

SPRINGTIME INTERIORS AND THE HOTTEST GARDEN DESIGNS

ELLE DECORATION

MAY 2022 £5.99

NEW
SEASON
**NEW
HOPE**



NOW



Means to a bend

Named for the gap left in wood by a saw's blade, British maker Sebastian Cox's new 'Kerf' mirror is something of a technical marvel. Rather than being steam bent as the shape might suggest, its elm frame is guided into position by a series of well-calculated cuts. From £1,450 for a small mirror (sebastiancox.co.uk).



MATERIAL GAINS

A new range from British textile house De Le Cuona draws on early 20th-century glamour. 'The Golden Age' is a collection of wools, silks and linens in a refined palette of natural tones, with accents of silver and gold. Choose from fabrics like 'Coco', a soft wool with a luxurious fluidity, the crisp linen 'Old Hollywood', tobacco-shaded silk 'Smoking Jacket' and 'The Chanel-style wool bouclé 'Bearcat'. From £162 per m (delecuona.com).



NAME TO KNOW

Rio Kobayashi

The London-based designer and artisan woodworker on the power of playfulness

What's your background? I grew up in Japan with an Austrian-Japanese artisan family. I visited my grandmother in Austria for three months when I was 18, but ended up staying longer to do an apprenticeship in cabinet making. Then I moved around Europe before settling in London seven years ago and starting my own practice in 2017.

What inspires your work? I'm interested in cultural differences as a result of my experience of mixed heritage. I combine and contrast elements of Japanese craftsmanship with Western techniques, but try to approach it all with humour and ambiguity, so it's never 100% clear what an object really is. I like anything that is visually memorable and I find joy in hidden gimmicks, like magnets.

How does your approach play with tradition? Understanding and processing materials with simple tools is highly skilled work. While it isn't always necessary to follow the old way of making things, it brings me joy to use traditional craft techniques. You learn how to sharpen and modify these amazing tools to get their best performance. Just looking at them makes me want to create!

What are you up to at the moment? I'm working on some private commissions and preparing for exhibitions, as well as trying out new materials and techniques involving aluminium and glass. There's so much going on in the world that it can be hard to stay motivated and creative, but I'm trying to keep going. It would be fantastic if my work ends up making a few people happy (riokobayashi.com).



Kobayashi with his 'Robot' shelf; 'Mikadochan' stool; 'Wiggle' paravent, all price on application



THE PALETTE

BLUE SKY THINKING

Decorate with shades reminiscent of cloudless days and delicate porcelain



THE PAINTS

Feeling blue? Pick your shade for a positive home refresh



'Porcelain I', £54 for 2.5 litres, Paint & Paper Library (paintandpaperlibrary.com)



'George', £51 for 2.5 litres, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint (edwardbulmernatural.co.uk)



'Bedford Square No. 229', £55.50 for 2.5 litres, Mylands (mylands.com)



'Grey Stone', £52 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene (littlegreene.com)



'Soft Smoke', £23.50 per litre, Graphenstone (graphenstone-econaints.store)



'Glazed Pottery Blue', £51 for 2.5 litres, Atelier Ellis (atelierellis.co.uk)



'Orinoco River', £51 for 2.5 litres, Andrew Martin (andrewmartin.co.uk)

1 'Le Rotin' wallpaper in '60516', £235 per roll, Arte (arte-international.com) 2 'Punto Down' tile in 'Blue' by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec for Mutina, £148 per sq m, Domus (domusgroup.com) 3 'Mount Temple Small' wallpaper from the 'Ashmore' collection in 'Blue', £135 per roll, GP & J Baker (gnibaker.com) 4 'Ponto' wall hooks by Blomus in 'Microchip', £29.99 for four, Dowsing & Reynolds (dowsingandreynolds.com) 5 'Coast' fabric in 'Raindrop' £42 per m, Ultrafabrics (ultrafabricsine.com) 6 'Legno' fabric in '10941.60', £149 per m, Nobilis (nobilis.fr) 7 'Victorian' mosaic tile, £0.34 for one, Original Features (originalfeatures.co.uk) 8 'Ressource' fabric in 'Marin', £78.65 per m, Lelièvre (lelievreparis.com) 9 'Lisboa' wallpaper in 'Cornflower', £110 per roll, Dado Atelier (dadoatelier.com) 10 'Ice' velvet in 'Smoke Blue', £95.50 per m, Kirkby Design (kirkbydesign.com) 11 'Tiber' fabric in 'Denim Cuttings', £30 per m, Designers Guild (designersguild.com) 12 'Vivid' fabric, £92 per m, Zimmer + Rohde (zimmer-rohde.com) 13 'Artist Canvas' linen in 'Sky', £170 per m, De Le Cuona (delecuona.com) 14 'Maynard' wallpaper in 'English Blue', £173 per roll, Kate Loudoun Shand (kateloudounshand.co.uk) 15 'Seaweed' fabric in 'Pale Blue', £125 per m, Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler (sibylcofax.com) 16 'Capon' fabric in 'Sesame', £321 per m, La Manufacture Cogolin (manufacturecogolin.com)

PHOTOS: ANDREW MARTIN, PHOTOGRAPHY JULY 2022, TREVOR TONGRO