



home LONDON

# OPEN HOUSE

Light, space and leafy views. It's hard to believe that this 60s house is but a stone's throw from central London – and that it was an absolute warren of rooms before owner Henri Davies opened it up to its former glory

By Michelle Ogundehin Photographer James Merrell



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MOST USEFUL MODERN HOMES MAGAZINE

# ELLE DECORATION

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**THIS PAGE:** the light and open feel of the dining room is helped, in part, by having a clear glass table. 'It's like a little showcase for the vintage Jacobson chairs, really,' says owner Henri Davies. **OPPOSITE:** one of Henri's own designs, the bench (also seen on the terrace, this page) is made from a recycled glass material called Ttura, which can be made up in any colour - you literally choose the bottles according to the shade you want. 'I love the idea of used bottles not being wasted,' says Henri. (For designs made from Ttura, call Eight Inch on 020 7503 3400.) 'I was initially going to make it in recycled plastic, but no one was sure how well it would withstand the elements,' he says.



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# E L L E

## DECORATION

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**FAR RIGHT:**  
a blue resin vase  
from Visionary Living.  
**ABOVE AND LEFT:**  
inside Pierre Cardin's  
house, Palais  
Bulle.



### BUILDING PALAIS BULLE

Reminiscent of a giant octopus washed up on the rocks, Palais Bulle is no ordinary retirement home. This retro-futuristic cliff-top villa in Antibes, France, belongs to one of the world's most visionary fashion designers, Pierre Cardin, but it's the work of Hungarian architect Antti Lovag – the embodiment of his belief that straight lines, cubes and angles only 'confine the human spirit'. Instead, he opts for an organic architecture full of spheres, curves and womb-like spaces.

The interior is just that, a series of interconnecting domes, portholes and cartoon curves, hence the name 'Palais Bulle' (*bulle*, balls – geddit?). Modular sofas sit in crescents, and low chairs, upholstered in a collage of fabrics, resemble sculptures inspired by marine life. Bedrooms feature custom-made round beds and quilted silk covers, while baths are sunken pools. Even the televisions are 60s-style globes.

And what else would you expect to crown this Mediterranean-igloo extravaganza but a rooftop helipad that doubles up as a 12-tiered amphitheatre stage? Who said it was hip to be square?



**ABOVE:**  
a resin surface  
extending from  
inside to out by Eight  
Inch. **BELOW:** resin-  
covered tables and  
lights at Grand  
Central.



### TREND RESIN

Where Brit Art leads, the world follows. Since Turner Prize-winner Rachel Whiteread constructed her monolithic, cast plinth-on-a-plinth installation in Trafalgar Square, resin has become the next hot thing.

Block Architecture has used it to create tabletops and pendant lights at its new Shoreditch restaurant, Grand Central (left). Meanwhile, design group Eight Inch has run with the idea and created a whole new material, 'Ttura' – shards of coloured glass suspended in resin to produce a tough, versatile and cool-looking material for floors and surfaces. Early commissions include a table that goes through the wall and out onto the roof terrace of architect Sarah Wigglesworth's house (above left).

Resin is also the material *du jour* for smaller accessories. Funky florist Steiner Berg-Olssen of Visionary Living loves it for its glass-like quality (see the vase above, £20). 'You can add anything to liquid resin – paint, petals, even gold leaf.'

A material to match any imagination. Block Architecture (020 7729 9194). Grand Central (020 7613 4228). Visionary Living (020 7242 9876). For more information about 'Ttura' or to commission Eight Inch, call 020 7503 3400.

WORDS: KATE JACOBS, BETHAN WEBER  
PHOTOGRAPHS: SYLVIA RUJAVI, PIERRE CARDIN; ROGER STILLMAN (VASE)

### PEOPLE PRECIOUS MCBANE

Evlynn Smith and Meriel Scott had barely dipped their toes in the waters of furniture design before they were fielding orders from the likes of Prince. Since then, the Central St Martins sculpture graduates have stormed the interiors world with their one-off pieces, from intricate chairs to huge Mongolian lambswool beanbags. Why call themselves Precious McBane? 'It's from the novel *Precious Bane*, about a spirited misfit,' explains Evlynn. 'Going from sculpture to furniture, we don't quite fit in either.' Being Scottish lassies, they threw in the 'Mc'.

Recently, they've been working with property developers Metropolis, designing apartment interiors (far right). On a more wacky note, one of their favourite projects is the office they styled for news service Bloomberg, in particular the floor made from 27,000 lipsticks in Perspex boxes (near right). It's easy to see why their slogan is 'design, disrupt and delight'. Precious McBane (020 7729 2213). Metropolis (020 7580 5563).



**LEFT  
AND RIGHT:**  
Precious McBane's  
lipstick/Perspex  
floor for Bloomberg,  
and the interior  
duo designed for  
Metropolis.