

# How to spend it

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FORMULA ONE SPECIAL

## van der postings

Lucia van der Post, the grande dame of luxury, delivers a trio of first-class dispatches



April's annual design fest in Milan is where the edgiest and most innovative wares are launched. It often takes several months for them to reach the consumer, but this year a few are already filtering through to the UK and into online stores. Among the most exciting are Marcus Tremont's exquisite lights-cum-vases. I've loved his work ever since I came upon some ethereally beautiful wall lights made out of electroluminescent materials at Rossana Orlandi's Milan gallery a few years ago. This year's collection, Pelle Conductivo, is a series of objects decorated with hand-cut copper and micro-LEDs that light up – as if by magic – when they are placed on a conductive surface. Each piece is handmade in the studio using glass, ceramic, crystal, marble, wood or leather. Prices range from €3,600 for small examples such as the Verti Miele (pictured below) to €20,000 for the larger, more complex ones.

Then there are the Bokja girls, Beirut-based Hoda Baroudi and

new life to old pieces of furniture, but this time they showed a new range of fabrics that combine machine and hand embroidery, digital printing and hand painting. The Good Things collection, so called because in the midst of the troubles in the Middle East they wanted to create a range that was a "survival kit, a way of looking at the world through rose-tinted glasses", consists of joyous pieces, each embodying the vivacity and colour that has given Bokja a cult following. Prices range from €430 for a pouffe to €580 for a chair (example pictured below) and €5,500 for a Jungle Fever screen.

Thinking along similar lines is Ercol, a long-established British company that has gained a new fanbase now that it has acquired a certain retro charm. Showing at the Milan Salone for the first time, it



fabric, £4,500. Kartell gold-metal Compton cabinet (40cm x 32cm), £192. Bokja metal and linen Godot chair, £580. Marcus Tremont glass, copper, micro-LED and acrylic Verti Miele vase, £3,600

updated its Originals collection with new colours and 34 vivid new fabrics, including the exclusive Random Abandon by edgy Glasgow-based textile and wallpaper studio Timorous Beasties. Pieces such as the Studio Couch (example pictured top, £4,500), a design launched in 1956 that was out of production for some time until it was revived four years ago, look splendidly fresh and inviting.

Finally, Kartell, renowned for producing fine design in humble plastics at reasonable prices, has gone all sumptuous this year with its stunning Precious Kartell collection. The aim is to focus on the "quality, glamour and luxury of Kartell's plastics" by giving some old, established classics a new metallic gloss. The result is gorgeous: available now online (the rest will be released throughout the year) are Jelly vases by Patricia Urquiola (£101), Shanghai vases by Mario Bellini (£182), particularly handsome in gunmetal and copper, and Anna Castelli Ferrieri's classic Compton storage unit in silver or gold (£192, pictured above). Bokja, [www.bokjadesign.com](http://www.bokjadesign.com) and see Mint, Ercol, [www.ercol.com](http://www.ercol.com), Kartell, [www.kartell.com](http://www.kartell.com), Marcus Tremont, [www.tremont.com](http://www.tremont.com) and see Spazio Rossana Orlandi, [www.spaziorossanaorlandi.com](http://www.spaziorossanaorlandi.com), [www.mintshop.co.uk](http://www.mintshop.co.uk), Spazio Rossana Orlandi, [www.rossanaorlandi.com](http://www.rossanaorlandi.com).

## Oud to India

For those looking for delicious new scents, there are two brands to watch out for. While many a "nose" has created a fragrance inspired by India, Neela Vermeire has built a complete brand around that country's exotic appeal, working with perfumer Bertrand Duchaufour to create "a romance of India in three fragrant chapters". First is Travee (pictured top), a complex perfume with spiky notes that celebrates the Vedie era. Then there's Mohur, a heady floral inspired by the Mughal period. And finally comes Bombay Bling (all £175 for 60ml), encapsulating the buzz of modern-day India's big cities, beaches and Bollywood glitter through a joyful combination of fruit traditional Middle Eastern ingredients. His latest scent, Oom Chloom (£235 for 60ml, pictured above), is named after a holy city in Iran, but the perfume itself is inspired by India and pays homage to the jewelled 17th-century Peacock Throne from the Red Fort in Delhi. The bottle is decorated with a peacock feather that looks like a wisp of smoke, referencing both the throne and the chloom, the pipe that originated in India, often using water infused with cherry elixir. Cherry is a major ingredient in the scent, but there's also oud, hellebore and patchouli. 777, see Harrods, Harrods, [www.harrods.com](http://www.harrods.com), Neela Vermeire, [www.neelavermeire.com](http://www.neelavermeire.com) and see Roultrie White, Roultrie White, [www.roultriewhite.com](http://www.roultriewhite.com).

## Loose change

Travel stylishly with the chic clothes protectors newly created by the English Room. In dark green or navy, with a red trim, the covers (£39 for a suit or jacket cover, £41 for coat or dress covers) can be monogrammed in red (from £9). There are also matching bags for cosmetics (£18), toiletries (£36), shoes (£28) and laundry (£26). [www.english-room.co.uk](http://www.english-room.co.uk).

