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INSPIRATION FOR INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

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FABRIC FOCUS

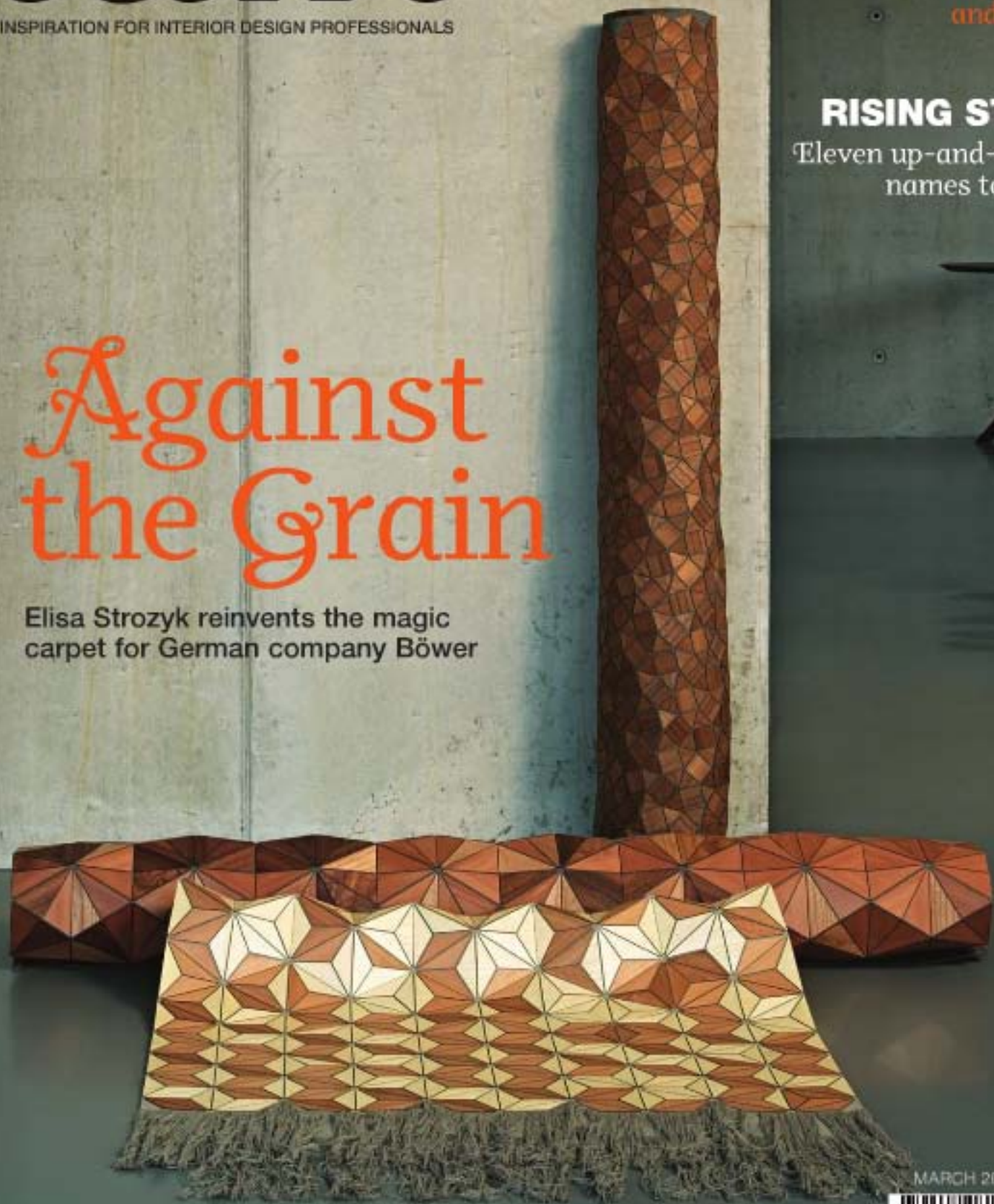
Products, profiles
and trends

RISING STARS

Eleven up-and-coming
names to watch

Against the Grain

Elisa Strozyk reinvents the magic
carpet for German company Böwer



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Sarah Truman

'Having worked as a PR director for more than eight years, I decided to channel my project and client management experience into a more creatively challenging field and retrained as an interior designer,' says Sarah Truman, 30, of her recent career move. After completing the KLC diploma in interior design, graduating as the Student of the Year in 2010, she set up her own practice and has already embarked on projects including a luxury residential property in Jersey and a four-storey townhouse in Richmond-upon-Thames. 'I would describe my style as sophisticated, timeless and elegant,' she says. 'I like to mix old and new pieces to create impressive yet relaxing interiors, but my real buzz comes from creating bespoke designs that really answer the needs and desires of my clients.'



Sarah Truman: Tel: 020 8891 1915
www.sarahtruman.com

Tor Vivian

In 2006, interior designer Tor Vivian joined forces with architect Andrew Dobson to form Dobson & Vivian, which specialises in high-end residential design projects. 'We like to create a unified vision from the start of the design process, through the spatial planning to the styling and furnishing,' says Dobson. Now 40, she qualified with a diploma from the Inchbald School of Design and worked most recently at Chester Jones before setting up her own company. Her work displays a quiet sophistication, evident in current projects including a refurbishment of a Chelsea penthouse, a chalet in the French Alps, a family house in Fulham and a country house just outside London. *Dobson & Vivian*.



Tel: 020 7796 4427. www.dobsonandvivian.co.uk



Rising Stars

These 11 emerging talents are already making waves in interior design *Words AMELIA THORPE*



Rebecca James

After working as a professional ballerina and fashion model, Rebecca James (39) reinvented herself as an interior designer by enrolling at the Chelsea College of Art & Design, qualifying with a graduate diploma in interior design. 'I grew up in a family home where vegetating in front of the TV was discouraged. That enabled me to form a vivid and sometimes over-the-top imagination consisting of imaginary

friends and fairytale-like environments,' she says. James's work is known for its strong Asian influences (she lived in Hong Kong for eight years), imaginative themes and clever use of colour. James adds that she prefers to combine 'masculine structures with feminine interiors'. *Interior Design*. Tel: 020 8672 1410. www.interioridesignuk.com

Kirsty McMarron and Sophie Mills

Architectural interior designers Kirsty McMarron and Sophie Mills set up Absolute Abode together with business partner Ruth Daniel (they all previously worked in the City). Their company is tailored to busy professionals, offering an end-to-end new home service from property search to interior design. While Mills (33) had a former career as a corporate lawyer and diplomat, McMarron (36) was an advertising and communications professional, who relocated to London from Australia in 2001. Both qualified at the Inchbald School of Design and, while Daniel masterminds the property search and project management aspects of the business, designers Mills and McMarron specialise in interiors. They describe their look as 'modern British, fusing timeless tradition with polished originality and a perfectionist's eye for detail'.



Absolute Abode: Tel: 020 7586 5171. www.absoluteabode.com





Kathryn Miller and Melissa Urdang

After honing their interior design skills at some of London's top studios (Miller at Todhunter Earle and Kelly Hoppen, Urdang at Martin Brudnizki and Nina Campbell), Kathryn Miller (30) and

Melissa Urdang (34) formed Melissa + Miller Interiors. Their practice specialises in bespoke interior design, decorating, interior detailing and project management for an international client base. The duo's previous projects

include a 650m² country house in Surrey, a 25m sailing yacht and a Manhattan penthouse. Theirs is a thoughtful and refined approach, creating interiors they describe as 'timeless, elegant and relevant', *Melissa + Miller Interiors*.

Tel: 07528 570279. www.melissamillermiller.com



Max Rollitt

Max Rollitt combines the skills of an interior designer with those of bespoke furniture maker and antiques dealer. Now 46, he trained as a furniture designer and cabinet maker at Rycotewood College in Thame (now Oxford and Cherwell Valley College) then did an apprenticeship at antique furniture restoration workshop Frearson & Hewlett. He has run his own antiques and bespoke furnishings showroom since 1993 and expanded into interiors in 2004. Rollitt has now developed a trademark style that is classically refined yet informal: expert antiques, bespoke joinery and careful architectural detailing. 'My aim is to create joyful homes that are comfortable, elegant,

interesting and look as though they have evolved over time,' he says.

Max Rollitt.

Tel: 01962 758800. www.maxrollitt.com



Erika Raubenheimer

After graduating from the University of Stellenbosch, South African Erika Raubenheimer (27) won a bursary to study interior architecture at the Inchbold after entering a competition. She graduated with a diploma and went on to study for an MA in interior architecture/green design at Inchbold and the University of Wales. Raubenheimer has been developing her interest in green design and was invited to speak at the recent South African Housing Foundation conference on green technology for sustainable human settlements. Her portfolio includes



hospitality venues and public arenas for last year's Fifa World Cup, layout and design planning for major events and interiors for luxury houses. She says her design ethos encompasses 'green design, bold ideas and global inspiration'. *Erika Raubenheimer. erika.raubenheimer@gmail.com*



Saskia Blyth

She may be only 32 but Saskia Blyth is already design director of luxury design and development company Finchatton. British born but brought up and educated in Vienna, Blyth has an MA in interior design from Lorenzo de' Medici in Florence and previously worked for the David Collins Studio and George Spencer Designs. Blyth says she is particularly suited to Finchatton's made-to-measure approach since she specializes in cabinet making and timber technology. Her design inspiration comes from across Europe and Africa, she says, citing the antique shops of Paris, souks of Cairo and bazaars of Istanbul as recent places of inspiration. Blyth is working on a 279m² five-bedroom townhouse in Kensington and we can expect to see more of her distinctively elegant work. *Finchatton.*

Tel: 020 7591 2700. www.finchatton.co.uk



Siobhan Casey

'I am personally dedicated to environmentally conscious interiors, combining that core philosophy with an overall target of warmth, beauty, timelessness and style,' says Siobhan Casey, 32. It was only after a career in administration for an architecture firm, most recently working as a project coordinator for Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates on the Abu Dhabi International Airport, that Casey decided to retrain in interior design. She graduated with a professional diploma from KLC, winning the KLC personal achievement award along the way. She now works as an interior designer/project manager at Carol Bennett Designed Interiors. 'I enjoy crafting the ideal atmosphere for a space and have developed a personal style that pays very close attention to the client's desires and needs,' she says. *Siobhan Casey.*

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