

POPPY BEVAN

NEWSLETTER
ISSUE N° II

à point

{timely, perfectly done, medium rare}

Pontifications on the world of design



EDITORIAL

ALL IN A MOMENT...

It's funny how perspective can change so quickly, in the scheme of things. In one moment, things are as you've always known them and just a short time later they're as they've never been before.

Appreciation, understanding, and insight can be borne in a mere moment. Wisdom might develop over a lifetime or come about seemingly quickly as a result of intense and meaningful experience.

The last months with my dad John were like this. He was my stepdad and he volunteered to be a part of my life. He was a steadfast support.

Continued on page 3

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WHAT LIES
WITHIN

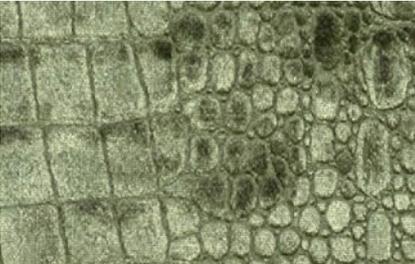
THE VELVET
UNDERGROUND

4

THE ANTIQUES
OF TOMORROW

10

SCRUMPTIOUS
SOURCES



Left: Güell-Lamadrid - Bahamas in green;

Morris & Co - Indian Flocked Velvet in Cerulean;

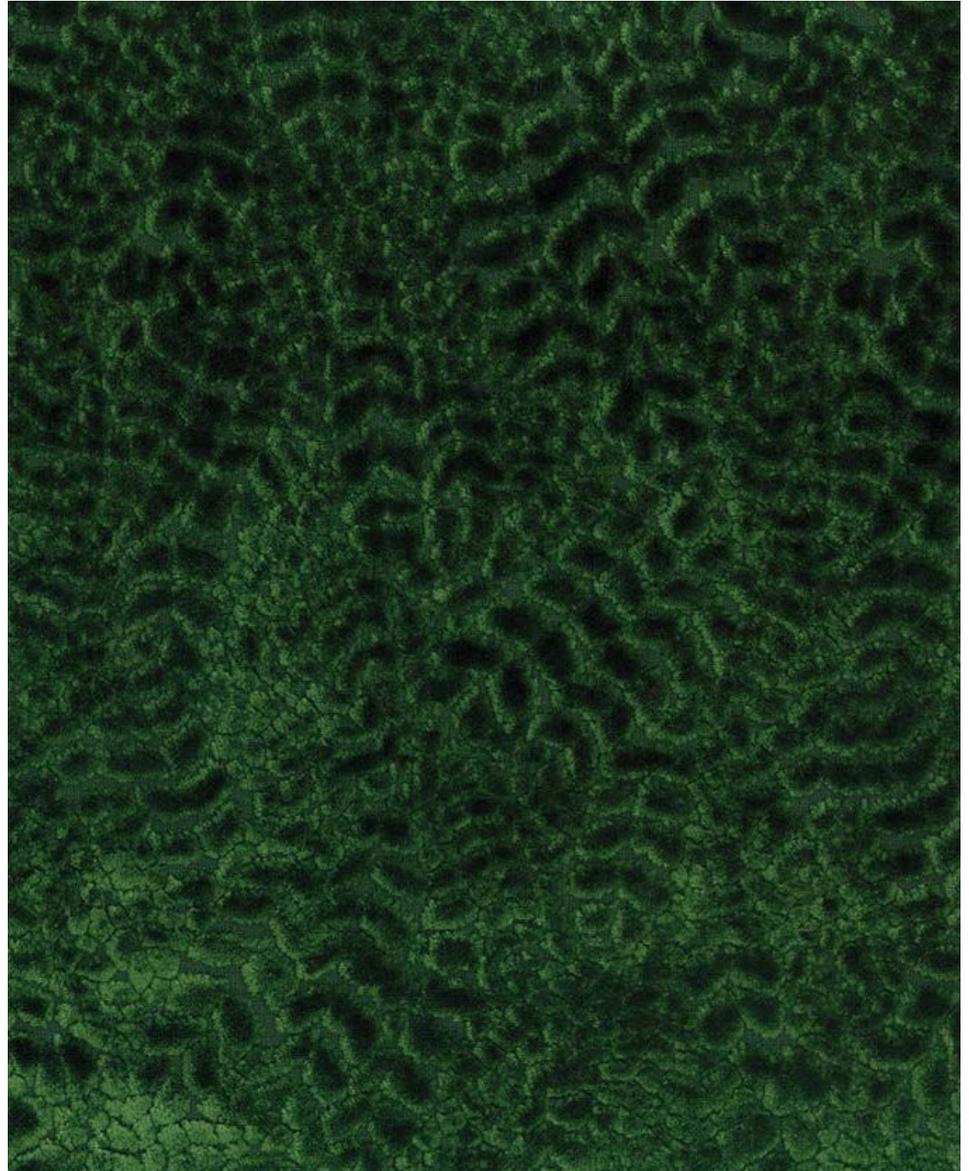
Nina Campbell - Limpopo Velvet in #07;

Kravet - California Velvet in Indigo/Teal;

Osborne & Little - Bagatelle Weave in #03;

Jim Thompson - Fergana Velvet in Peacock.

Right: Nina Campbell - Limpopo Velvet in #07.



Nina Campbell - Lizong in Emerald. A rich woven velvet with an all over leaf pattern.

Continued from page 1

I never knew the true depth of this until I realised it might not be there forever.

John's life was hard, and yet he made a point to ensure that his imprint on this world was a positive one.

I realise now the real meaning of legacy - what you leave behind is so important. Relationships, respect, and the memories held in people, places, or objects that tell the story of who you are and carry your energy with them long after you're gone.

Here in NSW last year John read my first newsletter and in his typically "I'll always believe in you" way I remember

him saying to me with great warmth, certainty, and pride "Pop, when I read your newsletter - ah... I could smell the success!" and then more quietly, "You're onto it love".

John's legacy drives me now more than ever. It encourages me to maintain clarity in achieving my vision and reminds me to continue to surround myself with the right people.

After dear John passed away and we came home from Perth we moved back to Terrigal after 10 years away, and in a strange way everything seemed to fall into place. We are surrounded by old friends, new friends, family, familiar places, and many lovely memories.

Front page, main image: Terrigal in the winter. Photograph par moi.

Front page, bottom left image: Myself and John in Centennial Park, Sydney in 1987.



Lee Jofa - Bronwen Velvet in Blue/Green. A contemporary ikat velvet.

NOW & THEN

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND

... I wholeheartedly welcome the return of sumptuous patterned velvets in rich jewel tones

Velvets were undoubtedly huge in the 70s and it could be for this reason alone that their reputation has been tarnished ever since.

Yet their sumptuous texture is so inviting to the touch, so inherently comfortable, and yet so effortlessly luxurious that I think they ought to make a come back.

Luckily for me some of the world's finest fabric houses agree and there is currently an amazingly broad range of beautiful, contemporary velvets available.

I've always loved design that encompasses happy contradictions (to me, this is the essence of contemporary design) and this is why I love the velvets here. These fabrics are not what you might expect.

Soft palm fronds, luxurious tribal ikats, shimmering animal skins - and all of these in deep watery blue greens... It's the contrast of pattern, material, and colour that makes them so sleek and relevant to the now.

OPINION

WHAT WILL BE THE ANTIQUES OF TOMORROW?

Is true craftsmanship a thing of the past?

It's a discussion I often have with colleagues and friends - in a world so dominated by cost cutting, the rise of fast furnishings, a focus on machine made everything, and a rapidly reducing number of young people taking on traditional trades - it's undeniable that we are racing away from the era(s) of fine craftsmanship. Gone - almost - are the days of making things to last.

So, after all is said and done, what will be left of our time in a generation from now? It's hard to imagine many furnishings and objects sold in stores these days spanning one life cycle let alone two, three, or more.

It's a shame. My siblings and I are lucky enough to each have several beautiful pieces of furniture handed down the Bevan line for many generations and it's a really wonderful thing to own pieces that have a lived a long and changing life with one's ancestors.

At a recent dinner with friends we chatted about

travel to ancient places and the magic involved in walking paths that have been walked for thousands of years by whole civilisations of different people throughout many moments in history.

I think this is at least partly why making things to last is so important - things (just like places) hold memories, carry stories, and give us answers about the past and indeed about ourselves.

While it's rare, I don't think the idea of purchasing with our children's children in mind is completely elusive - in fact, I think the solution is really quite simple. Invest carefully and deliberately, buy what you really love (regardless of trends), and enjoy what you own so that it can live on tell the stories of its lifetime long after you're gone.

At the end of the day the places we live and the things we live with are part of who we are.

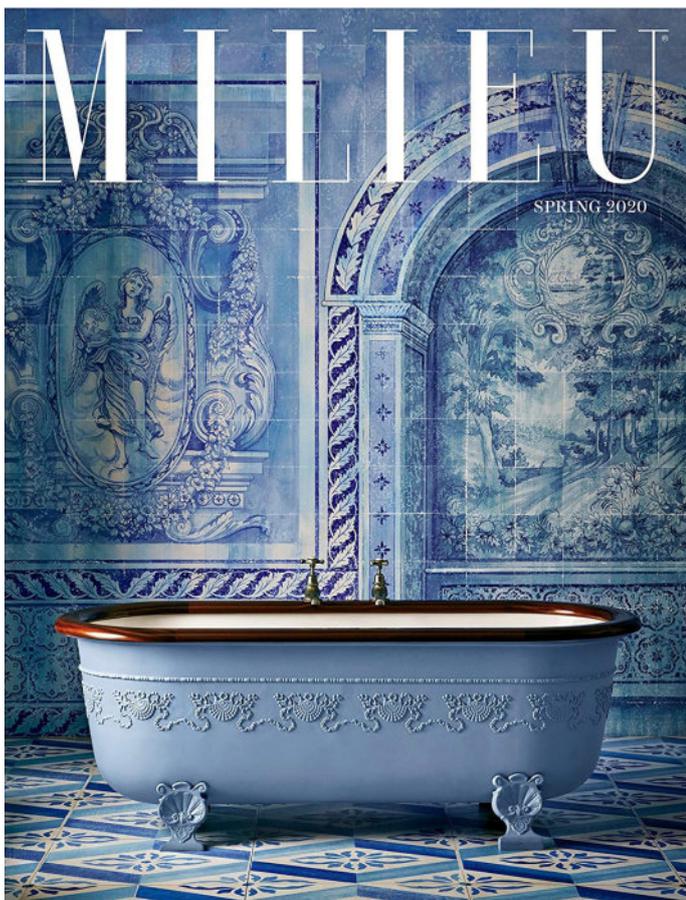


Above: The timeless Cardiff leather chair by Lexington with hand tufted seat, classic carved ball and claw feet, brass studding and embossed crocodile leather outer upholstery.

Right: The Castella round dining table by Hooker Furniture with intricate carving to the base including rope twist moulding and acanthus leaf details.



NEWS



You can experience the showhouse yourself via the online tour by way of a \$US20 donation to Milieu's beneficiary *Clayton Dabney for Kids with Cancer*.
<https://www.milieu-mag.com/showhouse2020/>

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Milieu magazine releases four seasonal issues per year and offers simple and well priced international subscriptions. Go to <https://www.milieu-mag.com/>

THE HOME OF CLASSIC TASTE...

... *Milieu Magazine's 2020 Designer Showhouse*

The "designer showhouse" is an excellent American tradition that invites the public into the world of design in a truly holistic, immersive experience.

Milieu are the creator of one such experience. The 2020 example in River Oaks, Houston was built from the ground up and fully decorated inside and out by 11 renowned American-based designers.

In my opinion, design in Australia is undoubtedly limited (and under capitalised upon) and I really believe that part of the reason for this is that many Australians have never experienced very good quality architecture or interiors.

This is why the showhouse is such a nice idea - for many people the first step in creating a wonderful, comfortable, and inviting home is in understanding what *could* be. These example houses also describe just how much is involved in creating a truly complete and cohesive space, and how many layers are involved in creating a space that feels like home.

Interestingly...

- Some other fabulous showhouses to keep an eye on are the Kips Bay Decorator Showhouses (in NY, Palm Beach, and Dallas).
- The 2020 Milieu Designer Showhouse is now on the market for \$US6 million.
- The house was designed by Jennifer Hamele of Mirador Builders and their website is an fascinating insight into American "project homes".



IN FOCUS

UTTERMOST - UNIQUE DETAILS, QUALITY MATERIALS

of the United States of America

I've devoted four pages to my focus on Uttermost furniture because I simply love them as a brand and couldn't really face cramming a few favourite pieces into just one spread.

Uttermost's pieces are beautiful, well made, and approachable. Their range is enormous and covers many different styles from sleek and contemporary all the way to ornate, feminine, and classic. Uttermost's sister brand Revelation offers a more exclusive range of very finely crafted, beautifully designed collector pieces with limited distribution.

A major limitation in Australia is access to a broad range of carefully designed, good quality furnishings that pose a good value proposition. Importing pieces is a great solution for us - especially from the US because their enormous population means plenty of options.

I often browse the Uttermost and Revelation collections online simply for the pleasure of looking at such lovely things - and indeed have many of their pieces in my own home and office that I intend to keep in my family forever.



Clockwise from above left: Quatrefoil End Table in forged iron with gold finish and a tempered glass top \$951, RRP \$1269;

Snowden Wing Chair with hand rubbed pine frame, caramel velvet, and deep chocolate faux leather \$2328, RRP \$3105;

Canfield Table Lamp with hammered detailing in a bronze finish and a rectangular beige linen shade \$622, RRP \$829;

Conroy Accent Chair in olive velvet with tapered solid birch legs in walnut stain \$1559, RRP \$2078.

This page, main: Quintus Armchair in distressed almond finished solid mahogany with linen / cotton blend upholstery and piped edging \$1812, RRP \$2416.

The complete Uttermost range is available directly through Poppy Bevan Design Studio at lower than RRP.

All photographs courtesy of Uttermost.

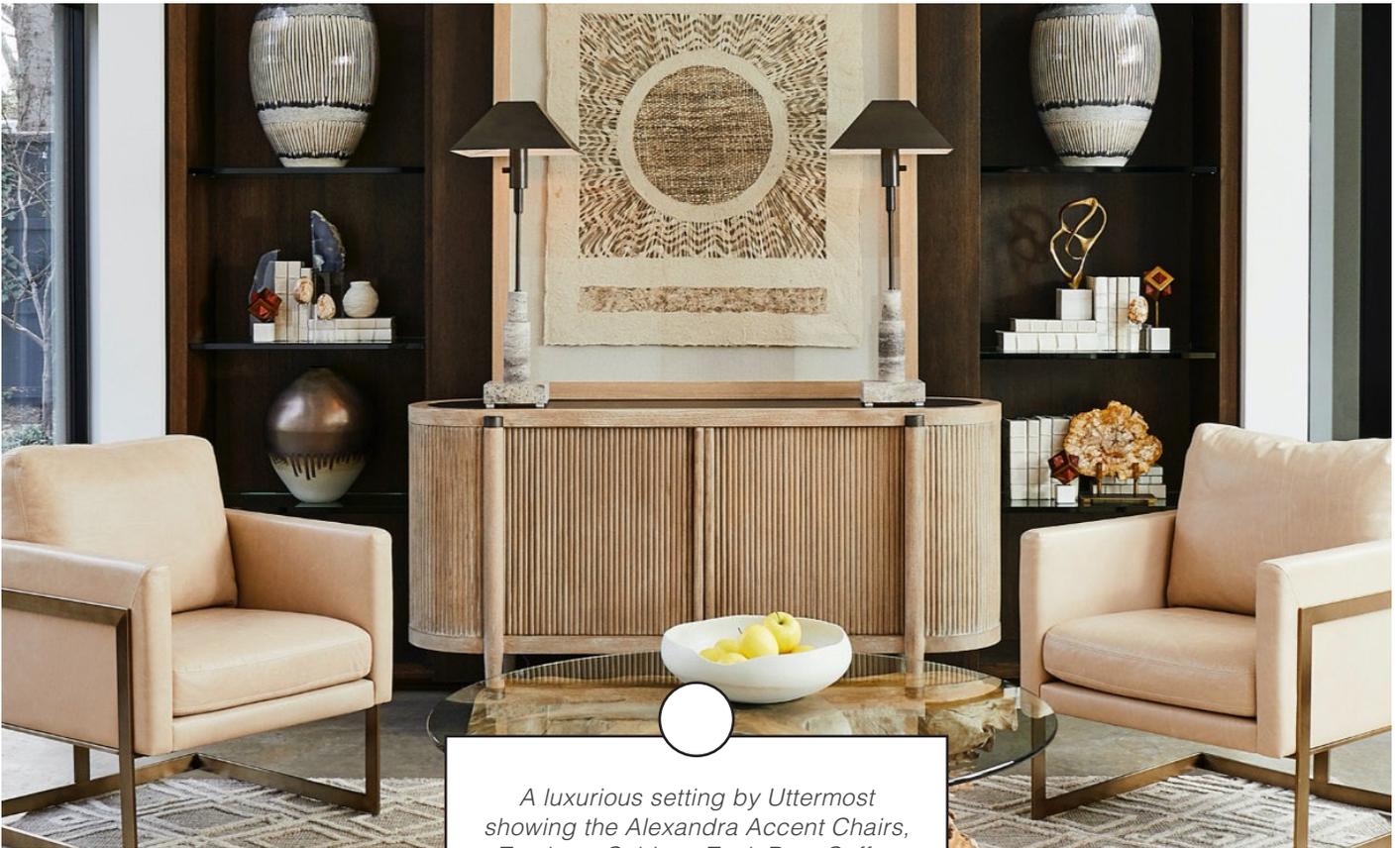


IN FOCUS



Clockwise from top left: Revelation Visceroy Console Table in marble, brass, bronze-finished steel, and glass \$1669, RRP \$2225;
 Balkan Mirror in gold leaf finished forged iron and acrylic with beveled edged glass \$1010, RRP \$1345;
 Epeius Horse Statue finished in copper bronze on a matte black base \$277, RRP \$370;
 Devya Accent Chest with aged pewter stud detailing, antique mirror hardware, and oak veneer over a solid timber frame \$1841, RRP \$2454;
 Revelation Herringbone 8 seater Dining Table with Herringbone black cerused oak top on brushed nickel legs \$3470, RRP \$4625.





A luxurious setting by Uttermost showing the Alexandra Accent Chairs, Tambour Cabinet, Teak Root Coffee Table, and Telescope Buffet Lamps.

All accessories also by Uttermost and available directly through Poppy Bevan Design Studio.

All photographs courtesy of Uttermost.



IN FOCUS



Clockwise from this page: Carmel Lamp Table in warm finished White Mahogany \$559, RRP \$746;

Karishma Etageure in brushed antique gold steel frame and contrasting Acacia veneer shelves \$1841, RRP \$2454;

Revelation Alexandra Accent Chair in full grain latte coloured leather and a stainless steel frame finished in brushed brass \$3318, RRP \$4424;

Formoso Accent Lamp in sculptural light amber glass, brass, and slubbed linen \$516, RRP \$689

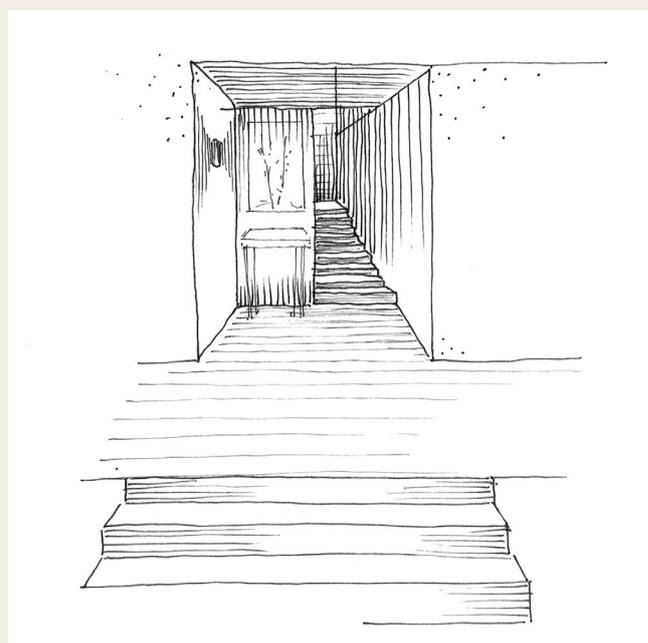
LE CROQUIS DU JOUR

We thought that it would be nice to include a sketch in each issue of the newsletter. I am drawing all the time and so few of my sketches are seen by anyone other than my clients or myself.

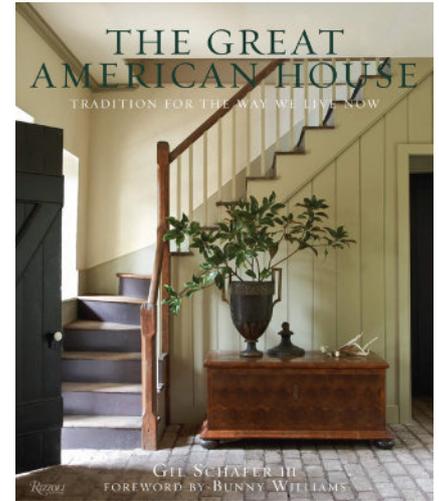
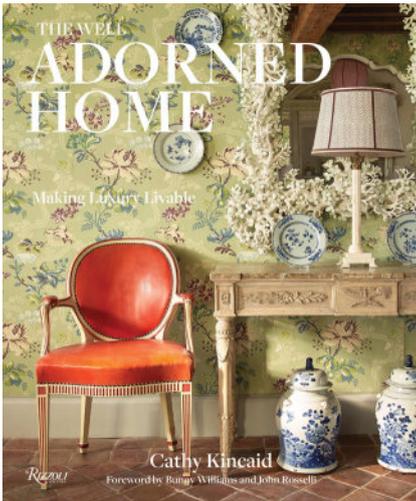
Sketching is one of the most enjoyable parts of my profession and when I'm designing it's an escape into a world not yet created - it's exciting! I find that drawing an idea with openness is a lovely and important exploration of all of the possibilities and helps to refine and define the possibilities.

I want my sketches to be evocative of a mood rather than an exactitude and that's why I have chosen this little one to start.

It is the threshold between the public and the private spaces in The House on the Horizon and depicts that moment when one decides to make an escape from the day and head upstairs to a serene sanctuary - bed.



ADVICE



AND NOW FOR SOME DELICIOUS READING...

Choosing a properly satisfying design book

I think books on design and architecture are magnificent sources of inspiration and when I find a good one I can pour over it for weeks - each read discovering something that I haven't seen before. In this way a good design book can be like good architecture or beautiful interiors in that it just keeps on giving.

The insight I glean from a design book varies depending on my perspective, what I'm currently working on, or even what season it is! So again, every time I re-read a good design book something different tends to jump out at me.

Having said that, there is a trick to finding sources that will give you a detailed

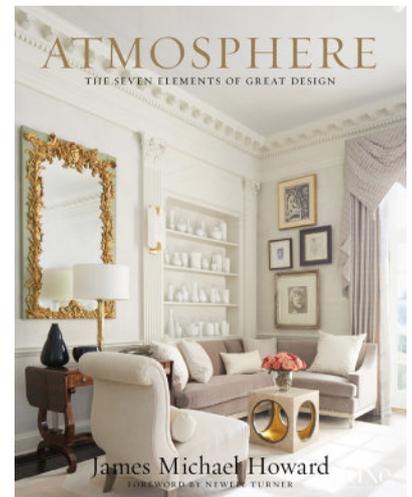
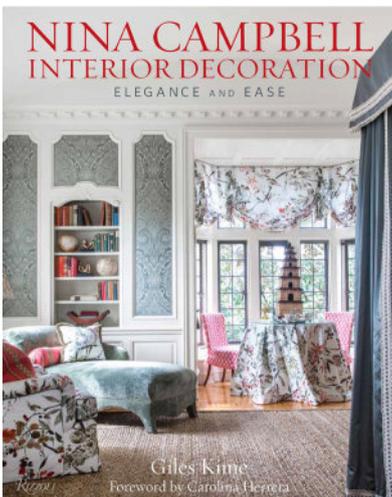
understanding of how designers think and really help to clarify your own tastes.

a) Choose a book that focuses on the work of one designer - books with titles like "ideal country houses" might look pretty at first glance but won't delve into detail and will be limited in delivering real insight. These sort of books don't teach me much and usually result in a once-only read.

b) I like to add books to my collection that are a good balance between beautiful photographs, written explanations, and detail regarding the items within each space. Photograph-only books leave me with so many unanswered questions!

c) I love it when a book explains a designer's reasons for creating a space the way they did. This is where I can really begin to understand things differently and expand on my design skills.

Some favourites books on designers, clockwise from top left, by: Cathy Kincaid, Mark D Sikes, Gil Schafer, Nina Campbell, Lisa Fine, James Michael Howard



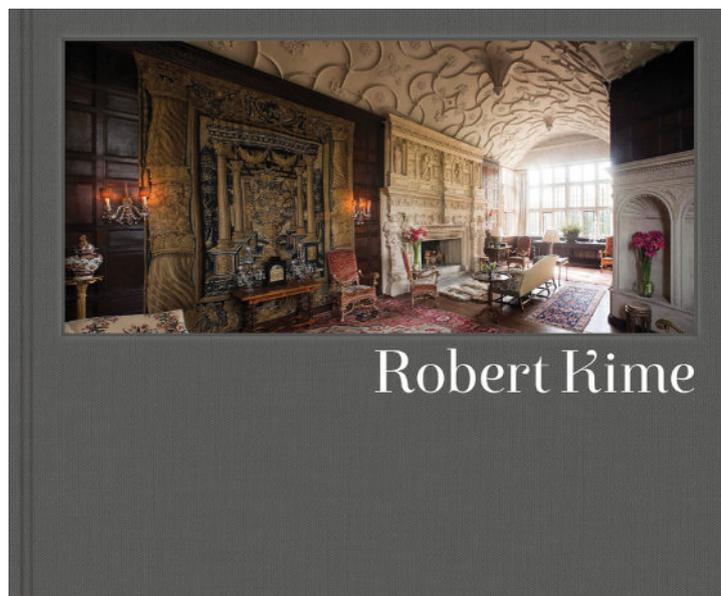
FAVOURITES

MORE BOOKS ON DESIGN
- ROBERT KIME

Endless inspiration via those with determination and distinct taste.

This book was my Christmas present from John - a beautiful book about life and loveliness by Robert Kime including a handwritten note from Robert within.

John knew lots of people and everyone who knew him liked him. Late last year he asked his very close friend Denise a favour. Her daughter Kylie is married to Robert's son Tom (a wonderful chef) and each year they visit Europe and their English family.



Dear Poppy
good luck and
happiness in
your career
with much love
for Robert

A note from Robert - thank you John x.

This year they ran an errand for John and brought this lovely volume and note home. Thank you guys!

Robert's very English style reminds me of being in my grandparents' house in Sussex - perhaps this is why I am drawn to classic taste and love a heavy dose of decoration. Pattern, detail, and the eclectic mix mean comfort to me.

This is a rich and personal book that describes the many homes Robert and his family lived in together. Such a nice insight - and beautiful to boot.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Thank you all for the wonderful feedback on the first issue of our newsletter. It's so nice to hear that it was enjoyed and that everyone found a little something of interest within.

Congratulations to Dan, Meg, Constance, and Andrew who are all currently in the midst of building. We love seeing our designs come to life on site!

Thank you so much to Debbie, Phil, Tim, Nicole, Chris, Carlie, and Jacob for their recent referrals. It means a lot to us that you want to recommend us to your close friends and colleagues.

Thank you Deb and Greg for welcoming us into House B - we love being here!

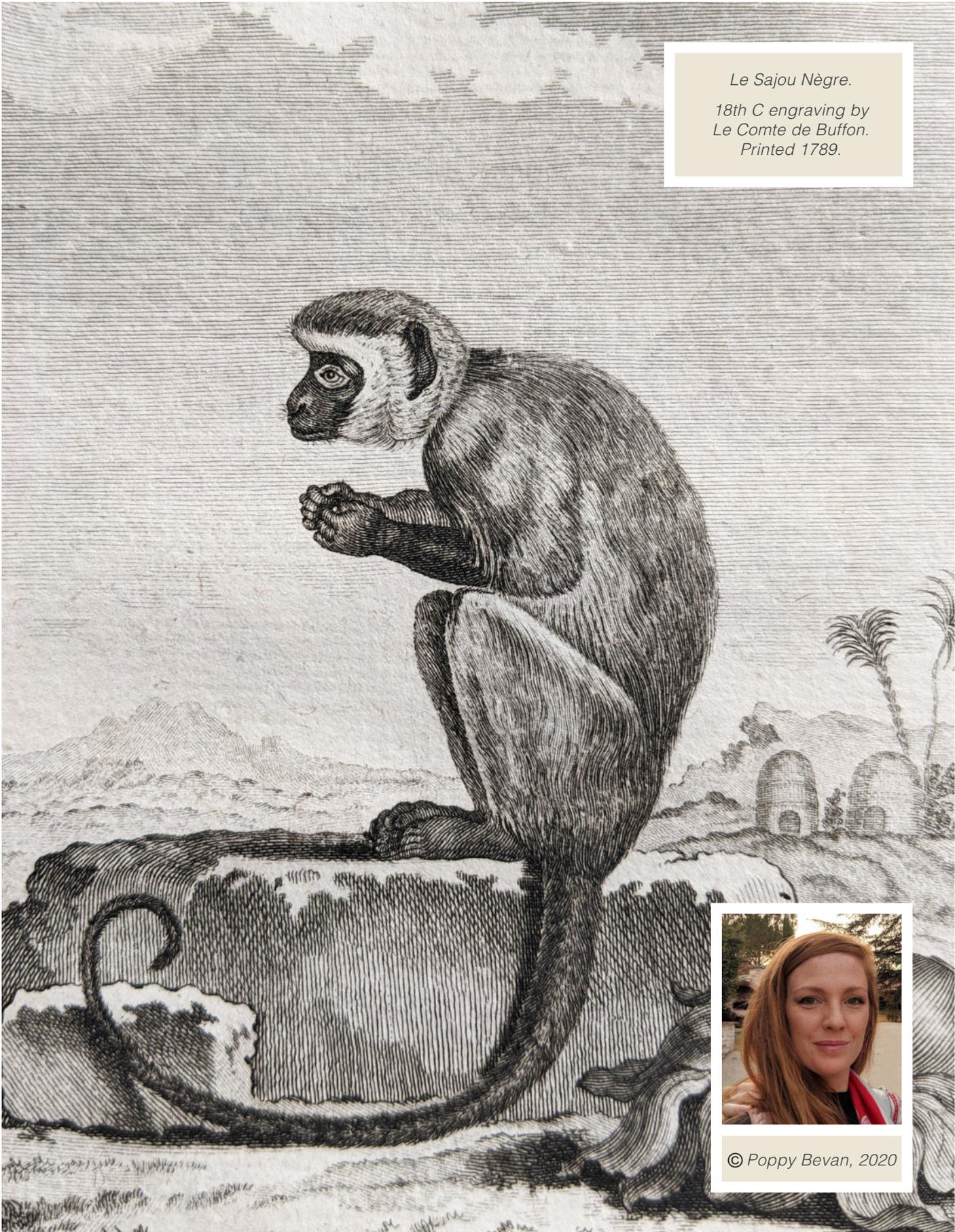
Thank you

I want to say a very heartfelt thank you to all of my extremely kind and considerate clients for their generous patience this year given the many months that I had off work due to John's declining health.

The time that I spent with John and my family in Perth this year was invaluable to me and your understanding was deeply appreciated.

John's life and influence really instilled in me the importance of surrounding myself with good people and I feel very lucky to live this every day in both my personal and professional life.

Le Sajou Nègre.
18th C engraving by
Le Comte de Buffon.
Printed 1789.



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POPPY BEVAN

✉ info@poppybevan.com
☎ 0401 557 805

✉ 21 Barrington Road, Terrigal, NSW
☎ www.poppybevan.com