

FINANCIAL TIMES

how to spend it



van der postings

Lucia van der Post, the grande dame of luxury, delivers a trio of first-class dispatches

Lighting has just become a whole lot more interesting. There have always been the magicians – people such as Ingo Maurer, James Turrell and Marcus Tremonto – who continually remind us of its almost alchemical beauty. But lately there has been an explosion of creative ideas from artists who work mainly with glass but who have turned their skills to lighting. Their interest lies less in the technical matters and more in making impressive designs that happen to transmit light. Many of these are one-offs or limited editions, so prices bear no relation to the pieces sold in most furnishing stores; they have to be thought of instead as the glorious works of art that they are.

Take Jeremy Wintrebert. He's a glassblower based in Paris and he loves curved, organic shapes, which are used to lovely effect in his Cloud lights (pictured top right). The collection consists of a variety of soft, milky-glass shapes that appear to billow randomly; some of these on a ceiling would provide an enchanting and wonderfully original source of light. Made to order for £7,000, they are available from Gallery Fumi.

Meanwhile, the Notting Hill-based store-cum-gallery Vessel is exhibiting Nigel Coates' Neo Mio chandelier (£19,900, pictured top right), which comes in a limited edition of 12. Hand-blown in Venice, it is a spectacular design featuring two chandeliers – one inverted on top of the other – and would make a sensational focal point in any room. Also at Vessel is Danish designer Hanne Enemark, who has created smoky-



Clockwise from main picture: Utopia & Utility glass lights, £180 each. Nigel Coates limited-edition Neo Mio chandelier, £19,900. Jeremy Wintrebert glass Cloud light, £7,000



grey-glass pendant ceiling lights surrounded by glass moths that are held in place by magnets and can be moved at will. A single pendant with five moths costs £950; a set of nine with 18 moths costs £7,850.

At Gallery Libby Sellers there is a selection of very interesting glass lights from the Italian-born, London-based designer Paola Petrobelli. She has worked with the same Murano glassmaker since she started out in the 1990s and has developed a unique, architectural style. Her latest collection, 24, follows what she calls "a modular construction system, rather like Meccano". The strong shapes of the lamps (from £7,800) are softened by her wonderful use of colour.

And finally, Pia Wustenberg, who first came to my attention last year when she designed some striking stacking vessels, now has some beautiful glass shades that come in fruity hues such as yellow and pink (pictured left). She sells them from her Utopia & Utility website and, at £180 each, they seem like a bargain.

Gallery Fumi, 020-7490 2366; www.galleryfumi.com. Gallery Libby Sellers, 020-3384 8785; www.libbysellers.com. Hanne Enemark, www.hanneenemark.com and see Vessel. Jeremy Wintrebert, www.jeremyglass.com and see Gallery Fumi. Nigel Coates, www.nigelcoates.com and see Vessel. Paola Petrobelli, www.paolapetrobelli.com and see Gallery Libby Sellers. Utopia & Utility, www.utopiaandutility.eu. Vessel, 020-7727 8001; www.vesselgallery.com.



A la module

For students of design, the French architect Charlotte Perriand is one of those legendary names that casts a long shadow – and even though she died in 1999, she is the figure that Louis Vuitton has turned to this year for inspiration for its biannual Icons Collection. Mostly known for her collaboration with Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret, she always had strong views on every aspect of aesthetics. After visiting Japan she came back with new ideas about dressing and started to compose her wardrobe out of interchangeable "modules", which gave her an infinite number of outfit permutations.

This thinking has prompted Julie de Libran, creative director of womenswear at Louis Vuitton, to provide the Louis Vuitton woman ("who is cultured, who travels and likes beautiful things... who is attentive to quality, to fabrics and details") with the staples of her wardrobe. To wit: the perfect pair of leggings in soft orange calfskin (£1,560, pictured left), a trench coat in bonded caramel leather (£8,230), a reversible parka in bright blue polyamide (£1,375) and a biker jacket in black lambskin (£2,655). There are lots of separates, too, which work together, and as de Libran envisages this woman travels a lot, some of the collection has a summery air. Highlights include a long-sleeved T-shirt in cashmere with a yellow central panel (£640), a cotton poplin tunic dress (£810, pictured left), coats and parkas (from £1,270), and a red and blue gingham collection that features some cute 1920s-influenced shirts (from £470), shorts (from £380) and a sundress (£1,060). If you like a carefully thought-out wardrobe, here it is – in all the beautiful colours so beloved of Perriand.

Louis Vuitton, 020-7399 4050; www.louisvuitton.co.uk.

Loose change

Waste-paper baskets don't usually merit rave reviews, but John Brauer's pure white faux crumpled version for Essey (£40) is an award-winning design that brings a smile to the face. It's made from rigid polyethylene and also comes in red or black – though it looks much the best in white, in my view. www.essey.com.

