

Homes & Property

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Who dares wins

Family-home makeover, page 20

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Adorable affordable

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WIN

Luxury weekend



◀ Cushion the glow

Frances Hunt

These attractive Leaf cushions hit the mark for several reasons. Their silver or lilac cotton covers are individually hand-crafted in the UK with lamé piping, while their "retro-modern" design perfectly suits the mood of the moment. What's more, they are eco-friendly in their manufacture (digital printing uses far less water and fewer chemicals than traditional screen-printing).

The cushions (18in by 10in) have a fibre pad and cost £56 each. Find Frances Hunt at 225-229 Lillie Road, SW6 (020 7385 5282; www.franceshunt.co.uk).



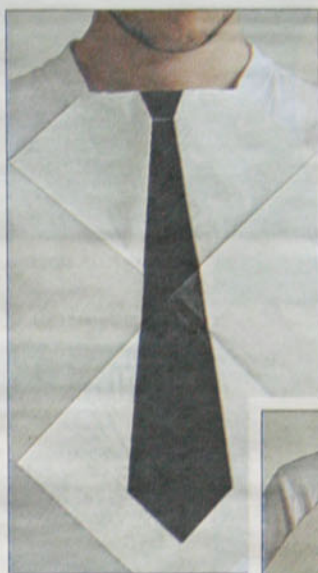
◀ Stuffed shirts

Hector Serrano

London-based Spanish designer Hector Serrano has come up with this witty solution to eating spaghetti (or any other thrills with spills food). His Dress for Dinner napkins offer a tuck-in paper shirt-front complete with a natty tie.

The napkins come in packs of 20 with a stylish assortment of tie designs.

Buy the £2.95 packs online from Natural Products Worldwide (www.npw.co.uk), or call 020 8735 2886.



▶ This stool's no fool ▶

Umbr

Anyone looking for eye-catching and innovative design should check out the Balloona stool.

In a new move that combines traditional craft techniques with modern aesthetics, Canadian designer Natalie Kruch ties more than 500 deflated balloons to a solid wooden frame to make this distinctive, brightly coloured 17in-high stool.

Available at Liberty and Selfridges in central London, or order direct online (£225) at www.umbr.com.



▶ Beautifully moving ▶

Miranda Watkins

Who said mobiles were only for kids? Miranda Watkins creates stunning kinetic designs for adult rooms using anodised aluminium. They are pricey but very fashionable. Her latest, called Circulate, comprises five concentric circles that twist and dance in the breeze to create a range of patterns when viewed from different angles. They are £1,500 to order from Miranda Watkins Design, 2.11 Oxo Tower Wharf, Bargehouse Street, SE1 (020 7928 9206; www.mirandawatkins.com).



▶ Nice with a slice ▶

Sagaform

Serve summery drinks stylishly and cheaply in Sagaform's Juicy glasses. A set of four tumblers (£10.95) is decorated with fruit slices in red, green and blue (pictured below), plus yellow. Meanwhile, a water carafe set (right, £14.50) is a good desk-top accessory and comprises a tall glass carafe with a single glass tumbler that cleverly acts as a stopper.

Call 020 8646 3863, or order online at www.formahouse.co.uk.



◀ French flair outdoors

Fermob

Add French flair to your patio with Fermob's good-looking garden furniture.

Designs include Rendezvous, a generously sized steel armchair with a rice-grain pattern in its back (from £141); Plein-air folding chairs and tables with feet designed for use on lawns (chairs from £133; square table from £209); stackable Facto enamelled-steel chairs, from £139; and Castille Plus enamelled-steel folding chairs (left) from £185. All are available in a choice of colours. Call 0870 974 9848, or visit www.fermob.com.

FROM a William Morris tapestry to a Ford Thunderbird, a new exhibition looks at the ideas that came out of great cities and which shaped worldwide design, from fashion to furniture, cars to computers, writes Corinne Julius.

At particular moments in history, certain cities, such as Paris or Vienna, have moved design forward. The flowerings were often brief and their evaporation swift, thanks to political or economic turmoil, but they were important.

London

In 1851, at the time of the Great Exhibition, London was the centre of the industrial world. It was developing new machine-made objects — rather than just making industrial copies of traditional handicrafts. London set the agenda for the rest of the world. It nourished both Christopher Dresser, the world's first industrial designer, and William Morris, who championed craft.



In Los Angeles in the Forties, Charles and Ray Eames were creating iconic modern domestic masterpieces, such as their Regal Storage Unit

Design's greatest hits



This startlingly modern-looking teapot was designed by Christopher Dresser in 1879

Vienna

By 1900, radical design had moved from London to the Austrian capital, the vibrant centre of the multicultural Hapsburg Empire. Vienna became the pre-eminent city for art, architecture, music and philosophy. Architects such as Otto Wagner, Adolf Loos and Josef Hoffman, as well as the first mass-furniture manufacturer, Michael Thonet, laid the foundations for Modernism. This movement was developed (briefly) from 1928 in the small city of Dessau, which, through Walter Gropius, became home to the Bauhaus.

Paris

By 1931, Paris was the place for design, with such luminaries as Le Corbusier, Eileen Gray and Jean Prouvé. Le Corbusier was a provocative architect, arousing radical and political debate but rich patrons still commissioned the ensuing groundbreaking designs. It was war that put paid to Paris as the design epicentre.

Los Angeles

With its heady combination of Hollywood and a balmy climate, LA became the world's creative hub in the Forties — a place of limitless possibilities, boundless optimism and economic growth supported by technological skill and manufacturing capability.

With furniture designers Charles and Ray Eames and graphic designers of the likes of Saul Bass and Alvin Lustig, LA had a huge influence on design in western Europe and Britain in particular.

Milan

In the late Fifties, Milan took over as design capital of the world, with the 1957 Triennale exhibition setting the agenda into the Sixties.

The driving force was post-war reconstruction. Milan had a concentration of mutually supportive, skilled workshops able to interpret the ideas of designers such as Ponti, Sottsass, Castiglioni, Magistretti and Colombo. All the designers knew each other and their ideas were disseminated through magazines such as Ponti's Domus.

Tokyo

The next major leap came in 1987 when Tokyo stopped manufacturing copies and developed its own designs, such as the Nissan Figaro — the first car deliberately designed to be a toy. Sony produced leopard-skin, jungle-print ghetto-blasters and exquisite brushed stainless steel.

■ **Design Cities: 8 Moments that Changed the World** runs from 5 September until January 2009 at the Design Museum, Shad Thames Street, SE1.



A glass panel featuring a minstrel, by William Morris, who helped London become the 19th century design capital of the world



In Vienna in the early 20th century, Josef Hoffman's furniture design heralded the age of Modernism

How to get the look

Don't miss the Design Museum's well-stocked shop (020 7403 6933), where you can also buy the exhibition book, *Design Cities: 8 Moments that Changed the World* (Design Museum, £25).

Aram at 110 Dury Lane, WC2 (020 7557 7577), has a great range of 20th century designer furniture from around the world.