

Summer simplicity

DESIGN NEWS by Katie Campbell

Shop news

Sasha Waddell: To celebrate the opening of a new shop, Sasha Waddell has launched another collection of furniture, aptly named the Plain Range. In the same vein as her Swedish Country Classics, it's a traditional, Scandi-style look, with lots of white paint and wash, but she says, it marks "a move towards the simplicity and freshness of a French-Canadian lake house". There are also home accessories, including French toleware, antique ceramics, Belgian glassware, Portuguese and French linens and leather slippers from Morocco. Sasha Waddell, 269 Wandsworth Bridge Road, SW6 (0171 736 0766).

Try lying in Lucienne: Lovers of luxury will applaud the arrival of Lucienne Linen, a new mail-order linen company specialising in hand-embroidered sheets and duvets. Australian-based, the company takes pure French linen and sends it to Vietnam to be hand-embroidered, using traditional techniques such as drawn threadwork, satin and hem stitch. There is the dainty bouquet of pansies design in violet and yellow, or roses, featuring deep-pink garlands of roses and bluebells, and for the relatively puritan, a design called white on white. Prices start at £22 for a mini slip. Call 0171 221 1818.

Grand Illusions: Antiqued metal garden lights (below) stand more than a metre tall and hold long-lasting giant night lights. Buy several and plant them in groups for al fresco suppers now that the days are growing shorter. They cost £6.95 each, including candles, or £36 for a set of six. Also featured in the Grand Illusions Maisonbis brochure are Pyrenean tile sconces (above) at £19.95. Call 0181 892 2151 for a brochure.



Zebra and cow flavour: If you like wacky kitchen accessories, you'll love Marlux's new zebra and cow cylinder-shaped salt and pepper mills (below). They are also available as shakers. Made of beech with alloy tops, they are fitted with crank handles and are lightweight, easy to fill and have a 10-year guarantee. Mills £10.99, shakers £7.99, from Marlux. Call 01276 683688 for stockists and mail order.



Acadia moves: The contemporary design shop that specialises in furniture, lighting and accessories for home and office has moved from Clerkenwell to bigger, better premises in Essex Road, Islington. Resident designer and maker Paul Dean combines hardwood with steel and aluminium to produce robust, functional pieces of furniture. Other offerings include classics from Eileen Grey and Le Corbusier, plus more modern stuff by Artemide and Flos. Acadia, 2 Roman Way, N7 (0171 697 9988).

Book

London plaques: Where did Enid Blyton live? And where was the first Bethlehem Hospital? Did you know that Marc Bolan lived at 25 Stoke Newington Common, and that a plaque commemorating Peter the Great is all that remains of Deptford Friends' Meeting House, where he worshipped in 1697? These and other facts are to be found in Derek Sumeray's Discovering London Plaques (Shire Publications, £11.99), an enjoyable Who's Who, Was Where guide to the people and plaques of London past.

Course

Sotheby's summer workshops: If you've got time to spare, why not enrol on a Sotheby's Institute summer workshop? It's too late to enrol on the first, on fine art,



Simple and fresh: Skansen chair and side table from Sasha Waddell's newly launched Plain Range

but it will run next year. The second covers 18th and 19th century decorative art and runs from 2-13 August. Aimed at people with a keen interest in art, the courses include practical exercises, lectures and visits. For information, call Sotheby's Institute (0171 462 3232).

Auction

TV Generation: It isn't only Impressionist works of art that are

going for big bucks these days: Christie's is hoping that a 40th anniversary diamond Barbie doll, created earlier this year by Mattel in conjunction with De Beers, could fetch £20,000 or more tomorrow. The blonde babe is decked out in a jewelled satin aquamarine gown emblazoned with 160 diamonds, totalling nearly 20 carats, set in 18-carat white gold. If that solves the problem of what to give your four-

year-old daughter, then how about an original Star Wars poster dating back to 1977 for your sci-fi crazed son? Starting at about £200, they seem a snip. TV Generation: Films, Related Toys and Ephemera, Robots and Space Toys, Barbie, Action Men and Sasha Dolls at Christie's South Kensington, SW7 (0171 581 7611). Auction viewing today 9am-5pm; tomorrow 9-10am. The sale starts at 2pm tomorrow.

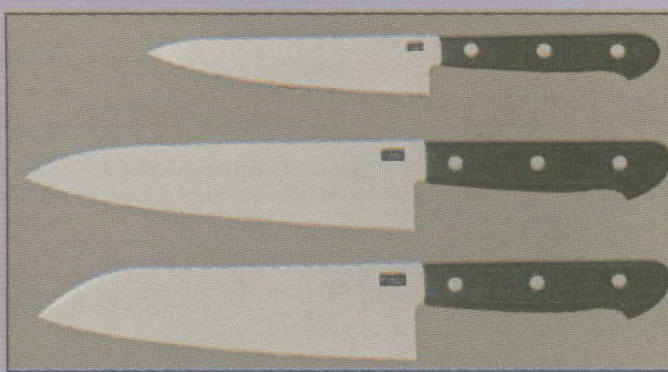
That's a good idea

Mosaic in the Garden: Mosaic Workshop is running a course on exterior techniques in mosaic on the weekend of 28 and 29 August. It will cover the right techniques and materials for outdoors and unglazed mosaic will be provided free while other materials can be bought. The course, which costs £100, will be held at the Mosaic Workshop, Unit B 443 Holloway Road, N7. For bookings, call 0171 263 2997 or visit www.mosaicworkshop.com. Homes & Property readers who attend will receive a free bag of coloured mosaic tiles.



Homes & Property reader offer

The Japanese Knife Company: You don't have to be a professional chef to relish the sheer joy of using sharp knives in the kitchen. Thanks to the efforts of Jay Patel, Londoners can now buy hand-made Japanese knives by mail order. They look and feel marvellous and cut like butter through fruit, meat, fish and vegetables. From the robust, hand-crafted Artisan knives (from £75) to the classic stainless-steel range (from £15), there's a knife here to suit everyone. There is even an incredibly stylish white zirconium ceramic-bladed range (from £46). They're not cheap but, if looked after properly, they'll stay sharp for years. Be at the cutting edge and order a brochure now by calling 0870 240 2248. Homes & Property readers will receive a 15 per cent discount on all orders placed before 4 August if they enclose this box with their order or mention Homes & Property.



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