. The manicure and pedicure will have you nodding off in your seat in a state of pre-holiday relaxation, but it's worth staying awake for the tea and shortbread while your feet soak up the bubbles. Just remember sandals if you're going straight out; there's nothing like a smudged big toe to cast a shadow on a sunny afternoon. ■

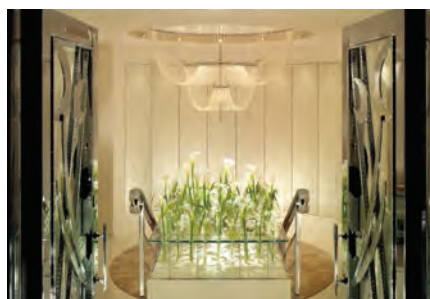
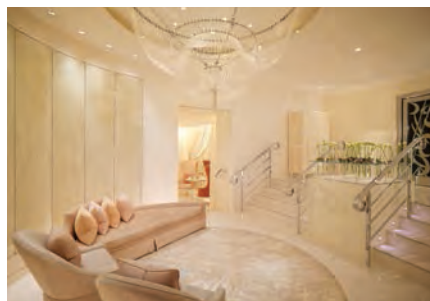
Winter Sun Package, £235 per person and will run until February 2015
53 Park Lane, W1K

AIN'T NO SUNSHINE

Kari Colmans gets winter-sun ready at The Dorchester Spa

It's no secret that the British are obsessed with the weather, which is no doubt why The Dorchester Spa has launched a winter sun package while outside the rays of sunshine are clinging on to an Indian summer with the last of their Vitamin D-fuelled strength. Indeed, it was Dickens who wrote: "...the bright sun, that brings back, not light alone, but new life, and hope, and freshness to man". And although those words were written for a boy who asked for more, and not to describe the prospect of a Christmas jaunt to St Kitts, I feel the sentiment is the same.

The boycotters have all gone quiet and trade doesn't seem to have been affected by recent revelations from the Dorchester group's owner in Brunei, although, admittedly, its main clientele aren't your average Londoners (aside from the Sunday





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WISH *list*

ALL THINGS
BRIGHT AND
BEAUTIFUL

In between mulled-wine laden dinner parties and four-hour office lunches, we're all guilty of burning the candle at both ends when it comes to seasonal festivities. But we can't think of a classier way to do so than with the rich, spicy scent of frosted cherry and clove, the heady bold notes of Jo Malone London's new Christmas collection. You can never go wrong with a Deluxe Candle (£120) whether you're setting the scene at home or attending as a guest, and we're just a bit in love with the scented baubles (£32 each), also available in pine and eucalyptus. Holy Jo indeed.

The Frosted Fantasy Christmas collection launches on 1 November including a same day delivery service around London, jomalone.co.uk

INTERIORS INSPIRATION

EXOTIC INFLUENCE

Designers Guild has released its ever-vibrant autumn collection. The initial stimulus for the Madhuri range was Indian and central Asian costumes from the 18th and 19th Centuries – reflected through an energetic combination of colour and texture – as well as the bold strokes of a Howard Hodgkin painting. The brand has built its reputation on merging historical and contemporary themes with designs that bring together delicately drawn flowers with structured shapes and bright bursts of colour with softer shades of grey and blue. Our go-to interiors specialist, season after season.

designersguild.com



BLOWING SMOKE

Acqua di Parma has collaborated with Murano glassmakers to produce a candle collection named Collezione Murano, comprising three new fragrances reflecting the ambience and culture of Venice – linden trees (to reflect the city's hidden gardens), mahogany (used to make gondolas) and tonka (the soft scent of the spice markets). Since 1291, the island of Murano has been famous for its glass-blowing art and the skills used have been passed down from father to son for generations.



£90 each, harrods.com





HEMPEL'S NEW RETREAT

La Suite West is the latest London hotel to be reworked by interior designer Anouska Hempel. Having previously turned her hand to fashion, landscape and architecture projects, Hempel has become renowned for blending eastern and western styles, influenced by trips to China and Japan. At La Suite West, guests are greeted by a six-metre high statement door at the front entrance before making their way to a monolithic white marble reception desk. The hotel's minimalistic interior is intensified with angled furnishings, dark corridors and strong monochrome accents.

lasuitewest.com



LIGHT TOUCH

Inspired by the style of the traditional British members' club, Tom Dixon has added more statement lighting to his Plane and Beat collections, continuing with his use of geometric shapes. Made up of 18 double-layered white glass spheres over three tiers, the brass-plated Plane chandelier is intended for any hotel lobby or dining room. In contrast, the Beat wall light, created in spun brass, is based on traditional water vessels used in India.

tomdixon.net



TAKE A BACK SEAT

Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec's quilted chair and sofa are our winter must-haves. The Bouroullec brothers have worked together for more than ten years; designing spaces, taking on architectural projects and producing textile wall systems while continuing to experiment. The quilted chair consists of an upholstered, honeycomb-like skin of hi-tech stretch fabric with individual foam inserts, which is fitted over a fibreglass shell. It embodies the 'over-sized' trend for this season and is a deliberate move away from the typical minimal, functional chair. It's available in both red and blue.

From £4,500
thelongeststay.com

PEAKY BLINDERS

QMotion UK has created the App Controlled wireless roller blind, allowing for privacy with minimal effort. The mobile application is available for Android and iOS devices and mirrors the controls displayed on its handheld remote on your smartphone or tablet screen. While QMotion offers more than 600 fabrics to choose from, including both patterned and plain materials of up to three metres wide, blinds can also be personalised with a picture or photograph on request which is then printed onto a desired fabric. The blinds are battery operated and easily installed; up to 99 blinds can be controlled from just one device.

Prices from £647 including fabric, qmotionshades.co.uk

LIKE a MOTH to a FLAME

As Lara Bohinc MBE partners with Skultuna for a home accessories collection, the designer speaks to *Gabrielle Lane* about fusing style and commerciality in her new candle range – and why we need more women in boardrooms

“There is no other way than the way you walk,” says Lara Bohinc MBE, who is as cool and elusive in the way only a London fashion-type can be. She has lived in her Marylebone mansion flat that she adores for the past 18 years, her prominent Slovenian accent adding an extra air of intrigue. We are speaking in the wake of her partnership with Swedish home accessories brand Skultuna, which saw candle holders and bookends crafted in brass unveiled at the London Design Festival, I start off by asking her for the advice she’d give to other aspiring creatives. “I’m hesitant to give advice,” she explains. “Everyone comes from a different perspective and has different views on what they want, so what might work for one might not work for someone else. Everyone has a different type of success.”

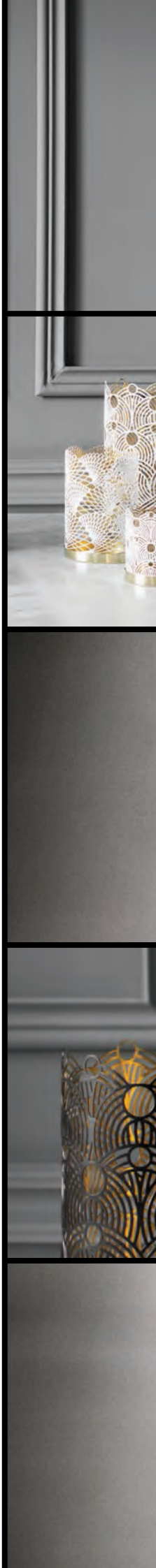
Following stints at Gucci and Lanvin and as a consultant for Cartier, success for Bohinc, a jewellery designer by trade, has come in the form of a self-titled brand

specialising in statement pieces, including hunks of Perspex hulled into cuffs and distinctive rope-like bracelets formed into a knot on the wrist. The latter, the Laratella, is arguably her most recognisable piece.

Incidentally, high profile endorsement is plentiful. Samantha Cameron gifted Michelle Obama a bangle in 2009, for example, but Bohinc doesn’t seem the type to be concerned with celebrity. Having studied industrial design in her native Ljubljana and completed a masters in metalwork in London, it was the synergy of craft between her own work and that of 400-year-old home accessories producer Skultuna that led to the interiors collaboration.

“First of all, Skultuna makes all of its accessories in brass, a material I know very well,” she says. “Many of its manufacturing techniques are the same as in the jewellery world – it’s jewellery for the home and I’m interested in objects, especially high quality ones.”

Each of the candle holders and bookends is etched with patterns inspired





From top: The London Collection Bookend; Solaris Kinetic Table; Laratella Bracelet; Small and large Lunar, Celestial and Feather brass candleholders

by celestial orbits and Japanese highways; both symmetrical but complicated to the eye. “The project took six months but it wasn’t that difficult. After all, they are not mechanical objects so there’s no movement involved, it’s also not like with a chair where it has to withstand a load of one hundred kilos,” she explains.

Two years after being awarded an MBE for services to the fashion industry, opportunities for the company to diversify regularly present themselves. And, in an era in which designers frequently depart or become minority stakeholders in their own brands, Bohinc is still working with business partner Ernst Malmsten. But what of the pressure of designing in your own name?

“It does bring a big pressure,” she admits. “As a company you’re forced to make lots of items which are commercial, which you don’t necessarily want to do [as a designer]. You want to be exciting, but you have to be commercially-minded at the same time. I am in the office every day more or less and I am involved in all of the decisions, but even if the company is yours and carries your own name, it doesn’t mean that the decisions are always as you’d like them to be.”

“We don’t just need women in the design industries but women in positions of power”

Thankfully, interior design is a genuine passion. Earlier this year Bohinc seized a commission by *Wallpaper** magazine to create a piece with stone specialists Lapidica: this resulted in ten £20,000 rotating marble tables, named the Solaris Kinetic Table (above) one of which was exhibited at Milan showcase Salone del Mobile.

She’s also in the middle of a renovation of her own home. “It’s changing from the pictures you might have seen,” she says (referring to a previous magazine spread).



“The flat is in a listed building so it’s got a lot of original features such as old windows. All the walls are going to be monochrome – black, white and grey. I like to use white, or blue or red for accessories and lots of red and blue glass. There will be lots of gold accents – such as gold wall sculptures – and I’ve got vintage furniture such as a B&B Italia sofa, but then there’s a modern, bright red Ligne Roset cabinet too. “I like candles that smell of fruit and cinnamon and vanilla – things that remind me of food. Not necessarily just sweet things but cucumber, blackberries and parsley too. As for books, I go through authors and at the moment I’m obsessed with reading everything by Haruki Murakami. The novels [explore] a fantastical world reality that is interrupted.”

Her design criticisms are reserved for technology. “The products I like are very masculine [in appearance] but a lot of their users are female. For example, a lot of these wristbands that measure how many steps you take look simply like something you go to the gym with, but they could look like a piece of jewellery. At the moment a lot of women wouldn’t want to wear them because they are too geeky.

“We don’t just need women in the design industries but women in positions of power deciding which products get the go ahead. It’s all well and good having a woman design something, but then if you sit in a meeting and it’s 12 men that are deciding which products are put into production, it doesn’t work for everyone. We need women in boardrooms.” ■

Brass candleholder from £60 and bookend, £80, Skultuna, available at Skandium, 86 Marylebone High Street, W1U larabohinc.com

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Button back headboard bed, £549; bed linen 1000 thread count collection, from £8.99 to £79, all Achica Premier Basics collection



HOME SWEET HOME

With autumn comes the launch of the Premier Basics collection from Achica, of flash sale fame. *Vantage* finds out more about the online retailer's new (and permanent) offering

We don't know about you, but parting with hefty sums of money for basics such as bed linen just doesn't sit that well with us. It's just so much more fun to spend cash on striking pieces of art that you can't help but fall in love with, beautiful big books that may well never be opened, fun but functional items and antiques with a conversation-starting story. However, if you're moving into somewhere unfurnished or a bigger place than you currently inhabit, you'll find yourself needing not just extra bed linen, but all the other basics too – beds and mattresses, sofas and shelving, tables and chairs. These are necessities with costs that soon begin to mount up.

Achica launched its new Premier Basics line in September, so there's no better reason, or time, to make an online detour. It has, up until now, been known (and loved by its millions of members) for its 72-hour flash sales; at the time of writing I can purchase a pair of Beats Pro Headphones for £249.95 (RRP £349.95) or a vintage Chanel CC bangle for £999 (RRP £1,255), although there's only one left so I'd need to move fast. The big difference with Premier Basics is that this 350-piece capsule collection will be permanently available, which will come as a relief to those who just cannot make a decision quickly enough to commit to a flash sale or, indeed, those who like the option to repurchase their favourite and longest-lasting household basics.

Achica's brand director Liam Butler explains that the aim of this capsule collection is, as you'd expect, customer-led; the brand wants to "permanently

offer our loyal and discerning customer base the very best of the basics every home needs. Once the basics are right, it's the finishing touches that really make your home your own. Achica is a one-stop shop offering an edit of the finest vintage, art and design pieces.

"Our core business will remain must-see flash sales that customers can dip in and out of at any time, but we'll also look to weave in our edit of useful everyday products that can always be found."

Of the new Premier Basics products, we particularly like the cream button footstool (£169), perfect for perching on in the corner of a kitchen or dressing room. For living rooms, the black iron coffee tables, either round (£249) or rectangular (£179) are simple but stylish and the king-size iron bed is great value at £549. It's easy to find half an hour slipping away while scrolling through the sales offering too; boost your basics with pretty cushions, bright prints and even bottles of red wine and olive oil for your kitchen counters. It's made even easier by the new website which has been designed based on research that showed the majority of people prefer to shop by style rather than product. There are 14 styles

to choose from including Classic Elegance (we'd like to think we aspire to this), Eclectic (also great – everyone needs a dash of quirkiness) and Country Chic (a favourite theme for those who can never turn down a weekend break in the Cotswolds). Just filter by price, colour and brand. Pour a cup of tea, make a list and stock up on those essentials you've needed for months. ■



achica.com



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WISH *list*



SWEET LIKE CHOCOLATE

We're not surprised French children don't throw food – at least not when their clothes are from Tartine et Chocolat. The girls' AW14 collection is chock full of faux fur jackets tied up with ribbons, frothy pink gowns and miniature tiaras for those dressy evening dos. There are also cable-knit jumpers and cute shorts and skirts, ideal for brunch-through-to-tea affairs. Boys can choose from chic roll necks, striped scarves and elbow-patched cardigans for that added *je ne sais quoi*.

66 South Molton Street, W1K
tartine-et-chocolat-boutique.com

NURSERY NEWS



SWAN PRINCESS

Harrods has launched an exclusive boutique with Parisian brand Jacadi, offering little fashion fans unique prints, beautiful fabrics and hand-finished details. This season its collection is inspired by 1930s silhouettes in autumnal shades of berry red, mustard yellow and cool grey. The latest line for toddlers comprises quilted, soft-knit jumpers with printed frilly collars and classic Breton-striped jersey pullovers, to style with casual denim jeans. We also love the brand's alcohol-free scents for children.

harrods.com

A BABY'S RIDE

Following their 2012 collaboration, Silver Cross and Aston Martin have come together again to produce a second edition of the Silver Cross Surf Aston Martin pram, with a production run of just 600. Handmade by expert craftsmen, the latest design uses fine tan leather, hardwearing alcantara suede (the same as that used on the roofs of Aston Martin cars) and soft white sheepskin from Devon. Made to suit the most fast-paced lifestyles, the baby carriage has both a forward- and rear-facing pushchair setting, a carrycot for use from birth, and a luxury 100 per cent cashmere baby blanket. Air-ride suspension and puncture-proof tires promise a smooth ride.

£3,000, silvercrossbaby.com



FLY THE NEST

While on maternity leave, entrepreneur Gudrun Wurm set up Little Butterfly, a luxury British brand providing organic-certified skincare just for babies. With labels printed by the same company that designs stationery for Chanel, the bottles will also look stylish on your nursery shelf. Currently featuring five different products including a top-to-toe wash, body lotion, bath milk, a mother and baby massage oil and a nappy change cream, they're all made using pure ingredients, such as rosehip oil and mango seed butter. Visit the website for a dose of whimsy with your lotion: "Moments float by... but you will always be mine" is our personal favourite.

From £20, littlebutterflyorganic.com



APPLE OF YOUR EYE

Multi-award winning restaurateur of two Michelin-starred restaurant Hibiscus, Claire Bosi, and her broadcaster and journalist sister Petrie Hosken have written *Fabulous Food*, the first in a series of food books under the Gastronomicals brand name for both children and parents. The working mums have packed their tome with facts, figures and stories about the history of food, using playful language to maintain the attention of children, and their parents. The book has been acknowledged as the Michelin-star culinary equivalent of the *Horrible Histories* series and features dishes and recipes shared from chefs Claude Bosi, Tom Kerridge, Shaun Hill and Marcus Wareing.

Fabulous Food, £19.95, A Way With Media



COMIC COMMUTES

Dennis the Menace and the Bash Street Kids from *The Beano* will be arriving at St Pancras International station in style this month. The long-running and ever-popular British children's comic, which is still printed weekly, will host a range of activities and events for commuters and families to celebrate the launch of The Beano annual 2015. A specially curated exhibition will tell the story of The Beano annual that has been published yearly since 1939. Visitors can have photographs with Beanotown's Dennis the Menace and Gnasher and illustrate their own character by attending a series of cartoon drawing classes organised for the October half term.

20 October – 5 January
stpancras.com/beano



MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M A LONDONER

Paul Smith's newest children's collections take inspiration from the capital's rich cultural backdrop. The Savile Row Rocks line for boys is both practical and fun, combining staples like the black Gatsby suit jacket with quirky elements such

as the colourful bike-print Geoff shirt, while the girls' Floral Street pieces feature photographic blooms, feathers and animal prints. For some festive fun, choose the In Piccadilly range, inspired by the bright lights and excitement of the West End.

paulsmith.co.uk

ICE ICE BABY

Ice Rink Canary Wharf is back for the Christmas season and is joined by restaurant and pop-up bar Q on Ice. Featuring London's only skate path, skaters can glide through fairy-lit trees around Canada Square Park's iconic *Big Blue* sculpture by British designer Ron Arad. Open for a magical 17-week season from 1 November until the 28 February next year, the rink welcomes groups, families and children aged four and above, with doors opening every day except Christmas Day. The rink and skate path combined feature almost 1100m² of ice, making it one of the largest outdoor rinks in the capital. And with a large outdoor viewing terrace, spectators don't have to miss any of the fun.

Canada Square Park, Canary Wharf, E14
icerinkcanarywharf.com



VILLAGE PEOPLE

Head down to Marylebone High Street on Wednesday 19 November for the annual Christmas lights celebration and raise money for a very worthy cause

The capital isn't exactly known for its villages, which is why Marylebone High Street stands out from the central London crowd, and is a favourite among those in the know. Indeed, Jasper Conran OBE told *Vantage* last year: "The area [has] diversity, individuality and a sensitive choice of shops, restaurants and cafés. It really has stood up to the challenge of the high street chain stores and is a calm and relaxed part of London with a character all of its own. It is only a few minutes from Oxford Street and the Euston Road, two of the busiest roads in London, but walking along Marylebone High Street you would never know it."

This Christmas will see the village-like London hub welcome families for an evening of festive revelry, the proceeds of which will help disabled people and their families through the charity Scope. The event, organised by The Howard de Walden Estate, is a true community

affair, seeing local retailers and residents working together, attracting spectators from across the capital in their thousands. The beautiful high street will truly sparkle as the Christmas lights are officially switched on by actress Jessica Hynes (*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *Dr Who*) and the fireworks light up the sky. Children from the local schools will be singing their hearts out on stage, while Father Christmas will be hard at work in his magical Grotto, handing out treats.

While the little ones enjoy petting the real life reindeers and soaking up the atmospheric faux snow, you can make the most of the special Christmas promotions on offer, while nibbling on warm mince pies, rich hot chocolate, mulled wine and sherry as the street entertainers and performers on the main stage work the crowds. You'll find us scouring for vintage jewels and homemade chutneys at our favourite local market, Cabbages and Frocks, keeping our fingers crossed for some luck on the tombola, and making the most of the discounts and promotions around the stores.

As part of the annual festivities, the Howard de Walden Estate will be running a competition for the pupils of local primary schools to design a Christmas card, with the winner and runner up being invited onto the stage to be presented with prizes. As we soak up the Yuletide merriment, our thoughts will also be with those who will benefit from the funds raised. Scope's main ethos is to change society for the better, so that disabled people and their families can have the same opportunities as everyone else. Through practical support, from information services to education and everyday care, Scope challenges assumptions about disability and influences decision makers to ensure real and long-lasting positive change. ■





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From £65, nojiggle.co.uk



PACKING A PUNCH

If you have green juice fatigue, then let BoBo do the work for you by ordering a 12-bottle cleanse delivered to your desk or door. Our favourites are A Bit of Ruff(age), comprising apple, cucumber, ginger, kale, lemon and pear; Worn Out, with pineapple, apple, chia seeds, maca and alkaline water; and Give Me Strength, zinging with pineapple, ginger and wheatgrass.

Tasty smoothies include concoctions of peanut butter and sesame seeds, Himalayn pink salt and rhubarb (not all together), available in a range of sizes.

One Day BoBo's Cleanse,
12 bottles for £56.50,
bobosjuicery.com

ON THE REBOUND

We first predicted the trend for trampolining when Kim K was filmed jumping on the bandwagon – albeit in full hair and make-up. Now Rebounding, as it is known for grown-ups, has made its way to Frame in Queen's Park, boasting all the benefits of running – engaging your heart, lungs and muscles – without the impact on your joints. Add to this a great teacher and pumping music, and we worked our laughing muscles as much as our glutes reclaiming one of our long-lost childhood joys. Guilty of needing an extra push during the baggy jumper months, classes are scheduled at accessible times, and you can opt for anything from a pay-as-you-go plan to a full-membership package.

Frame, 27 Beethoven Street, W10
moveyourframe.com





EVERY MAN

Consultant Urologist, Mr Andrew Ballaro discusses 'the big C' in men's health and the importance of acting fast if symptoms are discovered

The launch of successful charity health campaigns such as Movember has seen a rise in the number of men speaking out about their health issues. Once a taboo subject, the prevalence of early diagnosis in all aspects of medical conditions has put men's health at the forefront of health movements. Here, we discuss the symptoms and treatment of both testicular and prostate cancer.

Testicular cancer

Cancer of the testes accounts for less than one per cent of male cancers, and usually develops between the ages of 15 and 50. It is a very treatable condition and the earlier it is detected the better the prognosis, with most early testicular cancer cases being cured.

Symptoms

The most common way testicular cancer presents itself is with a lump in the scrotum. There are many non-cancerous scrotal lumps which can usually be differentiated from tumours after careful clinical examination by a urologist. An ultrasound may be required to determine whether the lump is in the body of the testicle or in one of the other scrotal structures. If the lump is found to be in the testis, it is usually considered to be a tumour.

Treatment

The first step in treating early testicular cancer is to remove the affected testis. The operation lasts about 20 minutes and involves a small scar in the groin. A prosthetic testis can be inserted at the same time, which looks and feels similar to the real thing. Commonly, no further treatment is required, although additional scans are often performed and it is usual to see an oncologist who will discuss possible treatments to reduce the risk of further problems. Occasionally, advanced testicular cancer that has spread outside the testis is found and this is treated by either radiotherapy or chemotherapy. A treatment plan is always discussed with the best treatment options given based on diagnosis.

Early detection is key

All men between the ages of 15 and 50 should examine their testis themselves once a month, and seek advice from your GP or a specialist if a lump is suspected.

Prostate cancer

Cancer of the prostate is a much more common male malignancy with a large number of men over 80 years-old having slow-growing prostate cancer, often without symptoms or needing treatment. A small percentage of younger men develop potentially life-threatening aggressive prostate cancer, emphasising the importance of early detection.

Symptoms

Prostate cancer usually causes no symptoms until it grows large enough to restrict the flow of urine and at this stage, it may be quite advanced. These symptoms are indistinguishable from those caused by a benign (non-cancerous) enlargement of the prostate, which is also very common in older men, and includes poor urinary flow, difficulty in emptying the bladder, urinary frequency and getting up in the night to pass urine.

Diagnosis and treatment

The diagnosis of early non-symptomatic prostate cancer is currently undergoing changes. A prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test and digital rectal examination by a urologist are very important, however MRI scanners are now powerful enough to detect small tumours that might be missed by these tests alone and can also exclude cancer in patients with raised PSA, thereby avoiding a prostate biopsy. Biopsy techniques are also advancing and enabling more accurate targeting of suspected tumours.

The treatment of early prostate cancer depends on both the patient and disease factors. Some patients with non-aggressive cancer do not need urgent treatment and their disease can be monitored, while others may require various forms of surgery, radiotherapy or drug treatment.

Don't delay

Anyone with bothersome urinary symptoms should have their prostate examined by an experienced GP or urologist and discuss having a PSA blood test. They are, however, much more likely to have benign enlargement of the prostate rather than prostate cancer.

Be aware and don't delay visiting your GP if you experience any of the symptoms associated with prostate or testicular cancer.

(Source: uk.movember.com)

MEET THE SPECIALIST

Mr Andrew Ballaro MD FRCS (uro) is a Consultant Urologist at The Wellington Hospital. He specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of urological cancers and commonly occurring urological symptoms, and also has extensive experience in performing surgery for kidney stones.

For further information or if you would like to arrange an appointment at The Wellington Hospital, contact the hospital Enquiry Helpline on 020 7483 5000 or visit thewellingtonhospital.com





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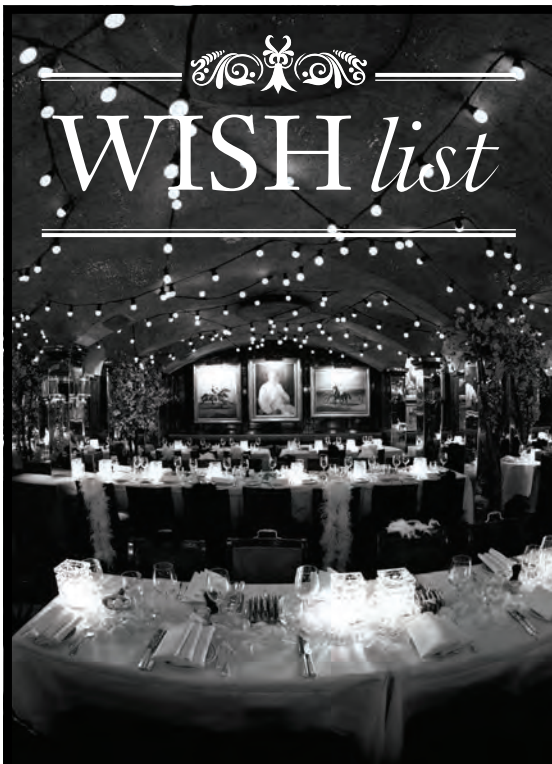
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WISH list



JOIN THE CLUB

“I remember the first time I walked into Annabel’s...” said Goldie Hawn.
 “I remember going into this club and feeling like I was absolutely transported... it was like an extraordinarily designed and conceived place, where you never wanted to leave.” She’s talking about London’s most historic and exclusive private members’ club, Annabel’s. Having been granted unparalleled access to this top society hangout, director Greg Fay and executive producer Sir Ridley Scott have released a documentary to mark its 50th anniversary. A-list guests have included everyone from The Beatles (turned away once for not wearing shoes) to the Queen (the only nightclub Her Majesty has ever attended), and the film promises to uncover all the delicious intrigue and society snippets for which the club is renowned. Head to a screening throughout November at the Curzon, Mayfair, followed by some Krug and caviar at what is still one of the chicest spots in town.

annabels.co.uk



FOODIE FAVOURITES



NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Trained at El Bulli under world-renowned head chef Pablo Montoro, Alfonso Lillo Fas has set Marylebone in his sights for the opening of The Cavendish. Presenting the freshest ingredients from Europe to create modern dishes with a crisp, simple style, the smart 1940's interior was crafted by Concorde Interior Design; from the three bespoke bars to the teal private dining room. This month's Chiltern Firehouse.

35 New Cavendish Street, W1G



The Cavendish photography by Helen Cathcart / helencathcart.com



THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER

While you may have already visited the Soho Oyster House for a taste of all things seafood, the Wright Brothers' restaurant has introduced an exclusive dining experience called The Cage.

Accommodating up to 20 guests seated and up to 35 standing, its structure physically adjusts to suit the size of the party. Having opened in time to host those all-consuming festive gatherings, the various set menus offer everything from Alaskan king crab legs to fresh oysters, sourced from its farm in Cornwall, as well as smaller dishes like thinly sliced octopus and tuna tartare.

13 Kingly Street, W1B



SEEING STARS

Kitchen Table at Bubbledogs, James Knappett's intimate 19-seat chef's table restaurant in Fitzrovia, has joined 13 other restaurants in Britain and Ireland in being awarded its first Michelin star. The tiny team will serve and talk you through the daily changing 12-14 course tasting menu, chalked on the restaurant's blackboard, and featuring signature dishes such as

crispy chicken skin with homemade bacon jam. Much of the produce used is grown or foraged by Knappett himself, with a heavy focus on seasonal ingredients. Other *Vantage* favourites that received the *crème de la crème* of gourmet nods include Fera at Claridges, Gymkhana and Barrafinna.

70 Charlotte Street, W1T



ALONG FOR THE RIDE

The team behind Carousel, a three-story space on Blandford Street, will continue to play host to an alternating calendar aimed at foodie nomads this month. Chefs Ollie Templeton and Max Pasetti will challenge Christmas lunch traditions: with no mince pies in sight, slow-cooked rabbit and gorgonzola dolce will become your new holiday season staples.

24 November - 18 December
71 Blandford Street, W1U, carousel-london.com

RESTAURANT REVIEW

The Spice of Life

Gabrielle Lane samples Dover Street's lesser-known new opening

Early October in Dover Street. The street is humming with blacked-out Range Rovers and immaculately-clad women with Smythson notebooks and the latest Céline totes. Amid the din surrounding the opening of Victoria Beckham's first clothing boutique at number 36, the cuisine at number 34 is in danger of being overlooked.

Quattro Passi, the London-based Italian restaurant from Michelin-star chef Antonio Mellino, had its official opening the night before his fashion designer neighbour moved in. And when I visited, just over a week later, there was no sign of Victoria or her entourage. Instead, a throng of wealthy, international clientele familiar with Mellino's outpost on the Amalfi coast were flocking to eat supper, slightly later than the English typically do.

The tables were ready for them, cloaked in starched-white linen and glistening with weighty, silver cutlery. As I entered, the entire dozen-strong team seemed to spring to attention to greet me with beaming smiles. Their sincerity and eagerness was so un-British that I found myself making up for it: apologising as they slid my handbag onto a stool and again as they brought water, fresh bread and olive oil in tantalising succession. I watched this routine play out table after table.

We started the drinking off with Champagne and from there the sommelier's local wine choices had us supping from each other's glasses with glee. On the food front, what Quattro Passi masters particularly well is texture, which makes sense when you order (as we did) chargrilled octopus and vegetables on a cream of celeriac; a well-seasoned and well-judged dish of seafood ribbons without any chewiness. Scallops with baby broccoli, bottarga and green sauce were satisfying bite-sized meaty hunks that slithered against the knife.



For mains, we tried two contrasting dishes. The veal chop (which they do here in various ways, including with béarnaise sauce) and the cod with a swirl of blueberry sauce. The former was one for meat lovers, slightly crisp and golden on the outside, a little bit salty – and enormous. The fish was exceptionally clean and mild tasting, the flavours quite subtle. Some will love the prettiness and the simplicity from a country renowned for rich sauces and layers of pasta; the aim, of course, is not to feel stuffed to the brim. Saying that, there is a great dessert menu: the warm orange tart with chocolate fondant ice cream was utterly perfect.

Quattro Passi Nerano on the Amalfi coast draws in the global jet-set with celebrity fans including Valentino, Beyoncé and Jay Z visiting by boat over the summer months. And while it's still early days for the new London outpost, at least Mellino can call on VB if he ever needs to fill the window seats. ■

34 Dover Street, W1, quattropassi.co.uk

AT HOME WITH

Valentino

From intimate breakfasts to lavish lunches with Jackie O, *Gabrielle Lane* gets a lesson in opulent entertaining from a man who knows good taste

Couture isn't the only thing on the mind of Valentino Garavani. The noted designer (who founded the house of Valentino) presented his last fashion show in Paris on January 23, 2008 at the age of 75.

Yet beauty in all its forms, continues to consume him. In *Valentino: At the Emperor's Table*, a new book written in conjunction with former editor-at-large to American *Vogue*, André Leon Talley, Valentino and his closest confidantes shed light on an existence where living is an art form. Lunch is an all-day affair, served from a Russian dinner service set by suited waiters with white gloves, whether in London, New York, Paris, Gstaad or aboard the glamorous yacht, T. M Blue One. Explaining his motivation for opening his homes for the project, Valentino says "I hope to be remembered as a man who pursued beauty wherever he could." To him, codes and rules of etiquette are regarded as essential in giving one's life structure and balance. Yes, there are those that may find the Valentino way too decadent, ostentatious perhaps. However, the designer has a message for his critics: "Sometimes I say to myself, 'do I deserve all this happiness and these beautiful things?' Then I say to myself 'why not?'" ●





Valentino in his garden in Château de Widenulle



• THE LOCATION

In London, Valentino's neighbourhood is Holland Park, where lunch is taken in the smaller dining room of his home. It's a space modelled on the Peacock room by Whistler at the Freer Gallery in Washington DC, with oriental décor throughout, exemplified by a sea of blue and white plates, tureens and decanters dating from the Kangxi and Qianlong dynasties of China, which are wall-mounted in mirrored alcoves. The dining room overlooks the garden – a lawn bordered by a boxwood hedge, on which a life-size bronze sculpture of a bull by François-Xavier Lalanne is set.

In New York, it is views of Central Park that captivate his guests (seats are set into the tall windows). The dining room here is white with panels of grey, offsetting silverware and porcelain – much of it French and Russian in origin. A large marble fireplace, inlaid with lapis lazuli, is the first thing guests see upon reaching the entrance hall.

Typically, Christmas and New Year is spent in the more informal surroundings of one of Valentino's oldest homes in the ski resort of Gstaad, where the walls are

clad with local pine and the mood is cosy and relaxed. Elsewhere, tradition reigns on board Valentino's yacht, the T.M Blue One, where the décor has a nautical theme of blue and white – a dinner service painted with sailing boats is one of the designer's favourites.

THE TABLE SETTING

"Entertaining 30 or one is the same; the food has to be on a beautiful plate," is Valentino's mantra. While the designer collects tableware of all kinds, Meissen porcelain is a particular luxury. "If I had to lunch alone," he writes, "my staff know what I like, and there would still be a table with the same attention to detail: beautiful crystal, beautiful vermeil or silver, and beautiful linens."

When dressing the table, flowers and fruit are often juxtaposed against cut-glass goblets and precious metal platters, with red roses proving a favourite. André Leon Talley describes the effect as one of "Renaissance and Enlightenment-era France," explaining that the ritual is not entirely self-indulgent; "everything is conceived to delight the



Circle images from left: Russian porcelain dinner plate, St. Petersburg, reign of Nicholas I (1825–55); Place setting in the blue dining room at Valentino's home in Holland Park, including a pair of 19th century figural silver saltcellars, by Maison Odier, Paris and one monogrammed VG napkin from Cesari

senses – not only the taste buds, but also the eyes – of his guests,” he writes.

In keeping with the mind of a dressmaker, napkins are typically antique and oversized, to reflect the ones used to shield ball gowns in the 19th century, and are often laid out like a lake for dozens of white porcelain Meissen swans. Hunting for black versions of the ornaments remains one of Valentino's favourite hobbies.

THE GUESTS

In a world of such opulence, breakfast is taken alone and lunch and dinner with a few well-chosen companions. One of Valentino's favourite guests is Meryl Streep; in the book he describes the actress as “my idol... so sweet... so divine... so natural”.

Much has also been said of Valentino's friendship with the late Jackie Kennedy Onassis. The pair frequently spent time on his yacht in Capri, after the designer worked with her on pieces for her much-admired wardrobe, including her wedding dress. Valentino has stayed close to the movers and shakers of the fashion and entertainment world to this day, holding dinner parties during Fashion Week for the likes of American *Vogue* editor Anna Wintour and Oprah Winfrey. However, many of his closest friends have worked alongside him for many years. The design house's honorary president Giancarlo Giammetti, his design assistant Bruce Hoeksema and brand ambassador Carlos Souza frequently holiday in Gstaad.

In return, Valentino has been a regular guest at fellow fashion entrepreneur Oscar de la Renta's home in the Dominican Republic; he names him as a great host.

THE FOOD

Jonathan Surin is Valentino's chef and travels with him across the world. A true patriot, he takes great pleasure in food and each morning makes requests for the day's menu, before choosing plates and a decorative tablecloth. He is a man who favours vegetarian cuisine, eschewing red meat, butter and fat in recent years (and taking up yoga) as part of a concerted effort to stay healthy. He also avoids traditional wheat (not easy for an Italian); his chosen pasta dishes are made with the high-protein grain, kamut.

Breakfast is the same each day: yoghurt, tea with agave nectar and two homemade biscuits with kamut flour and organic blueberries. Later in the day, hearty home cooking remains prominent; one of the designer's preferred dishes is risotto Milanese (with less cream than usual, but served with mushrooms, mascarpone and parmesan), while his pasta dishes are served with tomatoes and onion, or with freshly ground pesto.



On board the T. M Blue One, the dining theme is largely Mediterranean, comprising dinners of fresh fish and vegetable tempura.

THE ACTIVITIES

After dinner entertainment is frequently low key. Valentino likes nothing more than to watch a film, or take a stroll in one of his vegetable or flower gardens, no doubt contented.

THE RECIPE

Mushroom risotto (serves 6)

Ingredients:

- 20 medium-size fresh morel mushrooms
- 3 tbsp (30g) unsalted butter
- 5 1/2 cups (1.3l) chicken stock
- 1/2 lb (225g) chanterelle mushrooms
- 1/2 lb (225g) porcini mushrooms
- 1 small yellow onion, finely chopped
- 3/4 cup (175ml) white wine
- 1 1/4 cups (260g) carnaroli rice
- 2.5 oz (75g) mascarpone cheese
- 6 tbsp (100g) grated parmesan cheese
- Salt
- Espelette pepper

For serving:

- Jamón ibérico, chopped or shaved
- Parmesan cheese shavings

Method:

- Sweat the morels in 1/2 tbsp of butter; do not let them brown. Add 1/2 cup chicken stock and braise them until tender
- Pan-fry the chanterelles and porcini separately in 1/2 tbsp of butter with a pinch of salt
- Using a large pan, sauté the onion in 2 tbsp butter for five minutes. Add the white wine and let it cook away completely. Add the rice and stir until the grains are coated. Add a ladleful of chicken stock and let it cook away, stirring. Continue adding ladlefuls of stock, stirring and allowing it to cook away before the next addition
- When all the stock is cooked away, add the mascarpone and parmesan then adjust the seasoning to taste
- To serve, spoon the risotto into a dish and garnish with the mushrooms, jamón ibérico shavings, and parmesan cheese shavings. ■

Valentino: At the Emperor's table, by André Leon Talley and Valentino with photography by Oberto Gili, £95 assouline.com



JOIN
THE

Restaurateur Des McDonald has mastered the recipe for opening London's most exciting foodie hangouts. *Kari Colmans* picks his brain... and fills her belly

I practically rolled into the Holborn Dining Room to interview Des McDonald. Having been to try out his Southern soul-food joint Q Grill on Chalk Farm Road the night before, leaving with groaning sides after demolishing three hefty courses and a bottle of Malbec, I was suffering from a serious food hangover. Granted, the seabass ceviche and unctuous blackened butterfish fared at the lighter end of the menu when compared to the pit-smoked beef hash (served with a fried egg) and short rib fritters, but the chips and creamed corn, followed by chocolate brownies dripping in peanut butter and a portion of cookies and cream, tipped the scales to the wrong side of gluttony and I was paying for my sins.

I'm perching at the bar of the Rosewood London's British brasserie, another of McDonald's restaurants that opened to much fanfare this year. He powerwalks in, dressed in a black suit and white shirt, but with an air that dares you to mistake him for a waiter. There's no small talk, it's straight down to business: he's got people to see, restaurants to run. Either he's

Right: The Fish & Chip Shop, Islington
 Below: Dublin Bay prawns, Holborn Dining Room

uncomfortable doing interviews, or he's done so many that rattling off the often-referenced historical anecdotes is far less interesting than discussing the merits of pit-smoked versus citrus-marinated.

Aged 16, his first job was as a pot washer at The Ritz. He comes from a long-standing line of culinary stock; bakers, farmers, chefs. "For me, it was an obvious progression from school," he says, his words measured but quick and concise, his eyes angled towards the restaurant's grand entrance off the Rosewood hotel's courtyard. "I was always working in kitchens with my father. It was just something that was very natural to me. I was always cooking at home. I was always interested in restaurants. My uncle has a restaurant in San Francisco on Fisherman's Wharf and I went there when I was 12. It was one of my first experiences [in a restaurant] and I just got a real bug for it. ."

Fast forwarding from his days at The Ritz, McDonald flitted between the capital's top establishments before joining the Ivy as head chef in 1992 at the age of 26. "Through hard work, luck and loyalty, Chris Corbin and Jeremy King sold the business to Luke Johnson, and I was appointed managing director. Eventually we sold the business to Richard Caring and everything kept on spiralling. Ultimately I found myself as managing director and group CEO of Caprice Holdings, so very much from the shop-floor to the boardroom." And after two decades well spent at the helm of one of London's most successful restaurant groups, McDonald made the decision in January 2012 that it was time to put his own name above the door. "I always mentioned to the guys that worked with me 'the three to five year plan'. The progression from the shop-floor to the boardroom kept me busy for quite a long



time and then towards the end of that, the idea of doing something for myself and answering to fewer people became more and more attractive.

"As I've said before, in meetings and in speeches I've given, when you move from being a part of a team in a large kitchen into an office, it's a much lonelier place, so

"The idea of doing something for myself and answering to less people became more and more attractive"

for me the rules of engagement were quite different. I still kept very much in touch with the culinary side but also tried to work with our shareholders to ensure they were happy with what we were doing."

For someone whose career began in the kitchen, he actually finds little time for cooking these days. "I enjoy cooking, but I have less time for it. My life has gone in different ways and you have to act accordingly. I never eat at home, I always eat out. Lunch and dinner, every day, seven days and 14 meals a week. My cooker doesn't need cleaning because it's never used."

With The Fish & Chip Shop receiving rave reviews when it opened on Upper Street last May, followed by the success of Q Grill in Camden and On The Roof With Q at Selfridges this summer, McDonald seems to have a knack for opening down-to-earth, simple but fantastic restaurants, quite the antithesis of those white tablecloth establishments at which he made his name. "I develop restaurants that I would like to eat in myself," he says. "It's as simple as that. People love great fish and chips. When we first developed J Sheekey [while at Caprice Holdings] my vision was just for great seafood. I think it's a crowd pleaser and the food is accessible but also healthy.

"I've opened beach-side shacks in Barbados with Daphne's, the Rivington Grill in Shoreditch before it was cool and trendy. I've worked closely with Soho House. Where do I feel most comfortable? I love your Harry's Bars but I am also comfortable in a very humble chop ▶



Clockwise from top left: Salt baked heritage beets with goat's curd, Holborn Dining Room; Tomahawk steak, Q Grill, Camden; Seabass ceviche, Q Grill, Camden



is in Marylebone, are three restaurants owned by the Russian group that seem to summarise London's gastronomy scene today. "Much like in property, foreign investment [in restaurants] has created a huge bubble in London; it's almost like an island on its own. It's underpinning the changes in demographic in the capital at the high end," he says.

A second of McDonald's Fish & Chip Shops opened in the City last week, and if you've never sampled one of the famous shrimp burgers, it's worth a visit to the other side of London, even just to pop to the takeaway window. There will also be fresh seabass and oysters for those watching

their waists. He's also excited about a pop-up in Canary Wharf called Q on Ice, which will be open from 1 November until February next year (and will form part of the annual and much-anticipated ice rink offering) as well as an extension of the hugeley successful rooftop restaurant at Selfridges. "Our Canary Wharf pop-up will have a big vibrant bar and our signature menu of raw, charred and smoked dishes including crudo, ribs and pit-smoked salmon and beetroot, and for dessert, ice cream

sundaes and Choctails. Over at Selfridges, we'll be transforming the space into a winter rooftop apres-ski concept. You can expect rissoles, spit roasts and apple pies as well as a cocktail bar based on hot chocolate."

There's no doubt that London's restaurant scene has never been more exciting, and McDonald is one of those at the heart of the renaissance. "When I talk to international or European friends, they now see London as an almost global enterprise of cuisine in different villages, much more than before where it was very much based on the centre; all corners of London now have their own villages, with great offers. It's grown, it's developed, and it's absolutely on par if not better than New York, for example. London is absolutely buzzing with some great opportunities."

And with that, his eyes flicking to the exit, our time is up and he hops off the bar stool and bids me a curt but friendly goodbye. I can't say I'm too disappointed: it's lunch time, I've got a Bloody Mary and dressed crab on the way, and it's a relief he won't be watching as I roll back out the door. ■

q-grill.co.uk

house. For me, if the cooking is honest and the service is good, I'm happy. Diners today are very discerning. They want energy and fun when they go out to eat and it doesn't all have to be *froo froo* and *lala*."

We discuss the year's trends: Vietnamese ramens and Mexican burritos, plus more pop ups and single-ticket offerings. The growth of the casual but quality dining experience is continuing to attract the younger, cool crowds while increased foreign investment is having a noticeable impact on the foodie scene, especially in central London. "Social media in the last five to seven years has sparked a massive change in [the restaurant] industry. Your customers are far more versed; they don't pick up a knife and fork, they pick up their camera phones. They're blogging, they're tweeting... the information highway is just incredible." Surely a man in his position has seen enough Instagrammed burgers to have social media fatigue? I ask, and his salt and pepper stubbled jaw gives way to a smile as we get into territory on which he's clearly an expert and has utilised to staggering success. "Quite frankly, it can be a bit boring! I'm a bit over it now but there is room for everybody and different generations are earning more money and going out to eat. They want to be more included and inclusive so, you know, that's the way the market is."

McDonald is not afraid to sing his competitor's praises. We agree that the likes of Arkady Novikov are simultaneously straddling the oligarch hang-out, fast food and streamlined menu outposts: Novikov, Burger & Lobster and the most recent opening Beast, which





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WISH *list*

EVERY PARTY HAS A POOPER

Now that tying the knot abroad has become de rigueur, the help of one humble wedding planner won't always suffice. Luxury tour operator Scott Dunn has collaborated with Bruce Russell, one of the UK's leading event planners, to create an elite nuptials service, which will help orchestrate everything from the point of proposal. They'll pick the best of the best top destination venues as well as that all-important spa break mini-moon before an itinerary-filled honeymoon. They can even arrange tasteful hen and stag dos, bridal fittings in Paris and wine tastings from within the top vineyards. Not one for you, George *Baaanks*.

scottdunn.com; bybrucerussell.com

TRAVEL *IN STYLE*

HOT SPOT *in November*



BEIJING, CHINA

Enjoy the calm after the the celebratory storm of Golden Week in China's bustling capital city

Why

The beginning of October attracts crowds to Beijing to enjoy the festivities of the Chinese national holiday Golden Week, which became an annual celebration in the year 2000. The seven-day period is seen as an opportunity for many Chinese citizens to travel to some of the country's largest cities and most famous landmarks in a show of patriotism. With the buzz of this year's Golden Week fading, November seems an ideal time to call upon China's capital and explore the city.

Stay

The St Regis Beijing is offering guests a unique dining and tour experience combining two of the city's most famous spots. The hotel can provide exclusive tours of the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China, outside of the sites' normal opening hours, for groups of as little as two up to 500 people. At the Great Wall, dinners are held on the Mashen Temple of the Juyongguan Pass, surrounded by striking scenery. Within walking distance of the hotel lie the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the city's infamous Silk Market.

stregis.com/beijing



SOHO CHIC

American Hotelier Jason Pomeranc has teamed up with interior architecture and design practice, Tara Bernerd & Partners, to perform a multi-million dollar renovation to what was 60 Thompson. Renamed SIXTY SoHo, the newly furnished hotel resembles a downtown New York apartment, typical of her signature luxurious 'at home' style. Complete with planked timber floors, caramel leather furnishings and a selection of hand-picked mid-century and contemporary furniture, the lobby resembles a relaxed members club and incorporates the vibrancy of the SoHo area. Each of the 97 bedrooms and ten suites will have dark timber slatted blinds, a bespoke bar cabinet and a desk in petrol blue lacquer. Just in time for some stateside Christmas shopping.

sixtyhotels.com

STAY SECLUDED

Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH) has introduced Private Residences, a concept which offers complete privacy, while still receiving the personal attention of a leading hotel. Each exclusive handpicked residence (whether an estate, villa, ski chalet or yacht) is equipped with five-star services and facilities and staff and can be hired for sole use, enabling families and friends to enjoy a peaceful time away.

privateresidences.slh.com/



LONDON'S LATEST ADDITION

Mondrian London has opened its doors. Set on the South Bank, it is the first Mondrian branded hotel outside of the United States. Each of its 359 rooms and suites are decked with Tom Dixon furniture and many provide views overlooking the Thames and City. The hotel features two bars; Dandelyan, a seasonal cocktail bar that serves variations of the classic cocktails behind a statement

green marble bar and an exclusive rooftop bar where the skyline can be enjoyed to full effect. Its restaurant, Sea Containers, headed up by New York's Seamus Mullen, enhances the hotel's nautical feel, also created by a handcrafted copper hull that runs from the entrance, through the lobby and into its centre.

mondrianlondon.com



SNOWY DELIGHTS

SHORT HAUL

Mountain haven

Summit Retreats, the specialist ski travel agency, has just added Chalet Mont Blanc, Megève, to its collection of luxury alpine holidays. The brand new chalet sleeps 12 adults and four children and has been fashioned with its own helipad and calming spa area that includes a hammam. Dinner is served by a personal chef and evenings can be spent in the private cinema or admiring the view.

From £11,750 per person per week
summitretreats.com



LONG HAUL

Solid as a rock

Renowned for its charm and elevated skiing experience, Hotel Jerome celebrates its 125-year anniversary this month. Located in the heart of Aspen, it is one of the oldest ski resorts in the States, and recent renovations by Auberge Resorts have elevated its contemporary luxury feel while honouring the hotel's heritage. Join fellow skiers and cowboys at the J Bar, which is frequented by the likes of Jack Nicholson and Goldie Hawn.

hoteljerome.aubergeresorts.com





A
ROYAL
Welcome

Karen Bowerman joins the jet-set in Monte Carlo



Hotel Metropole Monte-Carlo, photography by C Larit



© Karen Bowerman

The helicopter rose into the sky, dropped its nose and spun round; Bond flicked a switch and smiled. The craft (once standard, now supersonic) soared over the iridescent sea. The special agent (and let's not forget his love interest – gorgeous, of course) sped towards Monte Carlo. It was clear from the look on his face, that my husband's experience of our exclusive transfer from Nice airport to Monaco in southern France was a little different from my own. But even without 007 at my side (sorry dear), flying into this famed principality still had an air of fantasy about it.

As we neared the helipad, our pilot skirted the sail boats (the only time yachts here looked small) and swooped round, flying a touch more theatrically than I sensed he usually did, before landing right over the water. He said nothing but let slip a wry smile. It was as if, with this dashing manoeuvre, he was welcoming us to the playground that is Monte Carlo.

Monte Carlo is one of five districts of Monaco, the second smallest state in the world after the Vatican. It's just over 20km east of Nice and is known for its casino, multi-millionaires and the 50s fairytale wedding of Prince Rainier and the Hollywood superstar, Grace Kelly, which turned the state into a jet-setter hotspot.

Today, Monte Carlo dazzles under the Mediterranean sun: superyachts, supercars and super-sized salaries add that extra sparkle. Shops sell gems so huge that anywhere else you'd think

they weren't real. Price tags, where displayed, have so many zeros it's impossible to work out where the points go. Ferraris roar, Maseratis purr and Porsches are two a penny as their owners pull up to park in front of Bond's 'Casino Royale' (bonnets facing outwards for that iconic tourist photo).

Modesty doesn't sit well with the citizens of Monte Carlo. Except, it seems, for those at the five-star Hotel Metropole, just round the corner from Casino Square, opposite the Boulingrins gardens. The hotel, with its leafy Arc de Triomphe entrance, belle époque façade and Tuscan courtyard decorated with fountains and lined with guests' Lamborghinis, is the ultimate in discreet decadence.

"We're here for the richest of the rich, for those who don't need to be seen," Charlotte Lhermet said, listing Sting, Claudia Schiffer, Jennifer Lopez and Leonardo DiCaprio among the hotel's guests. She showed me the vast Carré d'Or suite. Its terrace, overlooking the Grand Prix circuit, can easily accommodate 50 for cocktails. When in Monte Carlo...

Foolishly, we didn't have the foresight to book a year in advance for that room. But we did have a glorious junior suite – and a table at Joël Robuchon, the hotel's two-Michelin-star restaurant. Robuchon, one of France's most well-known chefs, serves exceptional Mediterranean cuisine. We chose fish: tender red mullet with local Menton lemon and moist John Dory fish, with slow-simmered



Monaco Press Centre Photos

- tomatoes, coriander and lime. And I couldn't resist a rich, chocolatey dessert – it was so intense that it left my mouth tingling with delight.

The chef also runs Yoshi, the hotel's Michelin-starred Japanese restaurant which I have to say, we enjoyed even more thanks to its intimate, youthful atmosphere and wide range of creative dishes. We mixed traditional sushi with exotic alternatives: salmon tartare with caviar and gold leaf, spiced octopus and candied potatoes, and foie gras and grilled eel millefeuille – an intriguing combination.

Unsurprisingly, breakfast tended to be a light and leisurely affair – flaky croissants and zesty juices – which we took outside, overlooking the hotel's heated seawater pool. The area, with its black and white

Modesty doesn't sit well with the citizens of Monte Carlo

chairs, enormous parasols, magnolias and pink hibiscus flowers, was designed by Karl Lagerfeld.

It was with some reluctance that we finally left the peaceful confines of the Metropole for the exuberance of Monte Carlo's money-fuelled world outside. But when we did, we headed straight for its epicentre: Hercule Harbour. There were so many yachts it was as if it were hosting a luxury boat show. Tenders were the size of traditional cruisers; pools, Jacuzzis and fleets of branded jet skis were two a penny. We spotted (could hardly miss) the five-decked "Lady Moura" who, although glorious in her own giant way, reminded me of a cross channel ferry – although I guess P&O doesn't carve its logo out of 24-carat gold. Owned by a Saudi billionaire, she's said to have cost £150 million.

Leaving the harbour, we followed a path at the foot of the cliff until we came across a door in the rock which led to a lift to Monaco Ville. There are lots of lifts in Monaco, it's a very hilly place and you



Monaco Press Centre Photos



© Karen Bowerman

wouldn't want an incline to cause havoc to a Louboutin heel. Our destination was the royal palace. Its plain, sandy-coloured frontage belied the extravagance inside: Venetian chandeliers, silk-covered walls and a staircase made from a single, colossal chunk of carrara marble. Equally impressive was Prince Rainier's eclectic classic car collection, displayed together with Ayrton Senna's helmet and David Coulthard's gloves, in a museum just off Place du Canton. On the way back to our hotel, I did a little window shopping. Prada, Hermes, Valentino and Gucci formed one neat, inviting row but there were some beautiful art galleries too, for those keen to grow their private collection.

Back at the Metropole, guests were sipping cocktails. I recalled a comment made by the hotel's famed interior designer, Jacques Garcia, who described it as a place where "rock stars could mix comfortably with royalty. There are no social barriers," he said. Besides this being a delightful take on Monaco's class system (so rock stars are as "low" as it goes here?) it also served to illustrate the hotel's universal appeal. What's more, even if you're still working towards rock star or royalty status, you're still made to feel very welcome. ■



© Karen Bowerman

NEED TO KNOW

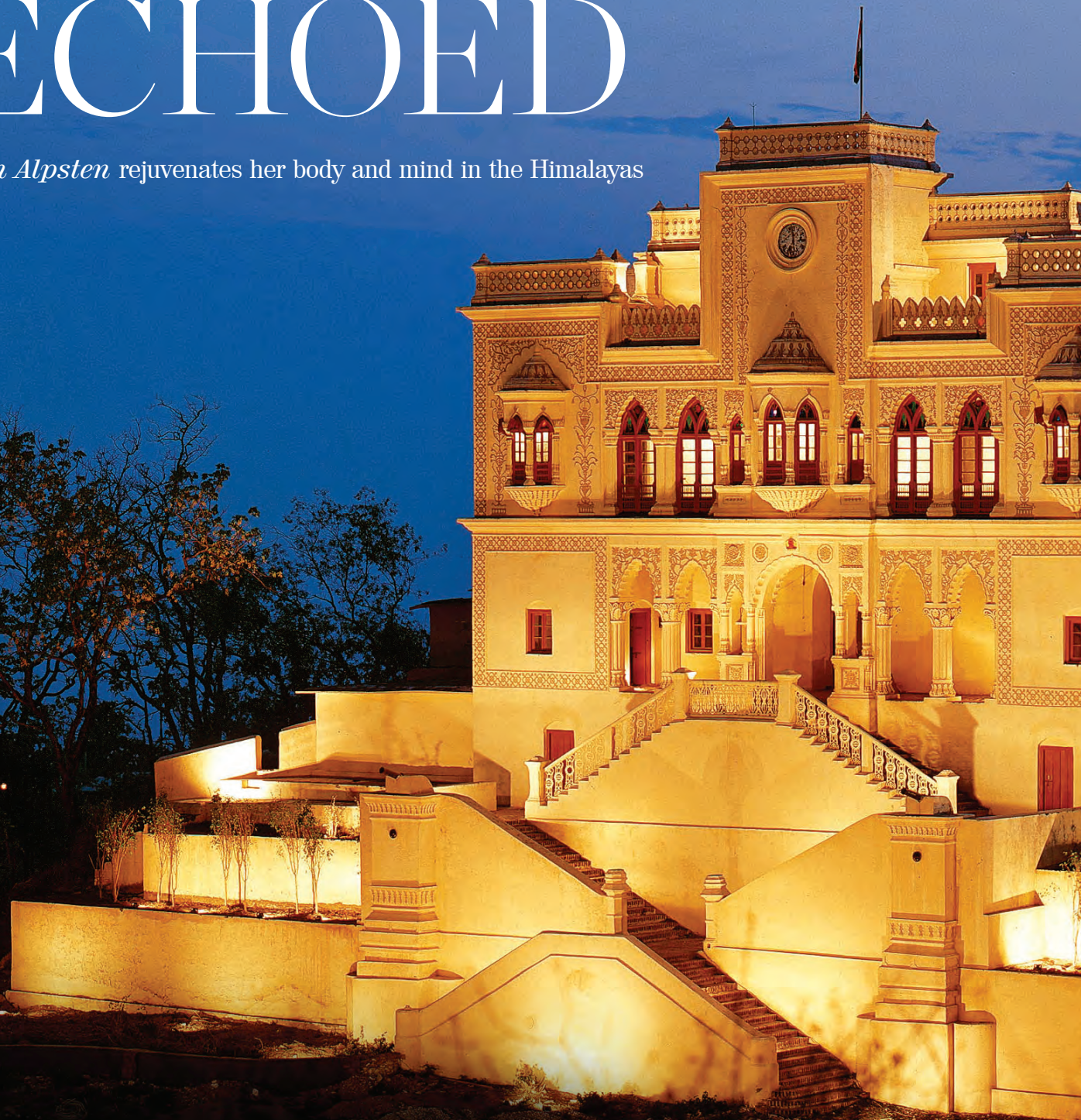
Hotel Metropole rooms start from £700 and suites from £980 excluding breakfast. The Carré d'Or suite is £8,000 a night. The hotel has the only ESPA spa in France, metropole.com

Heli Air runs regular flights between Nice airport and Monaco with return tickets from £190, heliairmonaco.com



AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED

Ellen Alpsten rejuvenates her body and mind in the Himalayas





Seven o'clock at the Ananda in the Himalayas: having a lie-in? Not likely. It's time for the beginner's yoga class up at the former hunting palace of the Raja of Tehri Garhwal, which houses the hotel. The sun has long-since risen and the white light of the early morning is bursting with brightness; green parrots blend into the lush lawns and birds of paradise chase peacocks out of bougainvillea bushes.

Far below the rim of the Indian Himalayas, on which the guestrooms, spa and restaurant are located, layers of landscape are slowly revealed by the river Ganges. In the valley, the river crosses the holy city of Rishikesh, where the end of The Beatles began in the late 60s. Today, the ashram the band visited lies deserted and overgrown, like King Louis' temples in Disney's adaptation of *The Jungle Book*. So close to her source, the Ganges is alluringly turquoise and turbulent; no wonder white-water rafting has been added to the many attractions of the Indian hill stations – high-altitude towns used as places of refuge from the summer heat.

Kipling was the most famous admirer of this far flung and unspoiled part of the subcontinent: while he travelled on horse- or elephant-back, it takes the modern traveller a flight to Delhi, then on to Dehradun in Uttarakhand, followed by a 45-minute drive. The winding road up to the Raja's lair leads past lazing holy cows, marauding herds of rhesus monkeys, giggling school children, men in rickshaws and women floating through clouds of billowing dust in gloriously coloured saris and shalwar kameez. ●



● Sushant, the yoga teacher, is cool and controlled; poised, but never patronising. The postures are straightforward, yet intense. High above, the room is decorated with lotus flowers, the symbol for beauty and non-attachment. The ceiling itself, however, glows in an energetic blue that punches right beneath closed eyelids. A playful monkey tugs at the soft curtains that protect against the now hot sun. What a perfect way to start the day at this utterly harmonious place. “Be grateful to be here,” says Sushant, as his flock wanders off to breakfast where everything from porridge to

Oprah Winfrey is said to have had an “out of body” experience here

poppadums are on offer. Upon their arrival guests on one of the various detox programmes meet with an Ayurveda doctor, who determines their *dosha*, or body kind, according to the ancient Ayurvedic science: Pitta is firey, vata airy and dry while kapha is earthy and strong. At lunch or dinner starters might include a carom-flavoured slow-roasted pineapple salad, followed by vegetable and cottage cheese skewers with coconut pilaf and an apple-mung lentil dip. Puddings are perfect – foamy coconut parfait with berry fritters or freshly made pomegranate sorbet. Following the Ayurveda recommendations is simple and after a couple of days, ploughing the pool gets easier and the drawstrings of the crisp, white kurta (a pyjama style suit with which the hotel provides the guests) need pulling tighter. No matter who you are, the kurta you will don: Brangelina, The Prince of Wales or the Duchess of Cambridge have all done it. Oprah Winfrey is said to have had an “out of body” experience here. You are definitely safe to leave your jewellery at home: there is no need to compete or impress.

Spa treatments deliver as much as they promise: The Ananda Fusion blends a cunning mix of Swedish, Thai and Ayurveda principles while the Honey Rosewater Facial takes years off your

NEED TO KNOW

The Ananda in the Himalayas can be reached via direct flights from London to Delhi with British Airways, Air India, Jet Airways and Virgin Atlantic. Internal flights to Dehradun have to be booked separately with Jet Airways or Spice Air. Double rooms inclusive of breakfast and use of all facilities start at £450 per night. Ayurvedic Rejuvenation Packages of seven or 14 nights full board start at £499 a night.



complexion. The Abyangha, a four-handed powerful treat, starts with an Ayurvedic blessing and ends with an edamame bean body scrub. Afterwards, a couple of hours relaxation are obligatory while the body and spirit soak up the nut, sandalwood and ginger-scented oil.

The surrounding areas are abound with things to see, do and learn. The Mussoorie Massif, the beginning of the Indian Himalayas, is dwarfed by the towering Nanda Devi, one of India's highest mountains. This is age-old earth and traditionally the realm of Shiva, the Destroyer, who is never quite at peace with his fellow gods. The hike to the famous Kunjapuri Temple leads through steeply ascending woods. Leaves crunch under foot and release the scent of eucalyptus while your ears become accustomed to the sound of your own heavy breaths. The guide points vaguely north-east to Tibet: 300km driving and four days walk through deep forest. Worshippers toll bells as a sign of their happy arrival at a temple; a girl in a bright green sari offers hot, milky and strongly sugared tea.

Religion is omnipresent: every evening ashrams perform the Ganga Aarti Ritual on the shore of the Rishikesh River. Crowds gather on the marble steps of the Ghat and group around the purifying flames of a fire. Chant fills the air and belief gives the faces a touch of other-worldly beauty. Chandeliers are lit and handed through the crowd – blessings to all and everyone. Up at the Ananda, the Indian flag gets lowered and a bagpiper patrols the grounds, calling it a day. In the valley below, tiny flower boats dance down the Ganges into the setting sun. They are filled with hope and wishes, and one of them must surely be to come back here, sometime soon. ■

anandaspa.com



STAR QUALITY

Cruise holidays are having a revival as luxury vessels with increasingly high standards set out to refute 1970s stereotypes. *Laura Binder* sets sail with Celebrity Cruises



Fashion, like travel, goes in cycles. And if 1960s style is back in vogue, then the cruise is resurfacing from its 1970s heyday to become the travelling choice for discerning jet-setters. While up until now there's been a certain stigma attached to the classic cruise liner – OAP guests, X Factor-style entertainment and a mad dash round the local sights before you're herded back on board – the cabaret cruise image is so 1971. The cruise has had a 21st-century makeover and heading the revival is Celebrity Cruises, a fleet of 11 super-vessels that sailed in from the US in the new millennium with the kind of modern attitude and luxury assets to put preconceptions firmly back in their box.

I board Celebrity Reflection in Rome to embark on an 11-day Mediterranean voyage that would take in Santorini, Istanbul, Ephesus, Mykonos, Athens and Naples and back to Rome. As the newest member of the

fleet, Reflection has an on-board occupancy of 2,886 guests (not to mention 2,000-plus staff). Whether you're a virgin cruiser like me or seasoned sailor, she's a spectacular vision in white, and with a vessel this vast, any misplaced feelings of confinement quickly evaporate as I stroll through arrivals, the handsome staff checking in thousands like a well-oiled machine.

Stay in Aqua Class, as I did, and you'll be privy to a pristine, honey-hued room with floor-to-ceiling windows and, beyond it, a sea-facing balcony with loungers to soak in the sights over a glass or two of Champagne. Aqua Class guests gain complimentary access to the Blu Restaurant and the standout spa's Persian Garden – an oasis of calm – keeping the health-conscious happy and burying the idea of all-you-can-eat cruises in the process. While our stateroom is chic and contemporary, those who feel it's a little on the compact side should make the most of Suite Class. The Reflection Suite, one of a kind in the fleet, boasts, in its panoramic corner spot, balcony-set baths, a walk-in wardrobe and a shower that's cantilevered over the ship's side. And that's in addition to the benefits that the various other categories of suites enjoy, including butler service, a personal shopper, and – launching in April 2015 – a new, exclusive dining room for all Suite Class guests, complimentary speciality dining options, and access to a VIP lounge. It only takes a turn about the ship's 14 decks to be convinced by its grandeur; real-grass decks bristle in the open-air, two swimming pools and four hot tubs simmer under the sun and seven specialty restaurants beckon – as did a Martini bar (one bar of nine), designer boutiques, spa, theatre, art gallery, casino... the list goes on. So now it's time to live it up; the ship is essentially a floating hotel of five-star proportions, one which allows you to wake up in a new destination each day, minus the hassle of airport check-ins and passport control.

Whether you're with your partner, family or friends spend 'sea days' soaking up rays poolside and drinking in panoramic sea views you'd pay top dollar for on dry land. Take a chilled drink to the hot tubs or, if you've had enough of the high seas (though, to my surprise, the novelty never wains) hang out at The Lawn Club with its Alcoves; cabana-style retreats that would look well-placed at your favourite beach club. A real highlight, though, is Reflection's first-rate spa, Canyon Ranch. The spa and wellness brand is usually found in some of the States' swankiest health resorts – it is the only spot to receive *Condé Nast Traveller's* Best Destination Spa Award 11 times – and the brand has partnered with the entire Celebrity fleet. One look at the extensive spa



menu is enough to have me wishing for a day at sea – the perfect excuse to be pampered for the duration. Although there's everything from organic body wraps and detoxifying body treatments to acupuncture and oxygen-boosting facials, it's the Environ vitamin-infused facials – devised by renowned plastic surgeon Dr Des Fernandes – that will have your friends at home asking suspiciously if you really were on a cruise (ask for the flawless, ivory-skinned Marilize – she's a facial pro.) In fact, you don't have to lift a manicured mitt to look good on board; the salon has hair, manicures, pedicures, waxing and lash extensions covered.

Of course there are ample opportunities to over-indulge as well; you're on holiday, after all. While there are five complimentary dining spots on board, it's the ship's seven specialty restaurants that see a new dawn of cruiser changing into their finer threads and sashaying through the immaculate, music-filled lobbies. There are enough options to give you choice anxiety (French at Murano, international at Blu, or sizzling meats at The Lawn Club Grill?) but it's the originality that will surprise you most; the upside-down,



jet-black lampshades that illuminated Qsine restaurant are the first sign that it's no ordinary 'cruise' restaurant, followed by an offbeat waitress with a flash of platinum hair and iPad menus. Playfully inventive dishes come thick and fast, from sushi lollipops to 'popcorn-style' fish and chips.

Post dinner, supping espresso Martinis at the ice-topped bar (caviar snacks and rare vodka optional), and our 'night out' has only just begun. We drink one-off tipples next at Molecular Bar, dreamt up by Junior Merino (or 'The Liquid Chef'), before sitting out beneath the star-lit sky supping the award-winning Eureka at The Sunset Bar. If you're a Top Tier Suite guest, you get access to the private Michael's Club, reminiscent of a Mayfair cigar lounge with its rich conker hues, leather seats and brass bar, serving up 64 international craft beers. If wine is more your thing, Reflection has that covered too; not only does it contain more than 500 wines on board, but it's also home to some of the world's rarest labels, and Wine Master Classes are on offer if you need yet another way to pass your time. Connoisseurs of art can get their fill just as easily; spend time perusing the likes of Peter Max, Marcus Glenn and Romero Britto before having your prized piece shipped home.

After a week I am yet to explore the tempting-sounding Hideaway where giant bird-cage style seats are suspended from the ceiling. With so much happening on-board, it's easy to forget that we're gaining some serious sea miles in the process, but disembarking doesn't mean being left to fend for ourselves for a few clueless hours. Reflection moors for a whole day in each new sun-kissed destination – and in Istanbul's case for the entire day and night – which means we can explore at our leisure and even

have a night out before heading back to relax before our next port of call. An eclectic list of 'shore excursions' mean that the ship's event coordinator can do all the hard work for you; swimming in Santorini's hot springs, fishing by the Bosphorus in Istanbul, visiting vineyards in Ephesus, hitting the beach in Mykonos and shopping in Athens – all before hopping aboard a private boat to take you from Capri to Sorrento.

On this luxury floating hotel, the only retro stereotypes left are a touch of old-school glamour and good traditional values; there's 'formal night' where some ladies go all-out in floor-skimming gowns and staff fall over themselves to attend to your every whim. But to my well-travelled mind, that's no bad thing. My parting advice, from one virgin cruiser to another, is to believe this year's travel hype; it's a new dawn and a new day at sea. ■

NEED TO KNOW

Celebrity Cruises' Eastern Mediterranean Cruise onboard Celebrity Reflection, 11 nights, from £2,069 per person (Aqua Class room); £3,769 per person (Sky Suite); and £6,319 per person (Royal Suite), including flights from London Heathrow to Rome Fiumicino airport and transfers to Rome Civitavecchia port.* Celebrity Reflection sails April to October 2015, rates vary according to season, see website for details. Book a Mediterranean cruise by 10 November to receive a complimentary classic drinks package and free gratuities on Ocean View rooms and above. To book, call 0844 493 2031 or visit celebritycruises.co.uk

*Prices based on 27 April 2015 sailing including flights and transfers. Prices correct at time of press.

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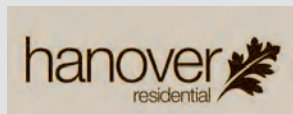


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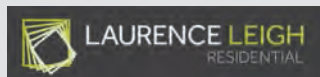
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Hamilton Terrace, St John's Wood NW8

Imposing period house with large garden

Offering excellent entertaining space and a large 112ft rear garden is this newly renovated house with a double garage. 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, dining room, reception room, study, sun room. EPC rating D. Approximately 447 sq m (4,815 sq ft)

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LANGFORD PLACE ST JOHN'S WOOD NW8

FREEHOLD
£5,985,000

JOINT SOLE AGENTS

A light and spacious, newly refurbished Victorian semi-detached six bedroom family home (318sq m/3,432sq ft), with excellent entertaining rooms, well planned accommodation and off street parking for two cars.

The property is located just off Loudoun Road and is within walking distance of The American School in London and St John's Wood Underground Station (Jubilee Line).

ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES

Principal bedroom with large en-suite dressing room & bathroom, 5 further bedrooms, 3 further bathrooms, shower room, double length reception/dining room, study, kitchen/breakfast room leading to family room, 2 guest cloakrooms, utility room, off street parking for 2 cars, rear garden, air conditioning, underfloor heating, provision for integrated music system. EPC=E.



**CLIFTON HILL
ST JOHN'S WOOD NW8**

**FREEHOLD
GUIDE PRICE £4,495,000**

JOINT SOLE AGENTS

An elegant semi-detached Grade II Listed family home (238sq m/2,581sq ft) located in this highly regarded tree-lined avenue. The house is arranged over three floors only, with a delightful 51ft rear garden and off street parking for one car. This is the first time that this charming property, which retains all of its original features, has been on the market in 52 years.

Clifton Hill is situated between Loudoun Road and Abbey Road, within easy reach of St John's Wood High Street and St John's Wood Underground Station (Jubilee Line).

ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES
4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, store room, larder, guest cloakroom, front & 51ft rear gardens, off street parking. EPC=E.



ELGIN MEWS SOUTH MAIDA VALE W9

FREEHOLD
£2,950,000

SOLE AGENTS

An exciting opportunity to acquire a stunning interior designed mews house (207sq m/2,234sq ft), that has been the subject of a complete refurbishment to the highest of standards. The property is situated in a quiet and popular mews and benefits from a roof terrace and an integral garage.

Elgin Mews South is situated only moments away from Maida Vale Underground Station (Bakerloo Line), Paddington Recreational Ground and the Regent's Canal. It is also within walking distance of the fashionable shops and restaurants of Little Venice.

ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES

Principal bedroom with en-suite bathroom, bedroom 2 with en-suite bathroom & dressing room, bedroom 3 with en-suite shower room, open plan reception room/dining room/kitchen, further reception room, guest cloakroom, solar PV panels, LED/low efficiency rated lights throughout, oak wood flooring throughout the ground floor & basement, intruder alarm, intercom system with monitors on each floor, terrace, courtyard, integral garage, 10 year new build warranty, EPC=A.



**HAMILTON TERRACE
ST JOHN'S WOOD NW8**

**LEASEHOLD 122 YEARS
£5,950,000**

JOINT SOLE AGENTS

An exceptionally presented ground floor and garden maisonette apartment of approximately 327sq m/3,525sq ft, offered in immaculate condition. The apartment benefits from five bedrooms, substantial entertaining space, high ceilings and a private 120ft south west facing landscaped garden.

Hamilton Terrace is enviably located within walking distance of the shopping and transport facilities of Maida Vale and St John's Wood Underground Stations (Bakerloo & Jubilee Lines).

ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES

Large principal bedroom with contemporary bathroom & dressing room, 4 further double bedrooms, private entrance, substantial reception rooms with high ceilings & ornate mouldings, kitchen/ breakfast room, guest cloakroom, air conditioning to all principal rooms, entry phone, integral music system, designer garden, terrace, garden storage, residents parking. EPC=C.

Memorable Marylebone

Despite having opened just over a year ago, Marsh & Parsons' Marylebone and Mayfair office is thriving. David Ruddock, associate director and sales manager explains why

No two days are the same at Marsh & Parsons: from the camera-wielding tourists desperate to get a snap of the corner office's prestigious blue plaque marking the site of The Beatles' short-lived psychedelic 'Apple Boutique', to the loyal customers who know their investments are safe in the hands of a brand more than 100 years old, David is aware of the area's unique community and spirit.

With almost 25 years in the industry, he has seen a huge shift in the clientele setting London in its sights. "Around 70 per cent of our buyers are international," he says. "The area is an international melting pot with Arabic and Asian buyers rubbing shoulders with Germans, Swiss and French. Some are looking to invest, but others have moved here for work or for their education. Surprisingly, there is a large overseas student community. These people aren't your average lager-swilling types looking for 'student digs'. They have around £2m to spend on a beautiful central London apartment, or are willing to part with around £1,000 a week on rent. Our international students are mainly from South East Asia, the Arab states, China and, increasingly, India. Regent's University, Westminster University, the London Business School and Cass are all right here."

As well as the flourishing Marylebone office (one of 22 prime London locations at present) Marsh & Parsons has Camden in its sights with a new office opening this month. Having started his career in Islington just at the 'boom' time, David is aware of Camden's ever-increasing pull. "You're looking at around £800-£1,500 per square foot, and there is a lot of opportunity there for someone looking for an investment. There are still a lot of sites that haven't been developed, providing plenty of potential for the right buyer. Full of young media-type professionals and couples, Camden and the surrounding areas of Tufnell Park and Dartmouth Park don't seem to have moved onto the international buyer's radar quite yet, even though just one minute down the road there's Primrose Hill with its international glitterati."

More than ever, Marylebone's prices have reached levels once restricted to Kensington and Knightsbridge. "The Howard de Walden estate has done an incredible job. The high street strikes the perfect balance between its chain stores and independent boutiques, restaurants and cafés, which in turn has attracted the right types of people. It is quite low-key in a way: someone will



walk into our office in jeans and a T-shirt yet they could own around 50 properties in the area. Increasingly, people are turning to Marylebone's fringe areas such as Paddington where they can get a bit more for their money – for now at least. With Baker Street tube station and Crossrail nearby, it's only a matter of time before the prices soar to match the roads closest to Marylebone High Street. A year ago, these areas would generate around £1,000 per square foot, compared to £1,700 for those closer to the village. Today, that is more like a £1,400 to £1,800 comparison."

Conversation turns to the start of next year and what affects the proposed mansion tax and general election may have on the local property scene. "You can't generalise about the London market, because essentially, it's a series of villages," says David. "However, when compared to somewhere like Paris, London is still seen as a stable place to invest your money in property."

"Below the £3m mark, around 60 per cent of our clients are investors. And while stock levels are lower than other areas, the turnover is phenomenally high. We have taken on eight properties to sell in the last two weeks, and we already have offers on all but one."

Having secured a top position within a very competitive market, David credits the office's success to its great reputation and ability to forge long-lasting relationships, which keeps people coming back. Either that or they really like The Beatles. ■

94 Baker Street, W1U
020 7935 1775; marshandparsons.co.uk



Parkheath

Sold on Service



Rosslyn Hill NW3

£1,350,000

A bright raised ground floor apartment with private garden, positioned between Hampstead Village and Belsize Park and close to the Heath.

1,000 sq ft/93 sq m
22' reception
2 double bedrooms
2 bathrooms
Balcony and garden

Contact Belsize Park Office
020 7431 1234

South Hampstead
020 7625 4567
nw6@parkheath.com

West Hampstead
020 7794 7111
192@parkheath.com

Property Management
020 7722 6777
pm@parkheath.com

Belsize Park
020 7431 1234
nw3@parkheath.com

Kentish Town
020 7485 0400
kt@parkheath.com

Head Office
020 7794 7111
headoffice@parkheath.com

Parkheath

Sold on Service



South Hampstead Conservation Area NW6

£2,750,000

In this sought after residential area, a substantial and elegant apartment with sun terrace, garden and off street parking.

A large self contained annexe of 861 sq ft provides further accommodation.

2,934 sq ft/272 sq m
56' double reception
3 double bedrooms
1/2 bedroom annexe
Private parking

Contact West Hampstead Office
020 7794 7111

South Hampstead
020 7625 4567
mw6@parkheath.com

West Hampstead
020 7794 7111
192@parkheath.com

Property Management
020 7722 6777
pm@parkheath.com

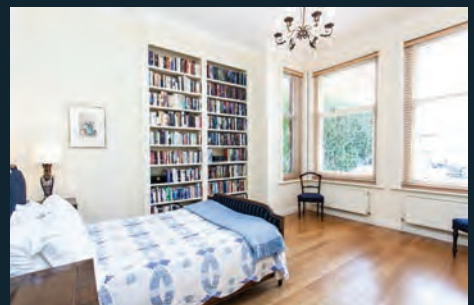
Belsize Park
020 7431 1234
mw3@parkheath.com

Kentish Town
020 7485 0400
kt@parkheath.com

Head Office
020 7794 7111
headoffice@parkheath.com

Parkheath

Sold on Service



Greencroft Gardens NW6

£1,450,000

In the heart of the Conservation Area a spacious garden apartment set on a tree-lined road.

With impressive period features throughout, and a southerly facing garden plus off street parking.

1,268 sq ft/118 sq m
25' reception
3 double bedrooms
45' rear garden
Private parking

Contact South Hampstead Office
020 7625 4567

South Hampstead
020 7625 4567
nw6@parkheath.com

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020 7794 7111
192@parkheath.com

Property Management
020 7722 6777
pm@parkheath.com

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Kentish Town
020 7485 0400
kt@parkheath.com

Head Office
020 7794 7111
headoffice@parkheath.com

Parkheath

Sold on Service



Parkhill Road NW3

£1,595,000

A two storey Coach House set on a popular road close to the many amenities of Belsize Park.

The ground floor comprises a 39' open plan living space.

1,101 sq ft/102 sq m
Open plan reception
2/3 bedrooms
Patio and garden
Freehold

Contact Belsize Park Office
020 7431 1234

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mw6@parkheath.com

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020 7794 7111
192@parkheath.com

Property Management
020 7722 6777
pm@parkheath.com

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ST JOHN'S WOOD

LONDON NW8

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2 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS, LARGE RECEPTION ROOM, STUDY, KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM, 2 GUEST CLOAKROOMS, GARAGE.

FREEHOLD JOINT SOLE AGENT GUIDE PRICE £2,500,000

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LONDON NW3

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SOLE AGENT

AVAILABLE TO RENT AT £1,450 PER WEEK

3 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS (1 EN-SUITE), LARGE RECEPTION ROOM, OPEN PLAN KITCHEN, GUEST CLOAKROOM, COMMUNAL GARDEN, OFF STREET PARKING FOR 1 CAR.

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Penthouse, Blazer Court, St John's Wood, NW8

A stunning three bedroom penthouse in one of St Johns Wood's premier portered blocks with spectacular views over London. This eighth floor apartment (1,602 sq ft / 148 sq m) has been totally refurbished and benefits from air conditioning, underfloor heating and mood lighting. Accommodation comprises reception room with access to a private terrace with views over Lords Cricket Ground, dining area, kitchen with breakfast bar, master bedroom with dressing area and en-suite double shower room, two further double bedrooms with en-suite shower rooms and guest cloakroom. Further benefits include 24 hour portorage, passenger lift and secure underground parking.

£2,800,000 Leasehold



Elm Tree Road, St John's Wood, NW8

A low built double fronted period residence (3,152 sq feet / 293 sq m) situated in this sought after road in the heart of St John's Wood. This elegant five bedroom house is arranged over just two floors and offers stunning living space which is enclosed behind electric gates. The property comprises spacious reception room, bright dining room, contemporary kitchen with dining area opening onto a private rear patio, master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite shower room, three further double bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, full self-contained studio flat (with bedroom, kitchen, shower room and guest cloakroom), guest cloakroom, cellar, terrace, private front garden and secure gated off-street parking.

£7,500,000 Freehold



West End Office
31a Thayer Street, Marylebone, London, W1U 2QS
020 3540 5990
info@hanover-residential.com
hanover-residential.com

St Johns Wood Office
102 St John's Wood Terrace, London NW8 6PL
020 7722 2223
info@hanover-residential.com
hanover-residential.com

GARDEN DUPLEX
APARTMENT

LYNDHURST
GARDENS
HAMPSTEAD
NW3

A wonderful three/four bedroom raised ground and garden duplex apartment (2,351 sq ft / 218 sq m), situated on one of Hampstead's most popular turnings and offered in excellent condition throughout.

The bright and spacious raised ground floor accommodation boasts high ceilings and comprises a guest cloakroom, 29' reception room and a 16' fitted kitchen/breakfast room.

There is a delightful television room with sloping glass ceiling on the mezzanine level with direct access to the garden as well as a separate decked 15' x 13'9" southerly facing roof terrace.

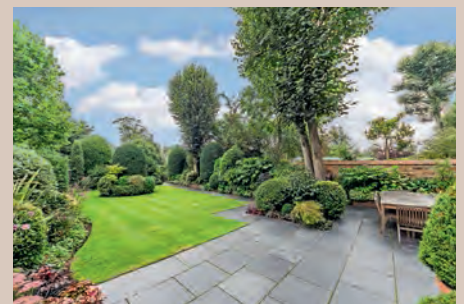


The lower ground floor enjoys a generous sized master bedroom with en suite shower room, two further bedrooms, study/bedroom four, utility area and two bathrooms (one en suite). This fine garden apartment boasts a magnificent 93' southerly facing and beautifully landscaped, mature private rear garden. Lyndhurst Gardens is virtually equidistant to both Hampstead & Belsize Villages. EPC Rating D.



Share of Freehold
Guide Price £3,250,000
Sole Agent

TK International
Property Consultants
020 7794 8700
www.t-k.co.uk



CENACLE CLOSE HAMPSTEAD NW3

A lateral, five bedroom detached family house (3,368 sq ft) designed by the renowned Hampstead architect Ted Levy and superbly located in this desirable development opposite Hampstead Heath.

The house has been extended on the ground floor to provide excellent entertaining space with four large reception rooms plus a large kitchen/breakfast room. A particular feature of the house is the glazed orangery reception/dining room which is over 40ft and leads directly to the secluded west facing garden.

The first floor offers a master bedroom with en suite bathroom plus four further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

In addition the house has a large detached garage and off-street parking for two cars.



Freehold
Guide Price £3,999,999
Joint Sole Agent

TK International

Property Consultants
020 7794 8700
www.t-k.co.uk

WEST HAMPSTEAD NW6

This imposing and beautiful property is conveniently situated for the excellent local shops, restaurants, cafe's, private and state schools and the comprehensive public transport facilities that West Hampstead offers in abundance.

Located on one of the most highly desirable roads in West Hampstead, a charming, bright and spacious seven bedroom, five bathroom, Victorian semi-detached house of some 4,209 sq ft which unusually includes an attached self contained 699 sq ft coach house which could be reinstated back into the main house subject to the usual consents.



This fine period house has been tastefully refurbished throughout and boasts a modern, fully fitted eat-in kitchen, three magnificent ground floor reception rooms, guest wc, utilities, excellent built-in storage and an abundance of period features including fireplaces, original sash windows, high ceilings throughout and wooden flooring to the ground floor, as well as a patio and mature lawned garden to the rear. EPC Rating D.



Freehold
Guide Price £4,000,000
Sole Agent

TK International

Property Consultants
020 7794 8700
www.t-k.co.uk



HAMPSTEAD NW3

Located close to all the amenities of Hampstead and Finchley Road (O2 Centre) with the open space of Hampstead Heath within 150 yards.

A deceptively larger than average, Edwardian, semi-detached six bedroom family house 3,422 sq ft (317 sq m) offered in good decorative condition and retaining numerous period features.

The house offers well balanced accommodation, particularly as the current owners have created a superb 25' family room on the lower floor (garden level).

The ground floor provides a formal front reception room and a 26' open plan kitchen/dining room to the rear with access to the garden. The first floor offers a master bedroom with en suite bathroom, two double bedrooms plus a family bathroom. There are three further double bedrooms, family bathroom and ample eaves storage on the second floor. This desirable home also benefits from a delightful 50' west facing, mainly lawned garden. EPC Rating D.



Freehold
Guide Price £2,950,000
Sole Agent

TK International

Property Consultants
020 7794 8700
www.t-k.co.uk

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings



Founded by William Morris, the SPAB protects the historic environment from decay, damage and demolition. It responds to threats to old buildings, trains building professionals, craftspeople, homeowners and volunteers and gives advice about maintenance and repairs. Since 1877 countless buildings have been saved for future generations.



Drawing of St Dunstan-in-the-West by SPAB Scholar Ptolomy Dean

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Cutting *to the* Chase

Mark Pollack, Director of Aston Chase, looks at how the property market has evolved in the last three decades, ahead of the office's 30th birthday next year



With next year marking three decades in business for Aston Chase, Director Mark Pollack has watched the area grow, the communities develop and the prices steadily escalate as more and more investors and home owners have set north west London in their sights. "I think it's worth shouting about 30 years at

the top of a very competitive industry," he says. "It's a long time really. Richard Bernstone and I were founding partners, but there are several people who have been with Aston Chase between ten and 20 years. We've never had a high turnover of staff because we are very much a team – more of a family."

The business has thrived due to its loyal clientele, who keep coming back, flat after flat, house after house. He recounts the first time he met a particular client, who at the time was just a child, running around upstairs in his parents' home, and now he is the CEO of one of London's most respected developers and one of Aston Chase's most loyal clients. "Integrity and honesty are key principles to a successful estate agency business. Our industry doesn't have a great reputation," he jokes with a sigh, "which I think is sometimes quite unfair because there are a lot of great agents in London. At Aston Chase, we're passionate about what we do; we're never complacent, and we are very hands on."

However, Mark acknowledges that they've had to adapt with the times in order to stay on top, but without losing that unique personal touch. "With the development of the internet, there is the danger that agents could become lazy, just listing things online and waiting for calls," he says. "But for us, it's a much more personal affair. Many of our relationships have flourished from A to Z. We are very involved in the whole process and that makes a difference."

"The internet has been a game changer in so many ways over the last few years. It opened up the world to all agents. You can reach people in a way that you couldn't have hoped to do previously. Something like 76 per cent of our transactions last year were to international buyers. When you consider the economic and social turmoil taking place around the world, London is stable, tolerant and above all, a great city to live in. Financially, when compared to a lot of other global centres, London is a secure place to invest. You might not see the enormous capital gains that Dubai has seen over the past year to 18 months, but on the flip side, it's far less volatile."

Yet Mark agrees that the threat of mansion tax may see some investors questioning this once mutually acknowledged truth. "With big tax introductions in the past, people generally have come to terms with it; if they've needed to move they've got on with it," he says. "But I think there must come a tipping point where you've got stamp duty, capital gains on secondary homes, mansion tax... London is a very expensive city to live in anyway. Do they need it?"

I think it's dangerous to think that London is untouchable. With the mansion tax, a lot of people could be penalised who just don't have liquidity – they have extended themselves, they benefited from capital growth in their homes but they're not going to have the cash to pay a significant annual sum of money. It may also result in more property coming to the market. I think you will also see a meaningful drop in values – at the end of the day, I guess someone has got to pay for it."

The biggest developments Mark has seen over the last few years is the reemergence of fringe or 'breakout' areas near to the prime London spots of Hampstead and St John's Wood – those that were fashionable 30 years ago, fell out of sorts, and are now demanding big prices. "The buzzword is connectivity." He also credits the surge in Marylebone's 'cool factor' with having a ripple effect on the whole of the north west London area. "Tom Ford just bought in Regent's Park, Damien Hirst has just bought in Hanover Terrace, and we've just sold a home to a leading international fashion designer in Primrose Hill. Marylebone has sort of reinvigorated this side of London, it's now fashionable to come north of Oxford Street and I think that some of the peripheral areas are benefiting. Regent's Park and St John's Wood are very much on the international buyer's radar... It's cosmopolitan."

Looking back to the very beginning, Mark remembers selling a house in Kent Terrace, Regent's Park for around £500,000, which would now value at around £6m, which just goes to show how much property prices have gone up in value. But Mark insists that it's not the high prices that matter most to him. "The most rewarding deals aren't necessarily the ones that make the most profit for us. It's equally rewarding to conclude a landmark deal, set a new price per square foot record for an area or as we have recently done, to sell a property for no fee on behalf of a worthy charity."

As they say, a reputation can take years to make and seconds to break: testament to a company that has stood the test of time. ■

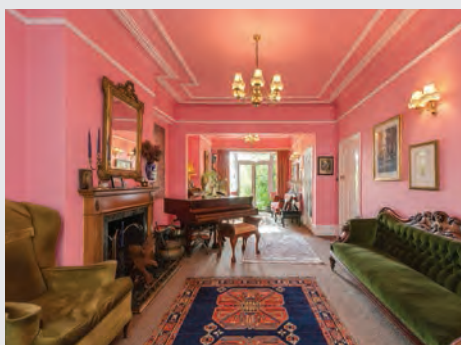
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Southwood Lawn Road, N6

A sensational and truly unique family home remodelled and extended to provide outstanding family accommodation approaching 3,800 sq.ft, incorporating beautiful reception & entertaining rooms taking in a wonderful outlook across the mature lawned garden and distant views beyond. **EPC: D**

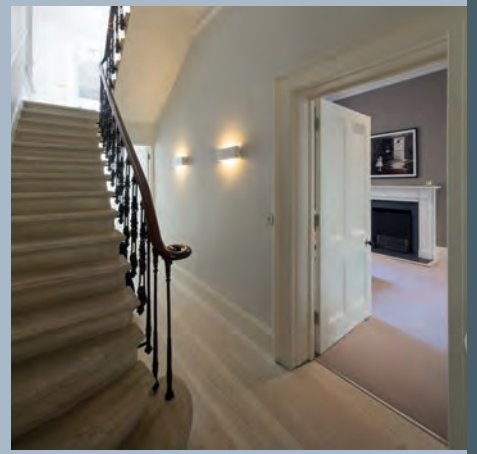
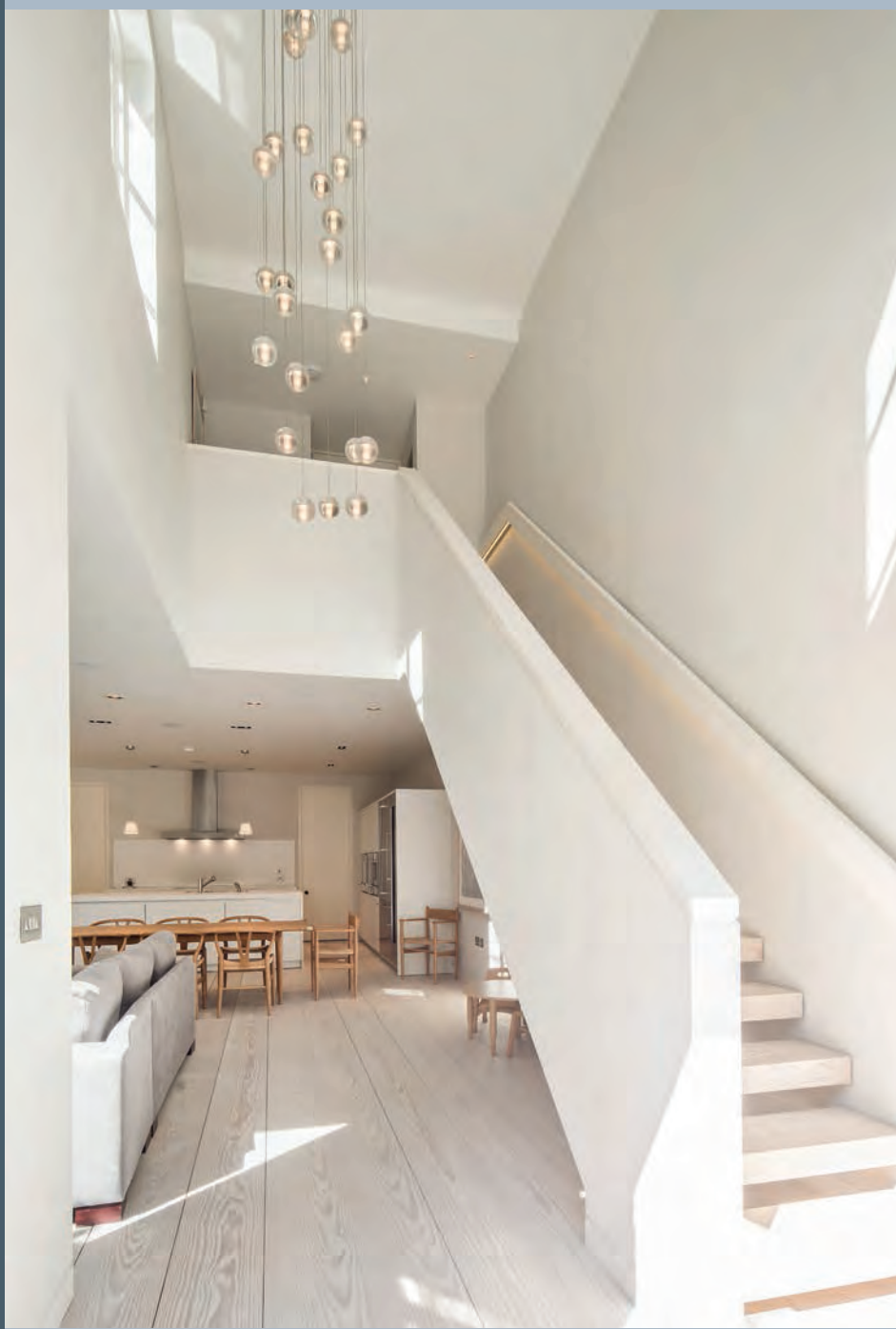
Asking price **£3,300,000 Freehold**

- 5 bedrooms
- 34' double reception room
- dining room, sun lounge, family room
- kitchen & utility room
- en suite and family bathrooms
- beautiful mature garden

Hamptons Hampstead Office

Sales. 02077175449 | Lettings. 02077175333

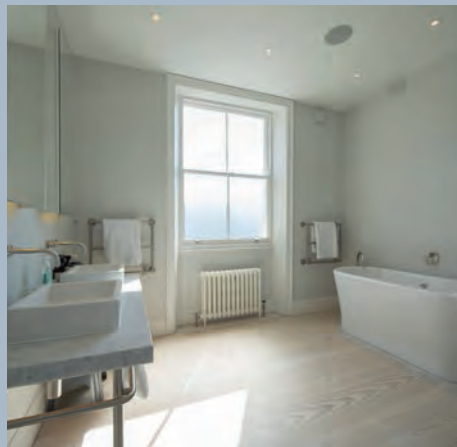




LITTLE VENICE

LONDON, W9

An immaculate white stucco period house comprising 4,887 square feet (454 square metres). The property has been meticulously refurbished in recent years and the highest quality materials have been used to create this bright and spacious family residence. Light and exceptional volume are plentiful throughout the house and perfectly complement the original features such as high ceilings, cornicing and sash windows.



ACCOMMODATION & AMENITIES

Entrance Hall • Guest WC • Double Reception Room • Kitchen/Breakfast Room
 TV Area • Double Reception Room • Study • Master Bedroom Suite with En Suite
 Bath and Shower Room and Dressing Area • Bedroom Two • Bedroom Three
 Family Bathroom • Bedroom Four with En Suite Shower Room • Bedroom Five with
 En Suite Shower Room • Bedroom Six/Gym • Shower Room • South Facing Rear
 Patio Garden • Utility Room • Kitchenette • Terrace • Storage Vaults • Alarm System

FREEHOLD
 PRICE ON APPLICATION
 SOLE AGENT



020 7586 1000

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 www.iangreenresidential.com



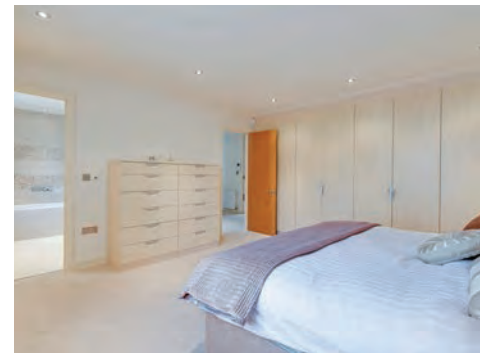
Elgin Mews South, W9

An outstanding and stylish 3/4 bedroom, mews house comprising approximately 1,830 sq ft / 170 sq m set over 3 floors. The house, which has been interior designed throughout, is presented in excellent decorative condition and benefits from light, spacious accommodation. The property also benefits from a secluded South East facing roof terrace. Elgin Mews South is a charming cobbled mews situated off Randolph Avenue, within a hundred yards of transport and shopping facilities including Maida Vale underground station. EPC rated E

Freehold

Guide Price: **£2,695,000**

Joint Sole Agent



Mortimer Crescent, NW6

A bright and spacious semi-detached four bedroom family house, extended and newly refurbished to an excellent standard, with the benefit of a gated driveway for three/four cars. A key attraction of this "turn-key" property is the lateral space, predominately arranged over two floors, and featuring a double reception room with sliding doors opening to the patio garden. Mortimer Crescent is a quiet residential location immediately north of St John's Wood, benefiting from a range of excellent local shops and restaurants. EPC rated E

Freehold

Asking Price: **£2,495,000**

Joint Sole Agent





48

TOTTERIDGE COMMON
LONDON

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Earls Court

Holland Park

North Kensington

South Kensington

Barnes

Camden

East Sheen

Kensington

Notting Hill

Battersea

Chelsea

Fulham

Little Venice

Pimlico & Westminster



Sutherland Avenue W9 £4,000,000

This imposing semi-detached period property is currently laid out as two large maisonettes and comes to the market with full planning permission to be converted back to a family home. This attractive house has many special features including off street parking, a large private garden and charming period features. The property presents a wonderful opportunity to reconfigure the space into the perfect family home. Freehold. EPC=E. **Joint Sole Agent.**

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SALES

Clarence Gate Gardens W1 £1,575,000

This superb three-bedroom apartment is located in a wonderful Mansion Block and has been beautifully refurbished. Balance and poise are two underused adjectives when it comes to property description, but in this case they are wholly appropriate. The rooms are spacious and light, but also have a very generous amount of built-in storage. The accommodation includes a separate kitchen with excellent storage, a large reception room, three bedrooms and three bathrooms (one en suite). Leasehold. EPC=D. **Joint Sole Agent.**

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