



Best of British

Interior designer and **beyond** columnist **Dipika Makwana** explores the talent available here in the UK.

David Harber earned his international reputation for creating innovative, contemporary designs by paying homage to the past, and taking the marking of time as his inspiration. It is with this passion and love of timeless features that he has created epic sculptures and works of art that will be enjoyed by many generations to follow.

“I try to create sculpture with an intense dynamic presence, and an appeal both visual and sensual” – David Harber

Harber’s ‘The Portal’ sculpture is both dramatic in structure and spectacular in motion, as it absorbs the changing light and creates a reflective story for all seasons. This interesting piece of garden art creates an ‘out of this world’ experience where the viewer can almost imagine entering a different environment. The Portal is one of the Heaven and Earth series of metal sculptures in Barber’s amazing collection. That and all other forms of his work can be viewed at www.davidharber.co.uk

Following on from sculpture figures, ceramicist Lucy Smith has grown up with the concept of the garden being a blank canvas, with her father being a garden designer. The artist has regularly been praised by the Chelsea flower show and appeared on the television series Garden Paradise. She is aware of how wonderful and fantastical the garden can become. Her work embodies a living story, featuring frogs and lizards to create a beautiful world to evoke your senses and energise your environment, a playful collaboration of design and beauty at its best.

Vincent Sheppard has created their own designs using the ‘Lloyd Loom weave’, featuring a contemporary collection with classic lines and elegance that epitomises the British look and feel. Alfresco living, weather permitting, is how we like to spend our summer evenings and with modern house design complimenting our love for entertaining, this is a perfect scene (shown opposite) to aspire to and welcome within our outside interiors and indeed our homes.

The love of nature and simplicity of form is what inspires first class honours artist Audrey Hayes. I first met the artist at the Manchester Contemporary Craft Fair last year, where I was impressed by the beauty of her designs. Each piece of furniture has a wonderful texture that is tactile and unique



THE PORTAL : Metal garden sculpture, made from an amalgam of metals, interwoven to create organic patterns found in nature. Price on request
www.davidharbersundials.co.uk



SCORCHED CHERRY & OAK BENCH : Furniture and sculpture, made predominantly from discarded wood, finished with a signature scorching technique. Price: £800
www.audreyhayes.co.uk



GIGI CHAIR :Classic woven chair. Lightweight and available in a range of colours & styles.
 Price: £473.00
www.vincentshppard.com

in structure. Crafted from discarded wood, the artist then lovingly carves the material into many different forms of furniture, sculpture and conceptual art. This passion and dedication enables such strong defined pieces to exist, and I am very glad they do!

To incorporate and put together these wonderful pieces of design you will need to hire the 'best of the best', and in the North, Earthworks1 Garden Design (www.earthworksnorth.co.uk) provide you with an all-round service that helps your visions come to life. Having worked on many different gardens including the famous Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens in Harrogate, garden designer Cheri LaMay ensures the highest quality in work and materials, together with a team of experts by her side. You will be living the dream in no time at all.

For information on the above, or to find out more about Dipika Makwana interior design services, please go to www.elysianlifestyle.com or call 0113 2176972



LIZARD BALL FOUNTAIN : Handcrafted pieces in stoneware clay, fired to ensure they can remain outdoors all year around. Price on request.
www.lucysmith.org.uk