

Keeping ahead of the Joneses

Nick Prescott of Style Within Limited introduces some exclusive interiors products and ideas, which may well surprise...



Image courtesy of Diligence

“Ever seen a fireplace quite like this? Or speakers like these (yes, they are speakers)?” So said one of our recent adverts, and a number of responses came back: “No, we haven’t, and can we have some please?” So, that was nice – and we were glad to introduce folk to products that would otherwise have passed them by.

Knowing what’s available on the market is key. At a recent trade exhibition, we came across these remarkable dining chairs (pictured right). Stylish, certainly, and cleverly sprung – even my mum was impressed with their comfort. Alongside these ultra-modern pieces, new ranges of eye-catching retro sofas and armchairs have emerged; inspired by designs from the 1920s and ’30s, they look fabulous in a study or chic office reception.

A fireplace often gives a room its focal point. This one (above) provides a talking

point too, rotating and sharing its flame; great for a large open space. And if you’ve always thought of radiators as white and crinkly, check out those ranges of sleek, elegant tubes and stylish coils. Stunning for sure, they also free up much-needed wall space.

With apologies to hi-fi enthusiasts, common loudspeakers are carbuncles on your décor. So consider high quality, slimline alternatives; with screens sporting your favourite artwork (see below), you can make them as obtrusive or unobtrusive as you like (can you see them now?). And if you’re stuck for ideas on tiling your bathroom, how about turning a special photograph into ceramic?

So, to a final thought for this month: how much space is taken up by your conventional television, hi-fi, computer, CD and video collections? Think how you could

Even Nick’s mum liked these stylish dining chairs...



Image courtesy of MG Marga

better use that space. The latest home entertainment and IT revolution is already here, saving space whilst increasing functionality; the challenge for the interior designer is to help you appreciate these opportunities. Even if you don’t want a home media system in phase one of your renovation, it still makes sense to ‘future proof’ any current work ready for phase two – it beats chasing out new plaster and redecorating two years down the line.

There is a hidden world of stunning products out there, untapped by many. Whether furniture, fabrics, lighting, wall coverings, flooring, heating, bathroom fittings or kitchens, the professional interior designer is keen to share these secrets with you. Such products appeal (once you are aware of them) because good design is seductive. Perhaps most interestingly of all, they are not necessarily more expensive; but they are certainly more exclusive. □

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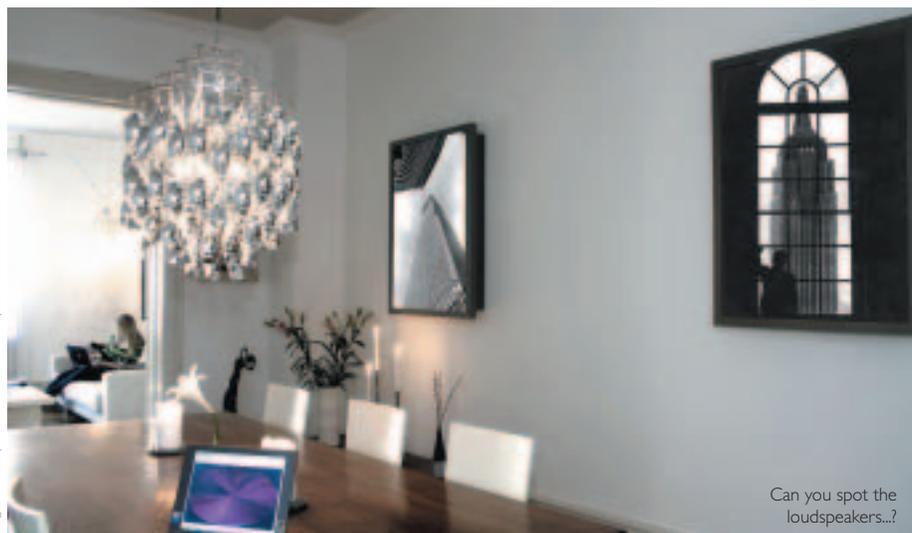


Image courtesy of Artcoustic Loudspeakers

Can you spot the loudspeakers...?