



TOM DIXON HE BROUGHT US THE BEAT LIGHTS AND THE FAT SPOT. NOW DESIGNER TOM DIXON HAS OPENED AN EMPORIUM AT TRENDY PORTOBELLO DOCK, FEATURING HIS OWN FURNITURE AND LIGHTING, AND ECLECTIC ITEMS FROM INTERNATIONAL DESIGNERS. TOMDIXON.NET

MINI Countryman

MINI Park Lane (left) is the biggest MINI car dealership on the planet and it's also where you can find the specialist and latest models, including the MINI Countryman (below) just released in SA. With four doors and space for five people it's a whole new dimension for the brand. Unmistakably MINI yet obviously bigger, it still offers the driving fun associated with its predecessors but fits between the classic model and a sports vehicle. miniparklane.com

we ♥ london

London has always been a trendsetter. *HL* joined the BMW EuroStyle Tour to find out what's new in the land of the Union Jack.

Text Naomi Larkin Photographs Sean Calitz, London 2012, Nathan S Atia, quickpic.co.za, supplied

As host of the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, London is once again under the spotlight. It'll be the first 'green' Olympics and the initiatives at the **Olympic Park** development in London's East End are incredible. As Kevin McCloud wrote in *The Telegraph Magazine*: 'Out of this polluted place, formerly the site of glue factories, a rubbish dump and heavy 19th-century industry, some extraordinary pastry-like shapes have already arisen, forming Britain's answer to Beijing.' Some 97 per cent of the soil on the site had to be laundered – processed to remove toxic elements; more than 4 000 trees and 350 000 plants are being planted, and waterways have been dredged. Land has been remodelled to provide walkways and wetlands. Hawks have even been brought in to scare away the pigeons rather than employ more drastic measures.

British **cuisine** is known for being bland and unimaginative. But the soggy bangers and mash are gone. In their place are organic sausages stuffed with pork, game and beef all with a pedigree and traceable origin. Even the potatoes for the mash are sourced from specialist farms. It is not uncommon for top chefs like Tom Aikens to select much of the produce for his three restaurants himself, while Andy Evans, chef at The Only Running Footmen, a restaurant in Mayfair, buys all his game, including venison and partridge, exclusively from a small family-run estate in Northamptonshire. While the dishes remain quite traditional, like roast lamb shanks, poached sea bass and treacle tart, the concern for provenance, freshness and seasonality equal a level of quality not previously associated with British food.

In the world of **decor, design, fashion** and **architecture** stalwarts such as Sir Terence Conran, Tom Dixon and David Collins are continuing to reinvent their brands with remarkable vitality. Likewise, relative newcomers like Platform 5 Architects, Lisa Whatmough, Juliana Sissons and Beatrix Ong are rapidly emerging as sought-after talents and sealing the country's trendsetter reputation.

* Held annually, the BMW EuroStyle Tour enables South African media to experience the latest trends in design, decor, food, fashion and art developing in the country visited. As an Olympics strategic partner, London was a logical destination choice for the 2010 tour. In addition, BMW Group's MINI and Rolls-Royce brands are both quintessentially British.



Electric MINI

The future rides on the MINI E – a zero emissions electric car. Part of 'the world's biggest electric vehicle field trial', it's the first car to come out of the BMW Group's Project i – 'a programme designed to develop new transport strategies and vehicles for sustainable mobility.' The trial models currently have no back seat (it's all battery) are incomparably silent and yet still have that MINI pep. mini.co.uk



Platform 5 Architects

Patrick Mitchell and Peter Allen are the talented duo behind award-winning Platform 5 Architects. Residential projects like Mapledene Road (right) – a Victorian terrace house given a major overhaul and an expansive glass extension – epitomise their philosophy of a design process 'informed by both traditional craft-based techniques and the possibilities offered by modern materials and fabrication methods'. Meadowview (above), an eco-house in Bedfordshire, is an example of their green focus. platform5architects.com



The Goodwood Revival

For three days each September celebrities and normal people don a swing skirt, a wide-brimmed fedora or whatever outfit they can find from the 1940s, '50s and '60s, and head to the Goodwood Motor Circuit in Chichester for the Goodwood Revival. The racing event sees a line-up of cars and motorcycles from 1948 to 1966, the heyday of the circuit, many driven by famous motorsport personalities. Period costume is expected; and there are classic car displays, historic-aircraft manoeuvres, lots of champagne and plenty of fun. goodwood.co.uk

David Collins

The man behind SA's own show-stopping Delaire Graff Estate complex in Stellenbosch, (below left), acclaimed Irish interior designer David Collins (above right) is responsible for creating many of the world's famous bars and restaurants. Visit The Blue Bar at The Berkley hotel (above left) in Knightsbridge to see his creative genius first-hand. davidcollins.com

