

FT HOW TO SPEND IT – ROYAUME UNI – SEPTEMBRE – COUV + 1/1



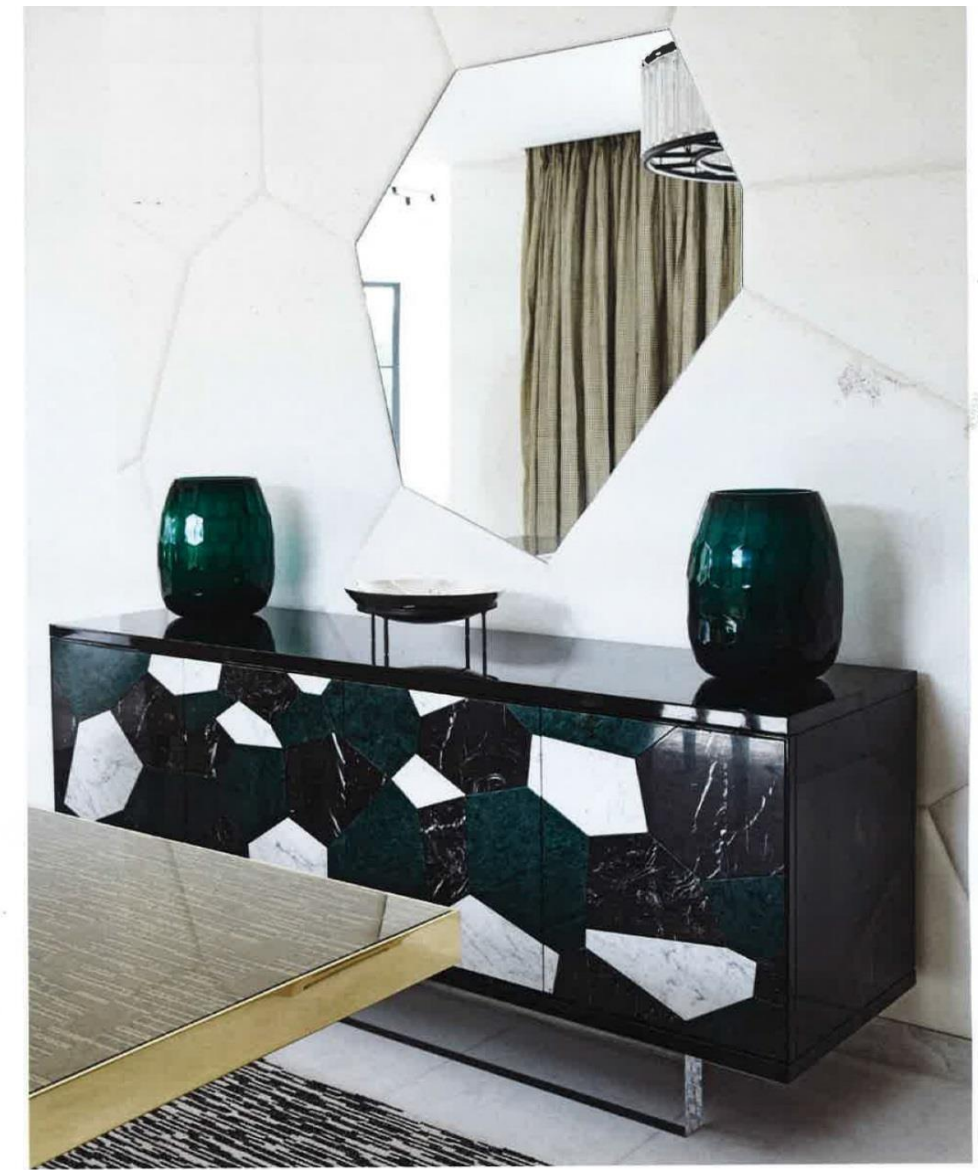
A new aesthetic is setting the tone in high-end interiors and it's as welcome as a pink gin served from a clinking art deco drinks trolley. It calls for decorative drama and a cocktail of ornament and colour inspired by the dynamic decor of the grand hotels and cruise ships of the 1920s and 1930s. Devotees are calling the style new art deco – but it's not a pastiche of period design, more a redefinition of its sumptuous audacity for the 21st-century home.

"Everyone is looking for glamour and excitement in their interiors, in the same way as when deco first emerged as a new form of expression in the 1920s. It was a complete breakaway from what had gone on before and articulated a revaluation in design and architecture. It was progressive, optimistic and luxurious," says Ken Bolan, from the comfort of a Talisman Bespoke Deco Club chair (£9,360 per pair) at his London headquarters – a 1939 repurposed garage with a splendid stepped façade.

Opulence and daring were the hallmarks of design in the art deco era, which acquired its snappy title from the... deep breath: 1925 Paris Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes, the world fair that introduced the exciting new style. Though forms were often geometric or streamlined (think Empire State Building), materials were lavish and art deco designers fabulously unafraid of ornament (consider Wallace Simpson's Cartier flamingo brooch). Popular patterns included fan shapes, cubist motifs, big cats, palm trees and stylised references to tribal art, the east and, of course, the discovery of the tomb of King Tut. Realisation of these creations demanded the skills of the best artisans of the era and designs were prized as *objets d'art* as well as functional furniture. Now, according to tastemakers such as Bolan, the dashing deco spirit is being revived for an adventurous contemporary clientele.

When it comes to pattern, new deco devotees are less keen on panthers and pyramids and more enamoured of the overscale geometrics of the era. Amy Somerville describes her aesthetic as "a masculine 1930s style of art deco". Inspired by the cocktail bars of the grand hotels of the era, she has created the Manhattan drinks cabinet (£21,000), decorated with squares and rectangles of American black walnut, ziricote and oak. She takes delight in the disruptive nature of new art deco. "In residential design, the expression of individuality, character and comfort has roared back into style – chaos, movement and colour are celebrated once again," she says. Cheers to that.

The cocktail cabinet is the hero design of new art deco – a form that allows designers to peacock their creativity, for makers to strut their virtuoso craft skills and for collectors to acquire a spectacular



Clockwise from top: ornamental surfaces add élan to a room designed by Stéphanie Cutas. Zelouf+Bell eucalyptus, sycamore, wenge, shagreen and brass Stella'd cocktail cabinet, €28,375. Lalique crystal panel, €2,700. Munna velvet and brass Olympia armchair, £3,410

