



# checks appeal

Tartan has dominated the runway this season, showcased on dressed-to-kilt models 'checked out' in serious stripes. Now this regal British print is making the leap from the catwalk onto our walls – with a decidedly modern twist. Vivienne Westwood, celebrated for her triumphant interpretation of tartan in the fashion arena (pictured, inset, bottom), has jumped onto the interiors bandwagon, designing a range of avant-garde wallpapers for Cole & Son that includes the flamboyant Trompe l'oeil Drape (above). Even kooky Dutch designer Marcel Wanders is mad about plaid. We're smitten with his use of large-scale Celtic motifs that pop against oversized bold checks in muted colours, like the Audrey wallpaper (inset, top). Highland fling indeed! **Main:** Vivienne Westwood 'Trompe l'oeil Drape' wallpaper for Cole & Son, from \$895/270cm x 270cm panel, Radford Furnishings, (03) 9818 7799, [www.radfordfurnishings.com](http://www.radfordfurnishings.com). **Inset, top:** Graham & Brown 'Isabella' wallpaper by Marcel Wanders in Charcoal (left wall), 'Audrey' wallpaper in Charcoal (right wall), both \$149/10m roll, Wall Candy Wallpaper, (08) 9336 4455, [www.grahambrown.com.au](http://www.grahambrown.com.au).

## BREAKING NEWS: THE RETURN OF POLAROID

Camera lovers, rejoice! After fading into extinction over the past year, cult camera company Polaroid has announced the relaunch of the legendary One Step Camera and instant film, in cooperation with The Impossible Project, a Dutch company that has championed the revival for the last year. In this decidedly digital world, there's something comforting about instantly capturing a moment in time and seeing it develop before your very eyes. Visit [www.the-impossible-project.com](http://www.the-impossible-project.com) for more details about the relaunch, scheduled for mid-2010, and check out [www.mylastpolaroid.com](http://www.mylastpolaroid.com) for inspiration.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HELLO KITTY!

What do you get the girl who has everything? If you're global icon of cuteness Hello Kitty and you're turning 35 (we'd pay good money for her beauty secrets), you get a flash celebration, of course! An exhibition event, 'Three Apples', was held last month in California, featuring portraits of the famous feline by 80 of the world's top contemporary artists. Jason Mecier's installation piece (above), made entirely of Hello Kitty items, gives this kitty serious muse status.



## cool change

Who knew a fan could be sexy? Sir James Dyson, father of the bagless vacuum cleaner and super-speedy hand dryer, has us in raptures once more with his latest design: the bladeless fan. Dyson's reinvention solves all the pesky problems of the humble fan, creating a streamlined and safe design with an energy-efficient motor set upon a pedestal that allows you to tilt the fan. Dimmer-switch control means you can fine-tune the temperature to your heart's content, while the design, with no blades to trap dirt, means less dusting. Bets on for the appliance Dyson will turn his attention to next – we're crossing our fingers for a cyclonic rangehood! Dyson Air Multiplier, \$379/25cm, \$399/30cm. For more details, call 1800 239 766 or visit [www.dyson.com.au](http://www.dyson.com.au).

# buy me a pony

Homewares label Pony Rider exudes a soft dreaminess that makes us ache for sunny afternoons, wildflowers and buttery scones. What started as a weekend project between Sydney friends Jacqui Lewis and Kelly Searl has blossomed into a creative collaboration that celebrates their dedication to organic aesthetics and local production methods. Delve into their debut collection to discover hand screen-printed cushions and 'teakins' (a cross between a napkin and a tea towel) featuring ribbons fluttering in the breeze and evocative illustrations of hummingbirds. For more information, call (02) 8911 3018 or visit [www.ponyrider.com.au](http://www.ponyrider.com.au).

Top: Pony Rider's divinely printed **teakin** (napkin/tea towels) designs include 'Antler', \$33, and 'Flowerbomb', \$39. Right: 'Numbers' **cushion cover**, \$69, 'Ribbons' **cushion cover**, \$59, all Pony Rider, [www.ponyrider.com.au](http://www.ponyrider.com.au).

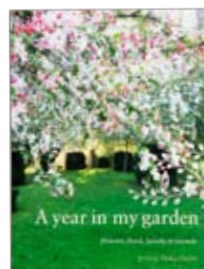


## HB bookclub

**A Year in My Garden: Flowers, Food, Family and Friends** by Jenny Ferguson (\$59.95, Hardie Grant Books)

Slip through the garden gate into Whitley, the private paradise of gardener and cook Jenny Ferguson. Nestled amid the woodlands of the NSW Southern Highlands, Whitley is an utterly enchanting world where peacocks roam, silver birches flourish and garden

pathways lead to gothic fountains. This beautifully photographed book takes the reader on a glorious tour through the seasons, accompanied by heartwarming recipes and Jenny's musings on the passage of time.



**The Crafty Minx** (\$39.95, Murdoch Books)

Blogger, sewer extraordinaire and all-round crafty lady Kelly Doust has been making handmade treasures out of vintage fabrics and recycled wares since she was a girl. Now this bowerbird has compiled all her favourites projects in a bright, easy-to-follow scrapbook that encourages even the most creatively challenged to pick up a needle and thread. Visit [www.thecraftyminx.com.au](http://www.thecraftyminx.com.au) for more of Kelly's style finds.



## STYLE BAROMETER: BACK TO BASICS

Comfy design, an emphasis on the handmade, a hint of country in the air ... could 'rustic' style really be the cutting edge of design right now? Absolutely, reports trend expert and designer Barbara Marshall, who spied the rise of home-style homewares at the recent London Design Festival. Taking a cue from the global economy and the social shift towards valuing authenticity over the ostentatious, designers are heading back to basics for inspiration. "There's a genuine feel that the time of the iconic \$50,000 piece is over; it was designed for museums, not for people. Comfort, longevity and credibility are coming through in everything, from textiles to furniture," says Barbara.

1. Autoban's 'Nest' armchair for De La Espada is bringing cosy back. The Turkish designers say the shell-like structure "keeps you close to your earliest memories". Check out [www.delaespada.com](http://www.delaespada.com).
2. Christien Meindertsma, a Netherlands-based designer, uses oversized knitting to produce floorcoverings and colourful poufs. Find out more at [www.christienmeindertsma.com](http://www.christienmeindertsma.com).
3. The designers at Squint have morphed the craft tradition of patchwork onto high-end furniture, producing a humorous slant on iconic British furniture pieces. Visit [www.squintlimited.com](http://www.squintlimited.com).

