

07 The Art & Design issue

Profiles of **Brighton's leading designers**, a rare interview with Pop artist **Gerald Laing**, the changing face of **architecture** in Brighton, **graffiti** goes overground and body art at the **Brighton Tattoo Convention**

PLUS: Interviews with **John Pilger** and **Chris Rock**, **Operator Please** make some noise, **floral fashion** on the catwalk and **Alex Binnie** has a bone to pick

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poster



Wall to wall

Wallpaper is enjoying a revival, but this time around they're 21st century decorative art in their own right. **Louise Gorrod** seeks out the contemporary designs that bring wallpaper right up to date.

Wallpaper was very much a British industry. The earliest known wallpaper in England dates back to 1509 - an Italian-inspired woodcut pomegranate design printed on the back of a proclamation issued by Henry VIII. Go back through history and there are many references to wallpaper throughout the centuries. Wallpaper was developed into the form we know now around the Victorian period. People of means would use wallpaper as a statement that showed that they could afford to paper their walls in colours as some dyes were very expensive.

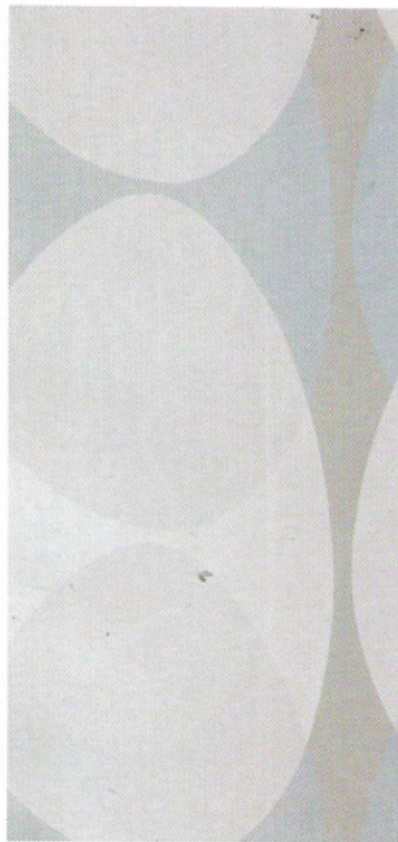
Up until the 1950s wallpaper was considered a 'decorative art' but from the 1950s through to the 1970s it gradually became more mainstream, and mass-produced, and became known as an industrial product rather than the decorative art of artists and artisans. Every home now had wallpaper and the colours and patterns became bolder than ever. By the 1980s, wallpaper had become very unfashionable and had been replaced by paint, especially white, as the wallcovering of choice which led the way to a minimal look for the remainder of the 20th century.

But style trends have once again turned full circle and pattern is back in a big way. But there are differences this time around. The industry is now working closely with designers, and their skills are being recognised and appreciated - the British wallpaper industry is making waves again.

Its revival is timely since people are now a lot more informed about design. Consumers prefer to source handmade or small-batch production wallpaper so they have something unique where the design goes much further than just surface pattern. There are many British designers taking the traditional craft forward into the 21st century whilst still applying historical reference in the design, detail and production. Here are a just a few examples that would add interest and character to any wall...



new by Jocelyn Warner.
£59 per roll from [therunstudio.com](http://www.therunstudio.com)



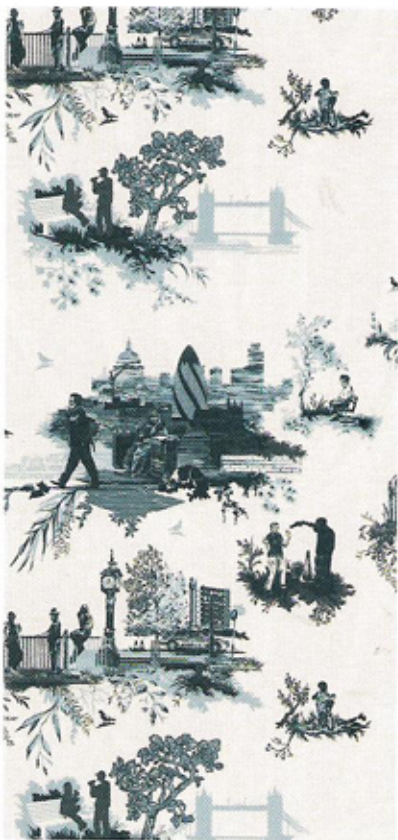
Oval Shimmer by Jocelyn Warner.
£149.00 per 10m roll from Design Studio.



Chairs by Deborah Bowness.
£150.00 per drop from Deborah Bowness.



Frames by Taylor & Wood.
£25.00 per 10m roll from Graham & Brown.



London Toile by Timorous Beasties.
£100 per 10m roll from Timorous Beasties.



Habitat VIP Collection by Christian Lacroix. £30 per 10m roll from Habitat.



Habitat VIP Collection by Marcel Wanders. £30 per 10m roll from Habitat.

Stocklist: Design Studio, 58 Western Road, Tel: 01273 206123, www.design-studio.com • Deborah Bowness, Tel: 07817 807504, www.deborahbowness.com • Graham & Brown, Tel: 0800 3288452, www.grahambrown.com • Timorous Beasties, Tel: 020 7833 5010, www.timorousbeasties.com • Habitat, 11 Churchill Square, Tel: 08444 991105, www.habitat.net