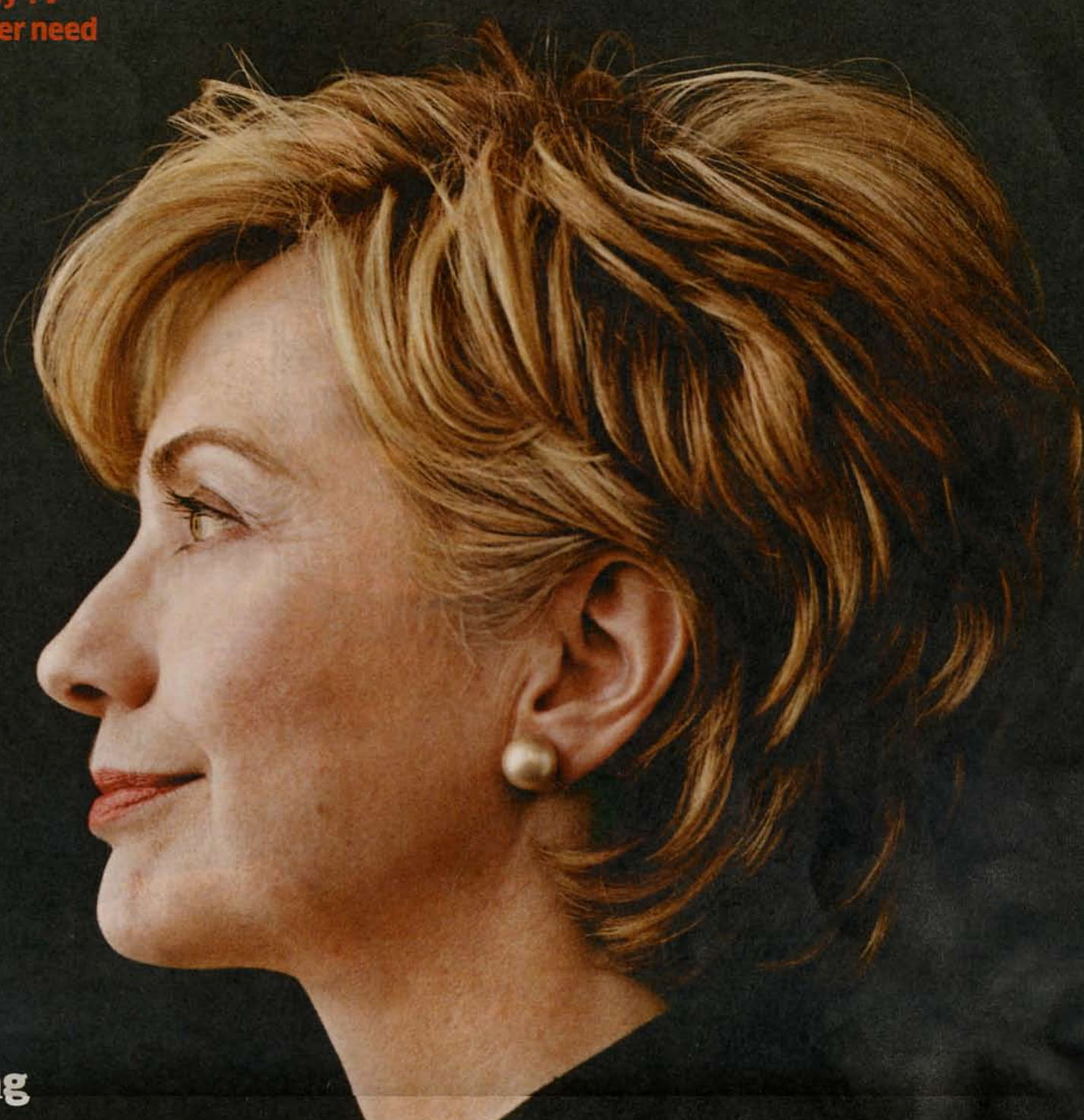


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THE
INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY



WORDS BY SARAH HARRIS

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY DRAYTON

She's in the pink

Interiors designer Jocelyn Warner explains why she's swathed her kitchen in shocking-coloured wallpaper

The best thing about living in this part of Chalk Farm is that it's very, very quiet – almost like the road that London forgot. The street is wide and leafy with a lovely old church opposite, and when you walk down the stairs into the kitchen you can't hear any noise from outside.

The kitchen is definitely where we spend most of our time as a family. As soon as we come home we always come straight down here and put the kettle on. Our seven-year-old son, Gilbert, does his homework at this dining table, which is a classic Conran design, while we do the cooking or have friends over for dinner. Everybody sits at it from the moment

they arrive to the time they leave.

On the walls we chose something from our latest collection, called Kaleido because the design has an almost optical effect. The warm pink looks really striking against the leafy green outside in the garden – but it's certainly not for the faint-hearted.

My eye for pattern and colour is fairly eclectic – I really love how Missoni mix large prints with stripes, spots or delicate florals with bold checks. Inspiration comes from everywhere, but the skill is in tying it all together.

We use the open shelves next to the fireplace almost like an altar, for ornaments that we've collected over the



Bright idea: Warner (right) at her Conran dining table; the blue papier-mâché fish, which sits in her fireplace, was made by her son



years, all of which represent different memories and say something about who we are. I bought the two figures behind me when I went to visit my sister in Singapore years ago. The mother is the smaller figure, and the son is the larger one who looks like he is protecting her. I don't know how old they are, or who made them, but I like what they represent. Gilbert has always been tall for his age, and it's weird to think that one day he'll be towering over me.

The print hanging over the fireplace is by a Swedish artist it was given to my parents as a house-warming gift in 1960 by some close family friends. It was in the hallway throughout my childhood, so it's very familiar to me. My parents also had a Robin Day sofa and lovely wooden Carl Jacobs dining chairs – one of which I have kept. I didn't realise how stylish they were until I was at Camberwell Art College, when I went round the V&A and saw a set of their Carl Jacobs chairs on display.

