

London Design Festival 17

THE BEST OF THE FEST

Barbara Chandler gives her pick from the influential showcase for exciting home trends



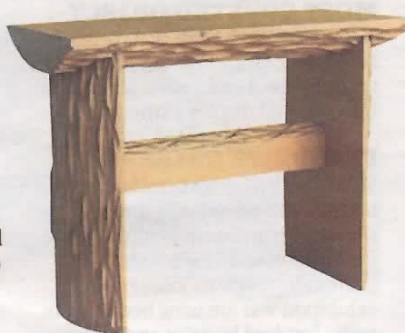
▲ **WILLIAM MORRIS** (1834-1896) is everybody's favourite pattern master. Now there is a fourth volume of his "archive" series at **Morris & Co.** Called *The Collector*, it is inspired by Morris's personal collection of Persian carpets and textiles from around the world. Above is a fresh version of the much-loved Acanthus motif on wallpaper, £80 a roll at the new first-floor **Style Library** showroom at South Dome, Design Centre Chelsea Harbour, SW10. Seen at FOCUS (020 3903 3700; stylelibrary.com/morris&co).



▲ **DROP IN THE OCEAN**, a stand-out Design Festival installation, is open until Saturday at the Norman Foster-designed ME Hotel in Strand, WC2. Its designer is Australian-born Londoner **Brodie Neill**, who is raising awareness of the pressing problem of shoreline plastic pollution. Every minute, a drop of water falls through the hotel's vast, nine-storey marble-lined atrium into a wide, shallow bowl made of Neill's new material called ocean terrazzo, which features salvaged plastic fragments set in resin. Ripples spread out, and then rushing waves crash up the walls, to finally vanish before the sequence repeats. Neill has also made an ocean terrazzo bench (brodieneill.com).

► **WATERCOLOUR** florals are the signature of Scots artist **Fi Douglas** trading as **Bluebellgray**. Now comes *Medina*, an on-trend diversion into loose abstracts – on bed linen, with pillow and duvet sets from £90, and murals as here, priced from £150. **Jessica Light**, who makes the most exquisite trimmings by hand, is doing tassels in Bluebellgray's distinctive soft palette. Seen at Decorex (bluebellgray.com).

▼ **YOUNG** designer **Mark Laban** is doing "digital craft" in his Forest Hill studio, subverting a CNC machine – usually employed for a perfect cut – to gouge deep grooves and textures into the legs and undersides of a series of stools that are made from Valchromat, a high-end sheet material which has colour running right the way through it. Laban is also working in solid maple. Prices from about £1,250 for one-off pieces. Seen at London Design Fair (marklaban.com; 07931 715134).



▼ **BROTHERS Kieron and McSherry** of **Solid Soul Design** founded in 2001, now offer striking sculptural chairs, for outdoors or inside, made in reinforced concrete which considerably decreases its weight and carbon footprint compared with standard concrete. This dramatic black edition costs £1,750. Versio white cost £1,560, or the sl grey is priced at £1,640. Seen at 100% Design. (solidsouldesign.com; 07762 258 819).



▲ **LONDON'S** queen of door handles and door knobs is **Marie-Véronique Swannell**, trading at her Haute Déco showroom – recently revamped – in King's Road, SW6 since 1994. Her

speciality is exquisite resin door knobs handmade in jewel tones in the UK. New *Fleur* is tulip-shaped, priced at £225 each. Seen at Decorex (020 7736 7171; hautedeco.com).

