

FINANCIAL TIMES

# superior interiors

The background of the cover features several ornate crystal chandeliers and candle holders. Each fixture is adorned with a white candle. The chandeliers have curved, beaded arms and hang from thin wires. The candle holders are also highly decorative, with intricate cut-crystal bases. The overall aesthetic is one of classic elegance and luxury.

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how to spend it special interiors edition

thought of them before. The award-winning Continúa table, designed by Valencia-based partners Herme Ciscar and Mónica García for Martínez Otero, has a slim metal bar on which fittings, such as pen-holders, file-containers or lights, can be hung and a removable shelf. Another unfussy design from Herme y Mónica, as they call themselves, is Zip, a clean-lined furniture collection for Spanish manufacturer Requemu (from £1,440, sideboard pictured on previous page). And when their bubble-shaped Voyeur (pictured on previous page, £700) and Damsom (£1,495) lights for Lampister were shown in a jewellery store in Valencia last autumn, the orders came pouring in. García explains that they simplify their designs in an effort to reach new conclusions: "If we let the nature of an object speak for itself, the end result is a calm, composed product with a high degree of subtlety."

And perhaps it's the simpler, more subtle Spanish designs that are most likely to appeal to homeowners and prove commercially successful. "We've always bought a lot of furniture from Spain for The Conran Shop from companies such as Punt Mobles because it's beautifully made and a good



alternative to Italian designs," says Sir Terence Conran. "I like its energy but I would prefer it if the designers got a bit



more serious. I worry that they are too concerned with fashion."

But Tom Dixon enjoys the playfulness: "They are poking fun at the pomposity of contemporary conceptual designs where

objects are sometimes more like art pieces than practical furnishings." Ask contemporary furniture retailers which

designers will last the course besides the highly acclaimed Jaime Hayón and the majority cite Martí Guixé, Martín Ruiz de Azúa and El Último Grito. But Dixon refuses to hold a Spanish inquisition right now. "We should judge these designers in five years' time," Zeev Aram says. "But the omens are good. There's a lot of commitment here." +

#### THE SPANISH ACQUISITION

**Aram Store**, 110 Drury Lane, London WC2 (020-7557 7557; [www.aram.co.uk](http://www.aram.co.uk)) **Arrow**, 245-247 Cricklewood Broadway, London NW2 (020-8450 0000) **B-sign**, 003493-451 9607 **The Conran Shop**, [www.conran.com](http://www.conran.com) **CP Hart**, Newnham Terrace, London SE1 (020-7902 5250) and branches **Curro Claret**, 003493-414 3069 **Díez + Díez Diseño**, see Miscellánia **Droog**, [www.droogdesign.nl](http://www.droogdesign.nl) **El Último Grito**, [www.elultimogrito.co.uk](http://www.elultimogrito.co.uk) and see Metalarte **Emiliana Design Studio**, 003493-414 3480; [www.emiliana.com](http://www.emiliana.com) and see Metalarte **Nani Marquina** and **Punt Mobles** **EstudiHac**, [www.estudiHac.com](http://www.estudiHac.com) **Hector Serrano**, [www.hectorserrano.com](http://www.hectorserrano.com) and see B-sign, Droog and Vinçon **Herme Ciscar and Mónica García**, [www.hermeymonica.com](http://www.hermeymonica.com) for Lampister see Arrow, and see Requemu **Jaime Hayón**, [www.hayonstudio.com](http://www.hayonstudio.com) and see Aram Store and CP Hart **Jordi Llopis**, see Metalarte **Juanico**, [www.juanico.net](http://www.juanico.net) **Luis Eslava**, 003466-122 9333; [www.lusestava.com](http://www.lusestava.com) **Magis**, 01279-508 111 **Martí Guixé**, [www.h2oes.com](http://www.h2oes.com) and [www.saporiti.com](http://www.saporiti.com) **Martín Ruiz de Azúa and Gerard Moliné** for Cosmic, see CP Hart **Mathmos**, 22-24 Old Street, London EC1 (020-7549 2700; [www.mathmos.co.uk](http://www.mathmos.co.uk)) **Metalarte**, see Noel Hennessy **Miguel Herranz** for Luzifer call Chantelle Lighting, 01282-872-877; Ciclada lamp, from Hewitts of Southampton; 01704-535 000 **Miscellánia**, e-mail [info@dinamica.complements.com](mailto:info@dinamica.complements.com) **Nani Marquina**, through The Design Net, 020-7820 7771 **Noel Hennessy**, 67a Great Titchfield Street, London W1 (020-7323 3360; [www.noelhennessy.net](http://www.noelhennessy.net)) **Odos for Gandia Blasco**, [www.gandiablascos.com](http://www.gandiablascos.com) **Punt Mobles**, 01664-464 000 **Requemu**, [www.requemu.es](http://www.requemu.es) **Tronconi**, [www.tronconi.com](http://www.tronconi.com) **Vinçon**, Passaig de Gràcia 96, 08008 Barcelona (003493-215 6050; [www.vincon.com](http://www.vincon.com)) and branches.

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