

A chat with...



Jonathan Levien

Bridging the gap between high-street and high-end design, London design studio Doshi Levien has created a new furniture collection for John Lewis. We talk to one of its co-founders

Words: **Sophie Baylis**

How did the collaboration with John Lewis come about?

In recent years we have worked with a number of high-profile Italian furniture brands, with which we have developed pieces with distinctive personality and a sophisticated use of colour and material. There's a growing appetite for modern yet accessible and affordable design in the UK and we saw an opportunity to share our outlook on design with John Lewis customers. We wrote a proposal to John Lewis suggesting a collection of objects that create and define open-plan living spaces.

How have you successfully translated your signature style to the high street?

The Open Home collection began not as a stylistic endeavour but as a response to the growing trend for fluid and open living spaces. Activities such as resting, dining, working, cooking and entertaining are merging in most modern homes so that spaces become more flexible in their purpose, as do the objects that inhabit them. The Open Home collection consists of elements that can define a sense of place within an open living environment. The individual pieces have a warm yet modern identity, combining high-quality materials and sensual forms. The main challenge for us was to maintain the integrity of the ideas right through to production. I am happy to say there was no compromise as John Lewis was equally keen to see the original designs come to life.

How would you describe the collection?

The high-back Nami chair, with its wave-like forms, provides a secluded spot for reading a book or watching a movie. The Pondok sofa – the name of which translates as 'platform for living' – is elevated, visually light and sculptural while being super-comfortable with sides that wrap around to make a cocoon. The Falcon lamp, meanwhile, appears to be hovering on the side table and seems to be floating upward. Lightness is there in all the pieces. We have considered how furniture creates spaces for different activities and how people can tailor each space in their home to create the right environment for those activities.

Which is your favourite piece?

Each piece has a particular strength and role to play, so it's hard to say. However, there was satisfaction in completing the most challenging piece: the Nami chair. For us, the chair is an object but also a space, so we're thinking about how the chair frames the person sitting in it. We agonised over the lines and forms to get the gesture of the chair just right.

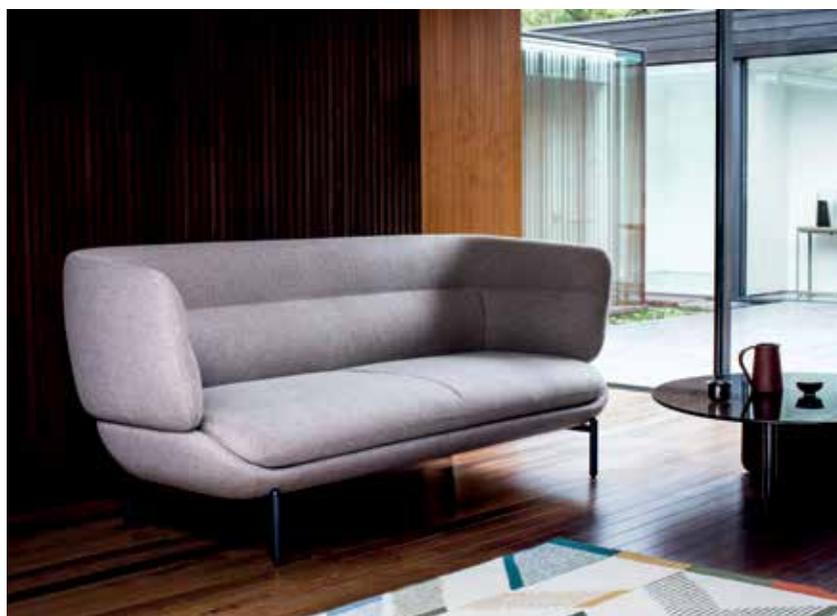
0345 604 9049 or www.johnlewis.com



Above: Doshi Levien for John Lewis Ballet console table, £499, and Falcon lamp, £199.

Left: Nami chair, £1119, and Sangam low table, £899.

Below: Pondok sofa, £2499, and Phulkari rug, £495.



New this month...

Words: **Sophie Baylis**



1 Stepevi's latest collection of rugs may be inspired by traditional lacework, but the way they are made is bang up to date. Available in eight colourways, Lace is seen here in Pebble Grey, Apple Green and Dark Gold, priced £330 per sq m.

020 7376 7574 or www.stepevi.com

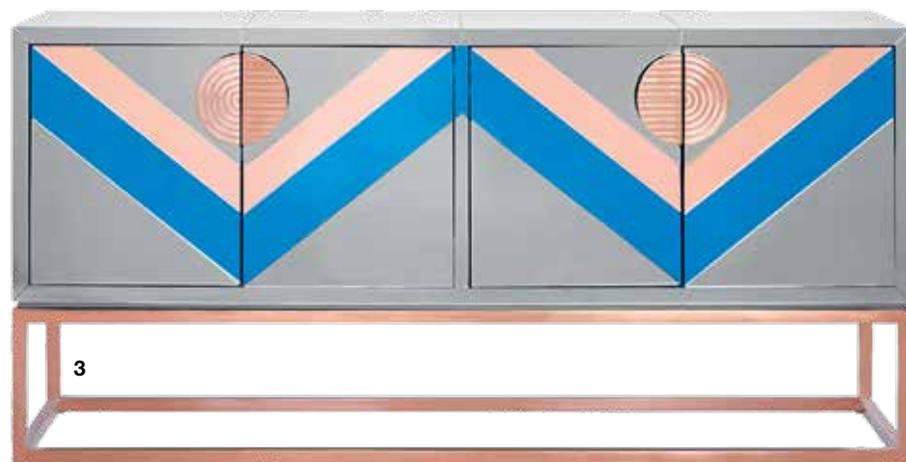
2 As anyone who has ever picked up a paintbrush will attest, not all paints were created equal. Good news then that Annie Sloan has added six new colours to her hard-wearing, water-based Wall Paint collection, available online priced at £39.95 for 2.5 litres.

01865 803168 or www.anniesloan.com



3 You have to hand it to Jonathan Adler: he knows how to keep his distinctive aesthetic fresh. Highlights from his spring 2017 offering include the Nouvelle Credenza, £3850, featuring a pared-down sunset pattern inspired by both Pop Art graphics and Mother Nature herself.

020 7589 9563 or www.uk.jonathanadler.com



Take three... Top picks from Maison & Objet

Our ones to watch from the Maison & Objet (www.maison-object.com) interiors show in Paris.



Above: Everyone's favourite French brand, Petite Friture debuted its own range of lively patterned textiles and wallcoverings, including Minerals by Australian textile designer and illustrator Shelley Steer, priced £96 for a set of two at Heal's.

020 7896 7451 or www.heals.com



Above: "I was inspired by my favourite technical pencil," says Japanese designer Koichi Futatsumata of his cutlery set for Belgium-based design studio Valerie Objects's The Cutlery Project collection. Shown in one of four finishes, contact Viaduct for prices of the brushed copper knife, fork, dessert spoon and teaspoon.

020 7278 8456 or www.viaduct.co.uk



Above: Made out of a single piece of ceramic in Red, Dark Grey, Cord and Optical Green, Jean-Baptiste Fastrez's Olo table lamp for Moustache can be set in three different positions to offer direct or indirect light. Priced around £196.

+33 42409298 or www.moustache.fr



1

New this month...

1 Dress drab bulbs in these two-tone origami-inspired paper lampshades from Wild & Wolf, £35 each at Amazon. Simply unfold the Wild Wood shade, fasten it around the flex with snap-together magnets and you have an instant pop of colour (and light) where you need it most.

www.amazon.co.uk

2 "My ambition was to create the most comfortable veneer chair," says Danish architect Rene Hougaard of his Florence dining chair. You can decide if he has succeeded. Priced £199 at BoConcept.

www.boconcept.com



Five minutes with... Lauren Welsh



Designers Guild and Houseology have joined forces to create the Milan sofa collection. Buyer Lauren Welsh introduces us to her favourite fabrics...

Which is your favourite fabric from the new collection and why?

I absolutely love the Brera Lino upholstery. As well as being durable and comfortable, it provides a textural aspect to an interior scheme and has a sophisticated yet laid-back feel that's perfect for summer. The rich azure tone of Marine is great for bringing a Mediterranean edge to a space and puts us in mind of chic beach hut style.

Grey has been a popular shade for several seasons. Why does a grey sofa work so well?

Grey makes for the perfect alternative neutral to creams and taupes and adds a more contemporary edge to a room. From the Milan collection I love Varese in Platinum. Platinum is such a beautiful soft shade and the Varese fabric adds a touch of glamour as well as unrivalled comfort.

What is your top tip for using a brightly coloured upholstery fabric?

Designers Guild is known for colour pop textiles, and the wide-ranging palette available on the sofa collection is one of the reasons I love it so much. A full sofa upholstered in Fuchsia Riveau fabric would make for an amazing design statement, but I think it looks fantastic on a little chair – the perfect accent piece.

www.houseology.com

Brera Lino linen upholstery fabric in Marine, priced from £550.

Varese velvet in Platinum, priced from £575.

Fuchsia Riveau tweed chenille, priced from £550.

New this month...

1 Playing with expectations is nothing new for Italian brand Miniforms. True to form, its latest lighting launch, Eclipse, is made entirely from ceramic and produces a subtle light from its egg-shaped head. It is available in a range of matt lacquer colours and priced £310 at Go Modern.

020 7731 9540 or www.gomodern.co.uk

2 Inga Sempé was inspired by the way wine is drunk in France and Italy when creating her small but perfectly formed Jour glassware collection for Nude. "Whether at home or out socialising, we like small glasses, not huge ones," she explains. The collection includes wine and water glasses, jugs and a decanter, with prices starting from £30 for two small water glasses.

+90 8507596833 or www.nudeglass.com



Take three... Top picks from Imm Cologne

Here are three key pieces we discovered at the 2017 Imm Cologne (www.imm-cologne.com) interiors show...



Above: Vitra brings in the new season with a limited edition version of its iconic Panton chair. Jointly developed by Verner Panton and Vitra 50 years ago as the first all-plastic chair to be manufactured in one piece, Panton in Sunlight is priced £210.

020 7608 6200 or www.vitra.com



Above: In order to create his Tricolore glass vases for &tradition, German designer Sebastian Herkner overlapped two colours to make a third. It is priced around £343 for a set of two.

www.andtradition.com



Above: Ercol ushers in spring with a new Forest Green lacquer finish for its Originals Stacking chair, priced £375.

01844 271800 or www.ercol.com

Shop here...

Design Republic

Looking for inspiration? Be wowed by dashing Italian style at this new showroom in Suffolk

Words: **Sophie Baylis**



Where is it?

Design Republic brings an Italian vibe to Risby Business Park in Bury St Edmonds.

Why go?

The new showroom features four Scavolini kitchens: Motus, Foodshelf, LiberaMente and Flux, complete with working appliances from the cream of the crop: Wolf, Siemens, Sub-Zero, Neff, Quooker and Berbel. In terms of worktops, expect porcelain from Lapitec, quartz surfaces from Arenastone and wood from Spekva. And once you've finished redesigning your kitchen, head over to the bathroom area where a luxurious Novellini steam shower awaits.

When to visit?

Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm.

Design Republic
Risby Business Park
Newmarket Road
Risby
Bury St Edmonds
Suffolk
IP28 6RD

01284 812590 or www.design-republic.net

Click here...

Barbara Genda Bespoke Furniture

Designer Barbara Genda understands that commissioning your very own bespoke furniture can be daunting. So, to put your mind at ease, she has included a handy step-by-step guide to simplifying the design journey on her updated website. For those who know what they want but need a little inspiration, her handy Furniture A-Z provides a sourcebook of ideas, from bespoke beds and children's playrooms to walk-in wardrobes and home cinemas.

www.barbara-genda.com

