

THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING HOMES MAGAZINE

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Why she's still
a rebel

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*Modern
homes with
real warmth
and soul*

Wonderful wood
Why it works now

LOUNGE SPECIAL

37 new sofas: slouchy to simple
Stylish looks for every budget

SIMPLE PLEASURES

30 ways to make life more beautiful

GREAT BRITISH TALENT

Revealed! The best designs of 2009

*51 things to see this month at
the London Design Festival*

10 >



The British Design Awards 2009

Welcome to the British Design Awards 2009, brought to you by ELLE Decoration in association with Rado who, as visionary makers of iconic watches, share our passion for stylish, timeless design. Now in their eighth year, the BDAs recognise beautiful, useful and original new work created by British designers for both UK and international brands in 2009. We, like Rado, are dedicated to supporting and promoting the wealth of design talent on these shores and making sure the rest of the world knows about it! First up are our nominations for Best British Design of the Year and Best Surface Design of the Year, and we invite YOU to vote online for the winner (please see details below). The results will be announced in a BDA special in our December issue, alongside the winners of Designer of the Year, New Designer of the Year, Architectural Achievement, Fashion Contribution to Design, Best British Design Brand, Best New Interior, Best Innovation in British Retail and finally, the big gong, the Outstanding Contribution to Design 2009 award... who will it be? You'll have to wait and see! Vote online now at thebritishdesignawards.com and choose your favourite British design of the year... We want to know what you think! >

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British Design of the Year 2009

This is our shortlist of the best designs launched in the past 12 months. We want you to pick the winner – go online now to have your say!



1. Fredrikson Stallard

*'Hyde' chair for
Bernhardt Design*

Patrik Fredrikson and Ian Stallard's first mass-production piece produced for US brand Bernhardt Design, this sleek leather and walnut lounge chair features a back rest that can be upholstered in matching or contrasting colours.

From £1,241 (bernhardtdesign.com)

2. Kay + Stemmer

'Cedric' desk for SCP

Sarah Kay and Andrea Stemmer trained as furniture makers at Parnham College in Dorset. Their cabinetry skills come to the fore in this slender walnut desk, whose lustrous chocolate-brown leather top recalls traditional study furniture. It's a flawless mix of traditional and modern.

£1,760 (sep.co.uk)

3. Steve Watson

'Prop' table lamp

London-based, Australian-born talent Steve Watson created his propeller-shaped lamp with the environment in mind – it's laser cut from a single acrylic sheet before being moulded to ensure minimum wastage. It also has a low-energy light source. In fact, the only thing it's not low on is style!

£120 (steve-watson.com)



4

4. Russell Pinch

'Vigo' triple shelving unit for Pinch Design

An inspired update of Fifties Modernist shelving, this elegant storage unit-meets-room divider by Russell Pinch teams wood with white (so on-trend!) and bright back panels. It's the best clutter-busting piece of furniture we've seen in ages. £4,950 (pinchdesign.com)



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5. Benjamin Hubert

'Heavy' desk lamp for Decode London

Who knew that concrete could be so elegant? Benjamin Hubert created a range of concrete pendant lamps for Decode London in 2008 and he has now expanded the range with a desk and wall version. In his hands, this industrial material has a porcelain-like beauty. £450 (decodelondon.com)

6. David Chipperfield

'Tonale' tableware for Alessi

Architect David Chipperfield's tableware for Alessi is as quietly beautiful as his buildings. Consisting of multi-functional stoneware beakers, bowls and plates in matt pastel glazes, plus glassware, a wooden platter and an enamelled metal tray, it's modern minimalism at its best. From £7 (alessi.co.uk) ▶



THE SHORTLIST CONTINUED...

British Design of the Year 2009

7. Freshwest Design *'Brave New World' floor lamp for Moooi*

This 180cm-high lamp by Wales-based Freshwest (aka Marcus Beck and Simon Macro) is put together with mathematical precision. Each oak section is fitted together with notches and pegs, while two cast-iron counterweights enable its Anglepoise-like movement. £2,100 (moooi.com)

8. Matthew Hilton *'Oscar' sofa for SCP*

Brit stalwart Matthew Hilton's new sofa design is just right for the current mood – classically good-looking with comfy feather cushions, it's an investment piece you'll love for ever. It's made in the traditional way with a hardwood frame, animal hair stuffing and jute webbing. From £1,960 for a two-seater sofa (scp.co.uk)

9. Tom Dixon *'Pressed Glass' lights*

Tom Dixon has a passion for simple, durable industrial materials and, this year, he has turned to pressed glass. Heavier and more irregular than other forms of glass, it casts a subtle light, while the ridged shapes of his 'Tube', 'Lens' and 'Bowl' pendants accentuate the material's humble quality. £145 each (tomdixon.net)

10. Michael Sodeau *'Anything' stationery*

These accessories, produced with Japanese brand Suikosha, are a response to the changing landscape of our desks. Each piece is designed specifically to work alongside computers, with graphic shapes that take up little space and bright colours to help you find things easily. From £2.75 for a rubber (anything-design.com)



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11. James Irvine
Bentwood chair for Muji

The result of a collaboration between James Irvine, German brand Thonet and Japanese utility store Muji, this pared-down chair is a contemporary take on Thonet's bentwood chair of 1859. Available in natural or dark beech, it boasts timeless good looks and supreme functionality. £215 (muji.co.uk)

12. Reiko Kaneko
'Ovankol' table

A British-Japanese designer who lives and works in London, Reiko Kaneko is known for the humorous touches in her designs. This table, which is made of ovankol, a tropical African hardwood, appears almost to float in mid air, thanks to cast resin sections on its legs. Made to order, from £5,000 (reikokaneko.co.uk)

13. Mark Holmes
Table and desk accessories for Minimalux

Mark Holmes, ex-design director and co-founder of Established & Sons, branched out this year by launching his own brand, Minimalux. Its first collection is a timeless range of table vessels and desk accessories (think salt cellars and pen holders) plated in silver and 24-carat gold. From £150 (minimalux.com) ▶



THE SHORTLIST CONTINUED...

British Design of the Year 2009

14. PearsonLloyd
'Peggy' table for SCP

After 11 years working at the forefront of furniture and product design, 2009 sees Luke Pearson and Tom Lloyd's very first collaboration with UK retailer SCP. With its perfectly angled legs, the refined, solid ash 'Peggy' table is a lesson in subtle simplicity.
£1,670 (scp.co.uk)

15. Michael Young
'w094t' table lamp for Wästberg

Following in the footsteps of Ilse Crawford and James Irvine, Young is the latest Brit designer to team up with Swedish brand Wästberg. His golden desk light is a feat of engineering – each of the three star-shaped sections pivots 360 degrees, allowing for truly flexible illumination.
£353 (wastberg.com)

16. Peter Marigold
'Sum' shelving for SCP

Rising star Peter Marigold came to our attention with his creative storage and display systems. No surprise then that his first piece for SCP is this wonderfully wonky shelving system in cherry, which can be slotted together to fill any wall space. It forms part of the Brit brand's carry-home 'Boxed' collection.
£215 for three shelves (scp.co.uk)

17. Julian Teed
'Liquid' tableware for Portmeirion

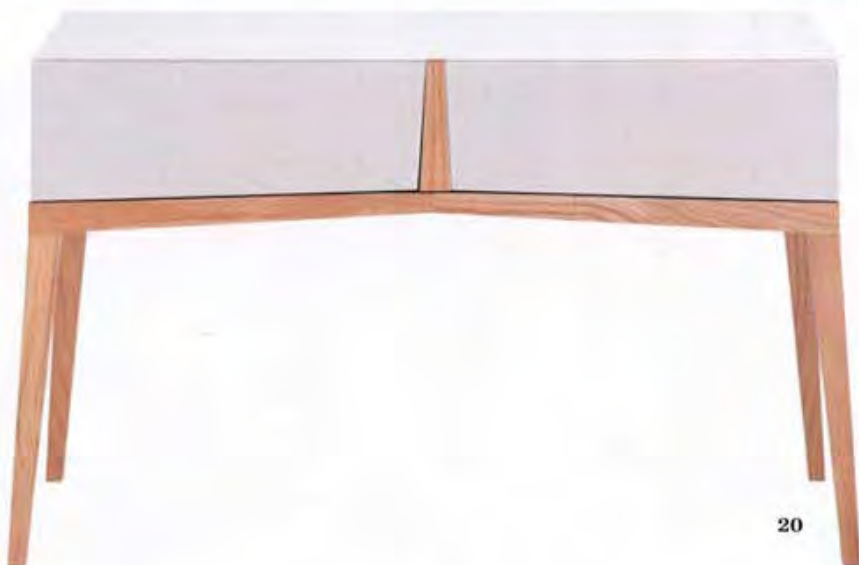
Despite celebrating its 50th anniversary next year, iconic Welsh brand Portmeirion is still very much of the moment thanks to its more modern designs, including the elegant 'Liquid' collection of porcelain by creative director Julian Teed. We love its sinuous curves.
From £10 (portmeirion.co.uk)



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18. Donna Wilson
'Mabel' sofa for SCP

Brightly coloured, patterned and super cosy – it has to be the latest design from textile queen Donna Wilson. Her second large upholstered piece for SCP has cute beech legs and a retro Scandi feel. And with four of the plump feather-filled cushions we've come across, it's the nearest a sofa gets to a hug! £3,510 (scp.co.uk)

19. ChauhanStudio
'Lula' kitchen accessories for Habitat

Brothers Tej and Sach Chauhan have done it again! Having wowed us last year with their space-age gadgets, this year saw them move into homewares. With items from spatulas and spoons to colanders and a pod-like bread bin, kitchen kit has rarely looked this good. From £9 (habitat.co.uk)

20. Viable London
'Milton' range for Habitat

Sophisticated and desirable, Viable London's new pieces for Habitat have been conceived with modern living in mind. The streamlined proportions of the 'Milton' storage range (console table shown) make it ideal for small urban spaces, while a contrasting high-gloss lacquer and oak finish provides impact. £430 for a console (habitat.co.uk)

21. Industrial Facility
'Jersey' dishes

With their graphic prints inside of savoury or sweet nibbles, these porcelain dish sets from Industrial Facility (aka Sam Hecht and Kim Colin) are bound to have your mouth watering. What's more, they're flexible enough to go from freezer or oven straight to the table. Genius! £69 for a set of five dishes (retailfacility.co.uk) ▶