

THE SUMMER HOLIDAY EDITION

# o e l l e

LUXE COUNTRY CHRISTMAS  
*Steve Cordony's fabulous festive style*

FROM PARIS AND LONDON

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# DESIGN REPORT 2016

 A trio of *Belle* correspondents hit the ground running in search of new design directions on show at the global fairs. From the UK, *Karen McCartney* reports back on the stars of London Design Festival, while *David Flack* lists his top 10 memorable moments at Maison & Objet in Paris and *Tanya Buchanan* meets the emerging talent dazzling the French capital.

AT LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL 2015: 'GASA' BISTRO TABLE, 'ATLAS' DINING CHAIRS AND 'STUDIO MIX' WINDOW PANELS FROM THE 'BELOW THE HEAVENS' INSTALLATION BY INI ARCHIBONG.





## De La Espada apartment, White City

Luis De Oliveira and Fatima De La Espada opened their West London home during London Design Week with an agenda. Through hosting a series of 50-minute lectures, the De La Espada founders sought to foster discussion and debate with the aim of bringing people together for a sliver of time – their way of slowing us down. Tired of the wastefulness of trade shows where much of the stands' construction elements end up in a skip, they embraced a 'nose to tail' manufacturing process and chose to display their philosophy and values in a way that felt generous and educational. "We have many things here that mean a lot to us: art and objects that tell a story," Luis says. The home mixes pieces created by designers they collaborate with – the 'Frame' sofa (centre left) and 'Commune' stool (bottom left) by Neri&Hu, 'Companions' bed by Studioilse (top left), 'Elysia' lounge chair by Luca Nichetto (below) – yet with the thread of crafted timber and upholstery running through everything they do, there is nothing of the 'show home' here. As Luis says, the wall of art, photography and design books, "shows you who we are", while the framed pictures of the children alongside vintage pieces of furniture and plants illustrate how their belongings effortlessly make a home. "We don't need to impose a vision or stamp our authority. We have become less dogmatic about what is good taste and understand simply how people like different things," he says. [de.la.espada.com](http://de.la.espada.com)

## Martyn Thompson Studio installation at Jo Malone London, Marylebone

One of the installations that resonated most was the combination of a lofty Georgian London architectural interior with a cacophony of fabric, furniture, ceramics and art in a collaboration between Martyn Thompson Studio and Jo Malone London. Bringing his studio's creative world to an elegant townhouse in Marylebone (opposite page, top left), Martyn showed the new Pink Cloud Jacquard collection as well as a ceramics range in conjunction with 1882 Ltd, including the pleasingly over-scale 'Penny' vase and the Painted Ware range of tabletop pieces. Announcing his next foray into furniture, prototype tables produced with James Furniture in Brighton, UK, were also on display. Working alongside longstanding collaborative partners Dave Drury Harnbuckle (ceramics), Pinch London (furniture), Nikki Tibbles at Wild at Heart (Floristry) and Charlotte Lawton (props stylist), Martyn staged an extraordinarily painterly interior world where scale plays an important role. "This aspect is super important," he says. "In a space that has such volume, huge artworks were essential in creating a dynamic visual." Armed with the knowledge that people often look at spaces and exhibits as an Instagram opportunity, Martyn created vignettes accordingly. "There was a moment when my Instagram account started blowing up – a sign of contemporary approval." [martynthompsonstudio.com](http://martynthompsonstudio.com)



## THE COLD PRESS GALLERY SHOWING, ELDER STREET, SPITALFIELDS

Visiting the stand of Norfolk-based gallery The Cold Press offered a moment of considered calm, where every piece had the space to be contemplated and admired. This enterprise is the work of Kate and Ben Lawrence: she is the knowledgeable curator working in the background while he is the engaging 'front of house'. "Kate immerses herself in the knowledge and I come as an enthusiast rather than an expert," Ben says. This year they upped the ante, showing in a recently acquired 1725 Georgian townhouse (left) of rare pedigree in Spitalfields's Elder Street. Furnished sparsely with tables by Sebastian Cox, the timber and ceramic pieces on display had been chosen for their exquisite, fragile beauty. The works were inspired by natural phenomena, with Australian ceramicist Yoko Ozawa evoking fog, light and shadow while Yuki Igarashi's blackened, eroded wooden vessels had an altogether earthier presence. Placed with apparent ease on an existing nail in the wall or a mantelpiece in front of a smoke-stained wall, the ensuing juxtapositions between the ancient backdrop and these contemporary pieces were surprisingly emotive. [thecoldpress.com](http://thecoldpress.com)



PHOTOGRAPHY: NERI STUDIO (DE LA ESPADA); CALUMA IRVING/CTK (THE COLD PRESS)