

Design notebook by David Nicholls



RECYCLED RUDOLPH

This flatpack reindeer is made from recycled cardboard and is part of a range of creatures designed by the Dutch firm Kidsonroof. It stands 22in tall and costs £14 from Bouf (bouf.com). See more of its work at kidsonroof.com.



OPPORTUNITY KNOX In 2009 the V&A Museum and Liberty held a competition inviting designers to create new work inspired by the archive of Archibald Knox, the Manx Arts & Crafts designer whose pewter work was championed by Liberty around the turn of the 20th century. The winner was Emma-Kate Francis, a Cardiff-based silversmith whose Triquetra vases have the Celtic knot pattern embossed on one side. Made in pewter by the Sheffield firm Wentworth, they cost from £70 (020-7942 2696; vandashop.com).



NEW FLAME Muji is hard to beat when it comes to simple, useful and good-value designs. The ceramic Rubin is an elegant new piece that can serve as a candle-holder or raised platter for nibbles. It costs £12.95 (muji.eu).



OCHRE'S FOCUS Since it was founded in 1996, the design brand Ochre has become known for three things: exquisitely made furniture and lighting, the unusual use of materials – such as horsehair and horn on chandeliers – and a subdued, sophisticated colour palette. The company has just opened a London showroom where fans of its distinct aesthetic can see it all in one place. New pieces will include the Zeffirelli sofa (£6,204, above) which has a waxed-oak frame (also available in walnut) and is upholstered in linen. Ochre, 46-47 Britton Street, London EC1 (020-7096 7372; ochre.net). By appointment only.

POWER CORD It is my long-held belief that corduroy is an underrated and underused upholstery fabric. But the fact is that the material adds a relaxed and lived-in feel to furniture in the same way that it gives a casual and comfortable quality to clothing. This cotton corduroy is part of de Le Cuona's new Grace collection in 14 colourways, £96/m (020-7584 7677; delecuaona.co.uk).