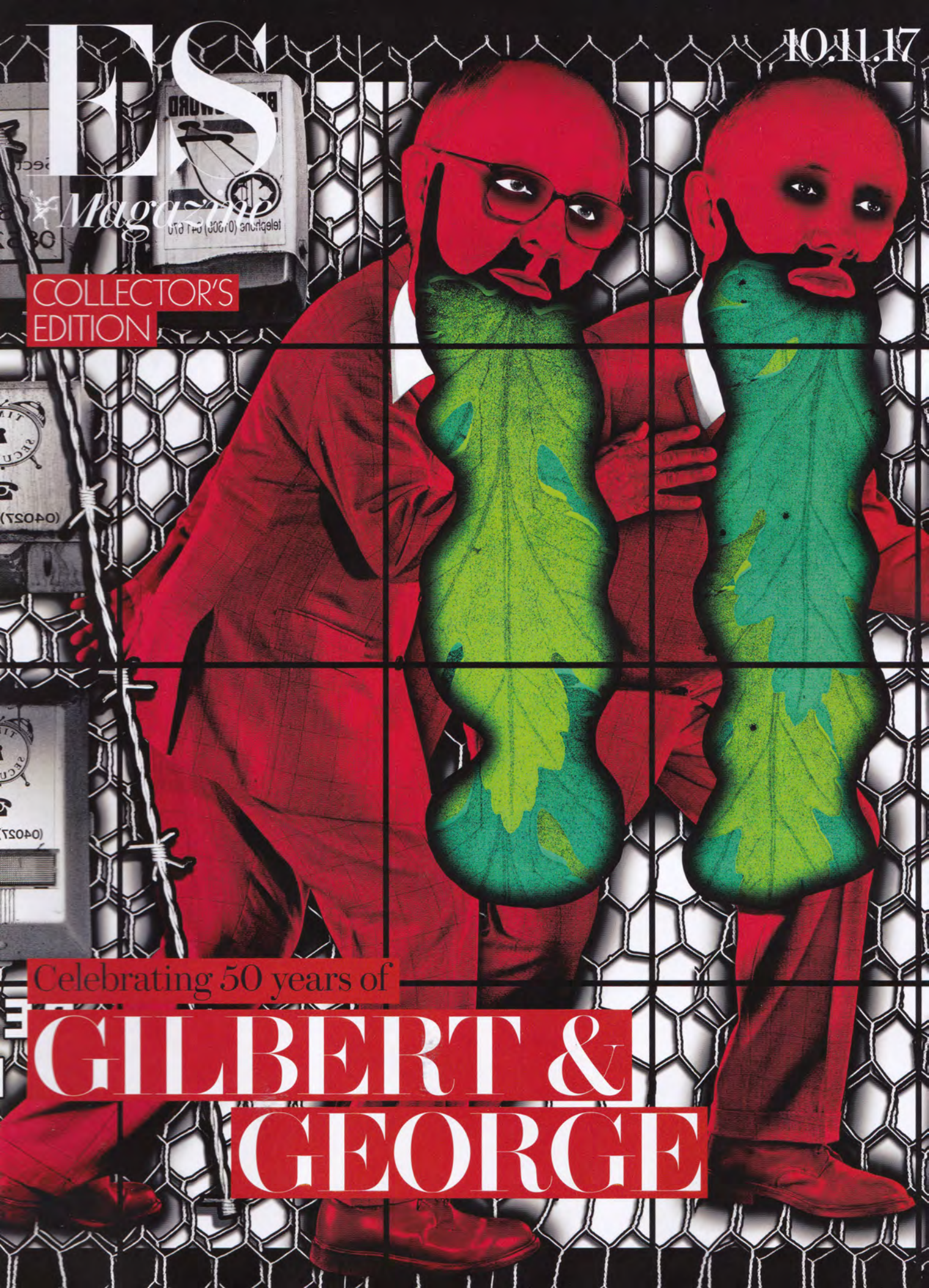


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Magazine

COLLECTOR'S
EDITION



Celebrating 50 years of

**GILBERT &
GEORGE**

HOMework

Wallpaper* editor-in-chief *Tony Chambers* on the West End's burgeoning design district, high-spec specs and the 2,000-year-old temple reopening in the City



Mayfair CLUB

London has no better place for collectible contemporary design than Mayfair. There's the all-singing, all-dancing PAD art fair, which brings design icons and tomorrow's masterpieces to Berkeley Square every October, and regular design sales at the likes of Sotheby's, Phillips and Bonhams. Gallery-wise, European imports such as Carpenters Workshop, Kreo, Patrick Seguin and Achille Salvagni complement British stalwart David Gill (nearby in St James's) and new arrival Gallery Fumi (previously in Hoxton). Other local businesses have been eager to take on design-led collaborations – recent examples include sculpture dealer Daniel Katz showing Thomas Heatherwick's extendable 'Friction Table' on Hill Street, Paul Smith putting on a display of Finn Juhl furniture upholstered in new fabrics at his Albemarle Street store, and art gallery Ordovas pairing Lichtensteins and Warhols with a limited edition of Gufram's Cactus.

With so much to shout about, it's only appropriate that design-led establishments would band together to form the Mayfair Design District. This came into being with September's London Design Festival, which saw Mayfair join the likes of Clerkenwell, Shoreditch and Chelsea as a designated hub of activity. The alliance has been growing strong since: an official website offers up a comprehensive list of events, while a diligently maintained Instagram feed showcases at least one thing of interest per day.

"We want to break down barriers between affordable design and limited-edition works"

Beyond drawing footfall into Mayfair, the Design District has a more noble goal. As its initiator, James Malcolm Green, explains: 'We want to break down any perceived barriers between affordable design and limited-edition works, which often, when placed in a gallery environment, can seem daunting.' Thus the inclusion of furniture dealers Christian Liaigre and Holly Hunt, concept store The New Craftsmen, bookshop Maison Assouline and Italian brand Alessi, a key player in democratised design. By mixing price points, Green hopes to raise awareness and appreciation of collectible design beyond aficionados to the wider general public.

Mayfair Design District looks set to flourish in the coming months with no shortage of exciting shows, including a solo presentation by French designer Olivier Gagnère at Kreo; vases and vessels curated by Gianluca Longo at David Gill; and a winter group show at Fumi that includes Max Lamb, Glithero and Sam Orlando Miller. And the imminent addition of Dutch gallery Priveekollektie and local newcomer 18 Davies Street will add to Mayfair's appeal and help transform it into an international design destination. (mayfairdesigndistrict.com; [@mayfairdesigndistrict](https://www.instagram.com/mayfairdesigndistrict))



THE PRODUCT

While ready-to-wear spectacles are rising in quality, there is still no rival to a made-to-measure pair and in the UK, it's hard to beat the work of Tom Davies. In the 15 years since founding his eponymous eyewear label, Davies has perfected every element of the bespoke experience, from in-store consultation and hi-tech eye testing to hand-production of the frames, each requiring from 16 to 22 hours to make. In a vote of confidence for British craftsmanship, he has also begun to move his production from China to London. (tdtomdavies.com)

Broad spectrum: John Pawson



THE PERSON

John Pawson is not only a creator of sublime spaces such as the Design Museum, but also a skilled shutterbug. His upcoming book, *Spectrum*, offers up a journey through his photographic archive, revealing the moments and details that inspire his architectural output. He's also bringing his minimalist aesthetic to this year's Fashion Awards, working with Swarovski on a series of crystal trophies (left) with lacquer cores in varying colours, to be handed out at Royal Albert Hall on 4 December. (johnpawson.com)

THE TECH

Having established its reputation with the ultra high-end Phantom speaker, French audio outfit Devialet has now set its sights on a larger market, collaborating with Sky on a new Soundbox. The unassuming, all-in-one device features six woofers and three full-range speakers, producing a surround sound effect. The inbuilt volume control system can adjust audio levels to accommodate both quiet dialogue and explosive action, while Bluetooth connectivity means it can be paired with a range of electronics. (sky.com/skysoundbox)



THE BUILDING

Opening on 14 November, this cultural destination beneath Bloomberg's newly unveiled European HQ houses the reconstructed remains of the Roman Temple of Mithras, discovered there in 1954. Complementing the archaeological finds, artist Matthew Schreiber has created an installation of haze and light to evoke the atmosphere of the original temple, while the ground-level space will feature a rotating display of contemporary art amid the ruins, beginning with a painted steel sculpture (left) and a 19m tapestry based on the ancient Walbrook River, both by Dublin-based artist Isabel Nolan. (londonmithraeum.com)