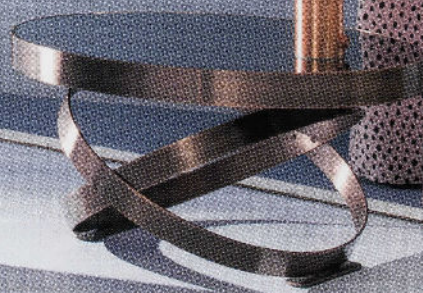


DESIGN CENTRE GUIDE

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THE ULTIMATE
GUIDE TO
THE WORLD'S
PREMIER DESIGN
DESTINATION



design centre
LONDON



CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

A hub of inspiring expertise and invention, Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour is the jumping-off point for the creativity of the world's best designers; here's a taste of where that journey leads

Is there a more concentrated hub of creative energy in Europe than Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour? It seems doubtful: with 116 showrooms and more than 600 brands on site, it's pretty matchless when it comes down to both the breadth of what's on offer – from fabrics and wallpapers to furniture, trimmings, lighting and bathrooms – and its superlative quality. But what you see in the showrooms, inspiring as it is, is really just a springboard – the start of a much longer journey. In the hands of an interior designer, products can end up in far-flung places, and at some of the most prestigious addresses, or even be conceived from scratch to a designer's exacting specifications.

It's a measure of the Design Centre's influence that people base themselves in the Chelsea Harbour area to be closer to the action. "We purposely opened our office down the road, because it's the hub of everything; we go there all the time," says Alix Lawson of interior architects Lawson Robb. Lawson cites Donghia/Rubelli and Lelievre among her must-use fabric brands, but casts her net widely. Recent projects have seen her use Altfield's sparkling mica 'Nautilus' wallcovering from Innovations in a deeply glamorous powder room, and Davidson's classic 'Carlton' table, in a glossy black sycamore with patinated brass, to mark the centrepiece of a living space in a Holland Park home.

"I would say that we used 60-70% of the suppliers at the Design Centre," says Robert Angell, whose portfolio includes the top-tier of hotel and hospitality projects, from the five-star Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge to the Hilton Vienna Plaza. At Kaspar's Seafood Bar & Grill at the Savoy, the distinctive teal leather upholstery is in a custom colour from Whistler Leather. "They understand where we're coming from as designers, and we can work with them to develop unique patterns and textures," says Angell. He views the Design Centre as "an

