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We're in.Love! Our Valentine's Day wish list
A week in the life of Deborah Heath
Chandeliers: lighting to WOW!
in.Brief: creating hotel-chic in an Islington apartment

Love's The Sweetest Thing...

We're lucky enough to work in a sector that surrounds us with beautiful things all of the time, so as Valentine's Day is almost with us, we asked some of our friends to let us know what they're most in love with at the moment!



Irina Townsend

I am in love with elements of ethnic chic in interiors. I am very much inspired by cultural influences in design, as they add a point of interest to any type of interiors. It could be small objects or larger pieces, elaborate or elegantly simple like these

vases, inspired by North African ceramics, hand finished in lime plaster and natural pigments. They are perfect for plants – orchids in particular – or just on their own as sculptural objects.



Simone Speciale Lunchinat, S&L Associates

I really love the 'Lutetia' sofa made by Maxalto which is part of the B&B Italia line of products. All the collection is designed by Antonio Citterio. The shape of this classically designed sofa makes for a really comfortable seating position. The sofa legs are really modern and finished in a brushed painted oak and makes the whole sofa look modern with a classic edge.

I've already used this sofa for some of my interior projects. My favourite being the large model which more than two metres wide, perfect for a large lounge, and I prefer it when it comes in velvet. Finished with the edge of the cushions in another colour contrasting and it's perfect!





Nicola Keenan and Vickie Kirk, co-directors of Studio K Design

We love the recently launched range of Alchemy finishes as they are an excellent way to add visual interest, texture and balance to a design scheme. Currently they have over 400 finishes and are constantly developing new additions to their portfolio.

Alchemy's creative paint surfaces are ideal for a variety of uses, such as bespoke

joinery, wall panels or even as artwork. The finishes look fantastic beneath glass on bars or coffee table tops and are also suitable for kitchen cabinets, bathrooms, curved surfaces and can be book-matched. Our favourites are the timeless, subtle and elegant linen range, the shagreen being a great alternative to the real thing, lacquered marble to add depth and movement, and the metallic finishes

for more modern and contemporary interiors.

During the specification stage, Alchemy welcome you to visit their workshop to see their highly skilled specialist finishers at work and develop the exact colour and finish with them, thus enabling you to create something totally unique for your client.

Mila Podiablonska, Absolute Interior Decor

I love to incorporate the beautiful black and white nostalgic photographs by Astrid Kirchherr into my projects, she is a great photographer. Her black and white photographs of The Beatles have been printed all over the world, having produced the early photos of the band that helped shape their image.

Kirchherr met The Beatles in Hamburg in 1960 where they got their first start to stardom. She began dating one of them, Stuart Sutcliffe, who was the band's first bass player. I am enchanted by these and other Kirchherr's nostalgic photos. So much is contained in their small frames. There is something very personal and beautiful about them and each seems to have story to tell. Every time I look at them it arouses a warm emotion in me... it's like spending a very personal time with these photographs and their subjects.



Dorothee Junkin, DJDS

I am currently in love with the Nepal chair by Paola Navone for Baxter, Italy. Paola Navone is a design genius and I have always liked the collections by Baxter. The Nepal chair caught my eye a little while ago, because it is interesting, elegant and fun at the same time. I totally fell in love with it after sitting in one recently.

The Mongolian lambswool is so soft and sumptuous and it looks beautiful in white, slate or charcoal. The very strong haptic experience of sitting in such a chair will allow you to recognize it with closed eyes. You just want to put this feminine chair into a dressing room or bedroom and sit in it every morning when getting ready for the day spoiling yourself with a bit of luxury before rushing out into a busy day.

Tim Gosling

I am totally in love with wood and I am sure we will see a lot more marquetry used in interior designs in 2015. There is an enormous desire to preserve and celebrate the expertise of traditionally trained and highly skilled craftsmen and I think the technique of marquetry will once again hit the headlines in 2015.

The technique was inspired in Florence in the 16th Century, when solid marble slabs were frequently inlaid with semi-precious stones. This is called Pietra Dura, which is another amazing way of using different natural wonders. Around the time of the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 marquetry was introduced to British furniture. I adore the depth and three-dimensional images which can be created and the genius way you can burn the wood to shade and make it ever more three-dimensional, called sand burning, when you shuffle the wood into sand so hot it burns delicately. The colour and texture are subtle, interesting and tactile.

Straw marquetry is another magical technique. Straw, grown in a particular region in France, can be dyed the most amazing colours. There is something so romantic about the pink straw marquetry featured. It creates a depth of colour, which would be impossible to replicate in any other way.





**Susan Knof, Director,
KNOF Design**

I'm in love with bespoke mirrors by Ruth Parker. Beautiful, colourful and fully bespoke they add a personal touch to any project. This image depicts a custom designed child's en-suite using multi-toned glass tiles in a gradient pattern. KNOF Design collaborated with Ruth to realise a custom vanity mirror front with a subtle floral pattern in the same pink and purple tones as the adjacent wall tiles.



Lucy Clark & Katie Singleton, co-directors of The Olive Design Studio

We treat each project with a fresh approach, however, we always aim to design a timeless, fresh and elegant interior and use furniture pieces that reflect this ethos. We absolutely LOVE the Italian brand Minotti and it is often our first stop for any interior piece!

Having recently visited their factory in Lake Como, we saw first-hand how each collection is made in-house, meaning their care for detail and quality shines through in all their products – even their packaging is faultless!

Minotti's newest and most versatile range is the Aston range. It's plethora of versions make it suitable for all genres of project and it's available in the full range of Minotti fabrics and leathers. We particularly like the variety of stitch detail available.