Balancing act

From mini-me furniture to big issue lighting, we're weighing up this month's retail options

PHOTOGRAPHY: LUKE KIRWAN WRITER: PEI-RU KEH

01. CHRISTMAS SPIRIT
A new addition to British designer Sebastian Bergne's covetable range of tabletop creations, this modern nativity set is truly a minimalist revelation. Made from hand-painted beech wood, each character (plus the star of Bethlehem) of the scene is represented as a simple building block in a different size and colour.
£85, by Sebastian Bergne, www.buysebastianbergne.com

02. WAITING GAME
When we caught wind of a Doshi Levien collection for Camper, we had to be the first ones in despite it only being available in February 2013. Comprising women's skinny flats, chunky wedge sandals and men's brogues, the design duo's range brings together an array of influences from Indian school uniforms and maths notebooks to foil-covered sweets.
Shoes, from £95, by Doshi Levien, for Camper, www.camper.com

03. MAKE A DATE
Mucu is a stationery brand by design firm K-Design Works that exemplifies the simplicity and attention to material which the Japanese excel at. New from the Tokyo-based company for 2013 is this desk calendar in salvaged cedar or teak wood. It is easily assembled with three screws and allows users to customise its display by sliding in pictures or cards alongside the calendar.
'Clamp' calendar, ¥2,500, ($32), www.mucu.jp

04. PERFECT SCENTS
A scented candle in a glass is just not enough these days: Diptyque looked to kilim rugs for its 'Arabian Nights' candles (£45 each); Tom Dixon found inspiration in British life (smells of bricks, teatime and nettles) for his Eclectic range (£55 each); while Fornasetti Profumi's whopping 1.9kg candle (£380), scented with its Otto perfume, now dons a multicoloured visage.
www.diptyqueparis.com, www.tomdixon.net, www.fornasettiprofumi.com

05. MEASURE FOR MEASURE
The home accessories and sustainable philosophy of Tel Aviv label Kukka, helmed by Rona Meyuchas K, first caught our eye in 2010. These rulers are made from reclaimed Caesarstone floor tiles and come in 20cm lengths, the standard tile dimensions.
'Balata' rulers, £24 each, by Kukka, shop.kukka.co.uk

06. SILK ROAD
A Barcelona-based US graphic designer with a flair for optical prints, Carrie Van Hise has recently turned to silk scarves to immortalise her designs, which are inspired by 1960s cinema, typography and Avedon imagery. The inaugural collection includes a graphic leaf pattern, a hypnotic 'B' and a Jean-Luc Godard-inspired French stripe, all packaged in recycled poster tubes.
Scarves, €59 each, by Van Hise, shop.vanhise.com

07. HAPPY HOUR
Watching time pass has been made easier on our eyes thanks to Marjukka Takala's Bauhaus-style timepiece. The Helsinki designer took her cues from speedometers and simple geometry when producing this porcelain desk clock. Even its name, 'Mittari', which translates into 'instrument', pays a poetic tribute to the mechanical element of timekeeping.
Prototype, by Marjukka Takala, www.marjukkatakala.com

08. SEED CHANGE
Containing seed mixtures of plants from desert and arid Mediterranean climates, conceptual Swedish label Coloni's indoor gardening kits are perfect for those without a green thumb. Boxes are filled with anything from rare cacti to dense-growing wild plants to luscious flowering perennials.
Indoor gardening kits, from SEK350 (€40); 'Nutrient' liquid fertiliser, SEK45 (€5.20), both by Coloni, www.coloni.se

09. COVER UP
Perfume house Acqua di Parma has successfully become an authority on luxury lifestyle in recent years. And now the Italian brand has unveiled the latest addition to its empire: an accessory range including iPad holders, phone cases and candleholders, which is crafted from materials such as leather, alabaster or wenge.
iPhone case, £140, and iPad holder, £265, both by Acqua di Parma, acquadiparma.com

10. SMALL WORLD
As long-time fans of furniture designer Russell Pinch, we thought we were more than familiar with his elegant work. So imagine our delight when we spotted these models in the catalogue for his new range. Built on a 1:5 scale, the mini versions replicate each piece's original appearance down to the very last detail.
Miniature 'Twig' wall panel, 'Clement' table and 'Yves' desk, www.pinchdesign.com

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