

# GOOD WEATHER FOR DUCKS

Interior designer **Ruth Eley** of Pure Home Interiors in Duffield, visited London's interiors showrooms during the city's recent, and very wet, Design Week and reports back on a bright outlook ...



London Design Week is always a welcome event in the interior designer's year – not only does it represent an opportunity to visit the capital and enjoy some of its highlights, it serves to kick-start the creative flow at a time when the weather is doing its blustery best to dampen down enthusiasm for anything more than huddling by the fire. But with all the interiors showrooms brightly lit to launch their new collections of fabrics, wallpapers, furniture and lighting – not to mention the flowing champagne and canapés on offer at every turn – it was difficult not to feel the joys of spring.

If you now have a mental picture of new buds and blossom you will be delighted to hear that flowers are in full bloom in many of the leading fabric houses. From chintz to contemporary stylised floral motifs, flowers continue to feature strongly on anything from silk to linen. The continuing trend for a stronger use of colour in interiors was also prevalent. For those who have grown tired of monochromatic schemes, neutral tones are being steadily replaced with jewel colours and textural finishes. Metallics are still shining brightly for many brands. Nina Campbell's new collection 'Belzoro' was truly opulent and the cut velvet 'Voluta' with coordinating 'Voluta Stripe' comes in a vibrant range of colours.

Sheila Coombs in the Brian Yates showroom has expanded her uniquely stylish range of fabrics to include the new Artisan collection

of thick linen weaves in bright colours and metallic coated linens in shades of charcoal – a perfect mixture of contrasting textures. All these interesting and alluring elements can be combined to create deeper design schemes that make our surroundings all the more exciting. But those who enjoy a more subtle backdrop, relying more on texture and finish, will be delighted to hear about the launch of G P & J Baker's new brand, 'Threads'.

This uniquely beautiful collection of fabrics has been created by Baker's managing director Ann Grafton and her team over the past two years. And what a well-kept secret it has been, which makes the surprise all the more thrilling. The range of fabrics in the collection epitomises glamour, style and cool sophistication, with exquisite weaves, silks, wools, opulent chenilles, velvets and the most ethereal of sheers.

Linking all these textures is a beautifully refined colour spectrum of calm neutrals and soft pastels enlivened by elements of black and deep chocolate brown. The philosophy behind the collection is understated luxury. It has a contemporary edge, not hard and cool, but rather subtly sensual and tactile. I was completely smitten and promptly signed up to stock the entire range. □



*Right* some of the stunning new fabrics exhibited during Design Week in London

*Left* some of the other highlights from the show, clockwise from far left: lamp with webbed feet; 'Birdcage' wrought iron chandelier; 'Flynn' stairwell lantern; 'Maddie' small bedroom sofa; 'Giacometti' side table, all from Porta Romana