

## People

This month's in-depth interview is with Lee Broom, one of the UK's best known lighting designers

## Pulse

The latest industry news, including a new lighting design service and the re-birth of an historic textile brand

## Products

Handcrafted objects are increasingly popular. But how has the pandemic affected this sector

## Projects

Step inside a modern architectural project sited behind and inside a traditional Victorian property

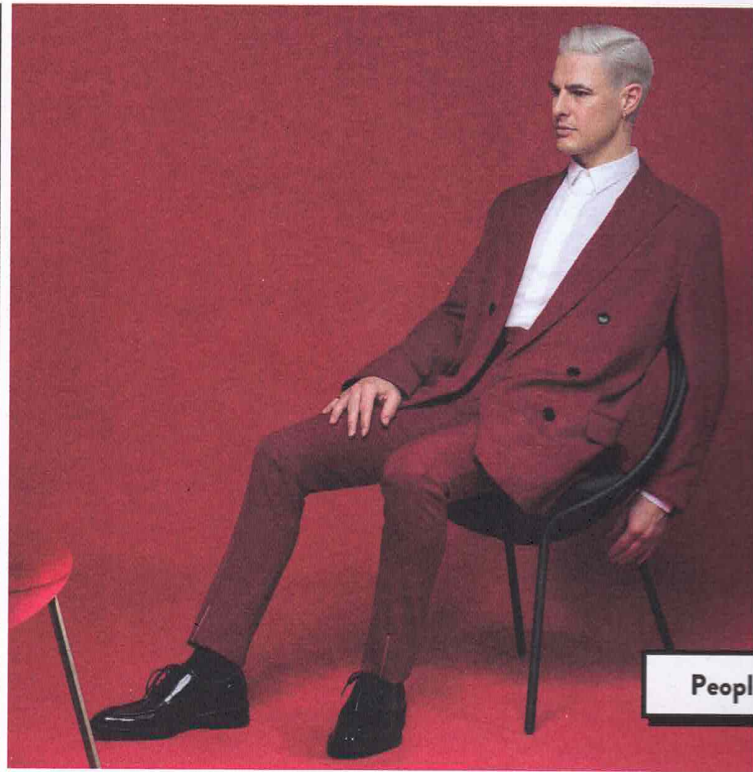
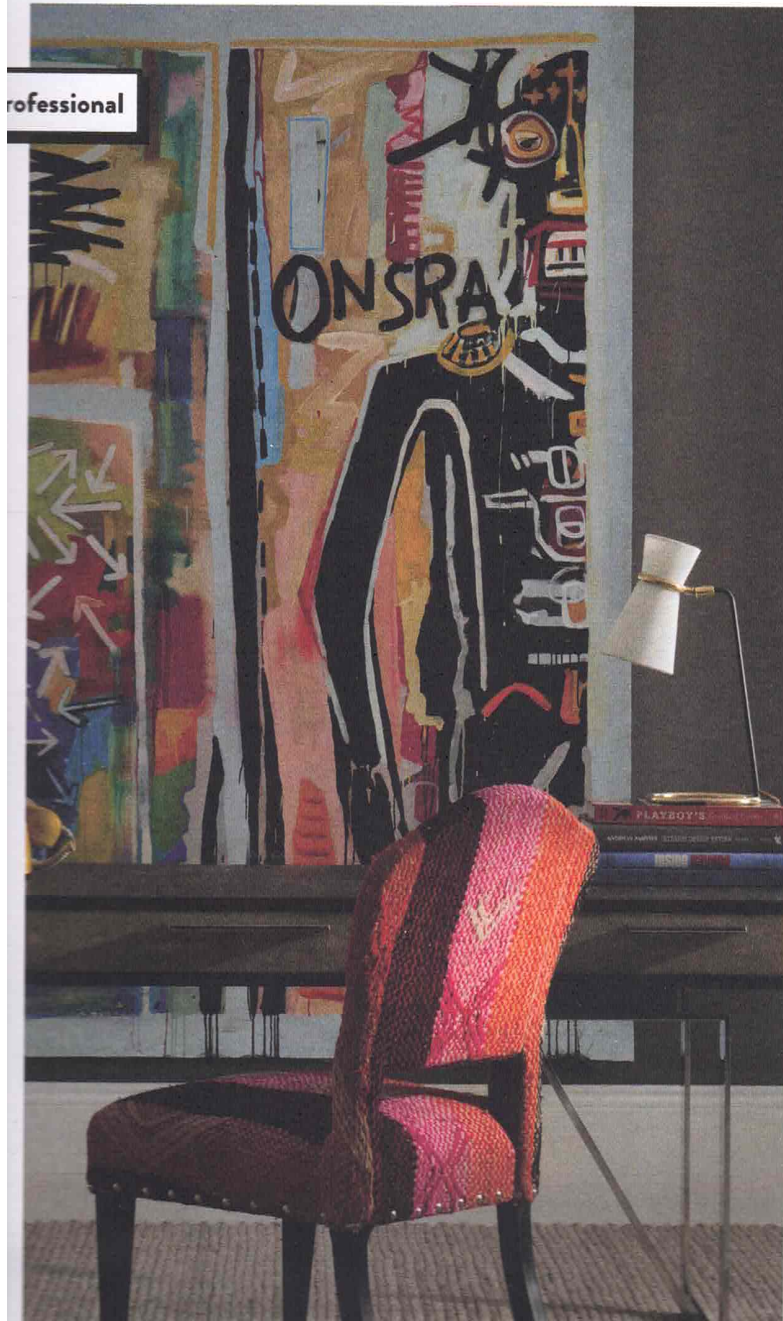
## Professional

Join Kay Hill as she considers what the long term effects of Covid19 will be on interiors?

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## Industry Insight: Creating bespoke antiques

Max Rollitt is an antique dealer, interior designer and furniture maker. His experience of furniture restoring has made him fanatical about craftsmanship, and his deep understanding of traditional methods continues to inform his growing bespoke collection.

**IT IS SAID** that interior designers can dream up the best furniture. It's nothing new as some of the greats have been making pieces for decades. When I can't find what we need, I'll use an antique as a basis of a new design, but adapted and scaled so its proportions are right for today.

The Max Rollitt Bespoke collection began when I decided to reproduce a small number of the most special and unrepeatable pieces that passed through my hands as an antique dealer, in order to perpetuate their design. Made here in the UK, using sustainable materials and skilled craftsmanship, each piece is made to order to a level of quality that will withstand the test of time. You want to know that the piece will not only look great but will be built to last for generations - and the only way to do that is to use traditional construction methods.

Our Bespoke collection has proved very popular with interior designers, who love the pieces because of their versatility. The Sycamore dining table, for example, can be made with either a raw sycamore or a polished oak top, and the legs can be painted any colour according to your own needs and requirements. It has made its way into many a design scheme all over the world.

My 'decorating arsenal' - a store of antique and bespoke furnishings - can be tried and tested in my Hampshire showroom. The bespoke pieces can also be made to fit, and we work with some of the country's finest craftspeople, including joiners and cabinet makers. Having links with experts in paint effects, upholstery and curtain making is an invaluable resource. Libraries, kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and lighting - all can be made to measure, linen can be dyed to order, potters and artists can be commissioned.

I really get a sense of achievement when other designers with styles different to my own use pieces from my collection - it proves to me that antiques and the bespoke furniture I design truly embody a timeless style and beauty that can be used in any scheme.

Naturally, my style as an interior designer comes from my career as an antique dealer. I love to mix contemporary with antique furniture to create a joyful fusion of new and old, and an interior that is comfortable as well as elegant.

In our Oxfordshire project, we used this mix of old and new to bring new life to a 17th-century farmhouse. The orangery was a recent addition and contemporary in design. We used items from our bespoke range such as the Uppark sofa and Bamboo stool. [maxrollitt.com](http://maxrollitt.com)

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## Changing Streams

Interior fit out and construction specialist Neal Maxwell has worked in the industry for more than 30 years. Now, he is on a mission to eradicate plastics in the built environment.

**IN 2018**, I went on the trip of a lifetime to the arctic to experience some of the most spectacular landscape known to man and - if I was lucky - maybe catch sight of a polar bear or seal in their natural habitat.

But what I learned on that life-changing voyage was how man-made pollution is destroying that environment at a rapid pace.

On returning, I approached the University of Liverpool intending to take a degree in marine biology. My aim was to learn more about the environment and what can be done to save our marine life and, ultimately, ourselves.

In the course of these discussions, I learned that the construction sector was the second biggest user of plastic after the packaging industry. Research already suggests significant impacts, not only on the environment, but on social and health as well as economic costs. Looking at plastic products, the reality is that only 9% are recycled.

Determined to address this challenge, Changing Streams CIC was born as a partnership between the University of Liverpool and industry, aiming to eradicate the use of plastic - starting with the construction industry.

Together with leading researchers from the University of Liverpool and architect Dr Gareth Abrahams from its School of Environmental Science, it's aim is to identify sustainable alternatives to plastic and encourage their use by architects, designers, developers and contractors, to stop plastic becoming the asbestos of the 21st century.

Forward-thinking, sustainable design, construction and materials manufacturers are being invited to sign up to the Changing Streams Charter, commit to implementing its values, and work towards creating a plastic-free future.

Additionally, through extensive research and dedicated PhD programs, the team will work with the university and key industry partners to develop an interactive knowledge platform to enable architects, designers, and professionals involved in commissioning buildings to understand and identify the extent of plastics as a component in buildings.

It will also lead on material innovation, working with manufacturers to reduce or eradicate plastic from their products and champion the reduction of plastic packaging and waste throughout the sector.

To achieve these aims, Changing Streams is building a global network/community bringing together professionals, industry and governments to drive the changes and legislation necessary to solve this crisis.

Through its membership scheme, it is offering companies the opportunity to become a Changing Streams partner which has its benefits, including R & D Tax credits, expert workshops and webinars, market intelligence and sharing of best practice. The funds raised from membership will support the ongoing research and development of new sustainable material alternatives.

Crucially, Changing Streams has developed a series of interactive online workshops to raise awareness of the environmental, social, health and economic impacts of current and future dependence on plastic within construction. The key aim? To inspire and instigate change. [changingstreams.org](http://changingstreams.org)

