

GREAT EASTERN

The pared-back aesthetic of the East is a big influence for Heal's this spring/summer. Key pieces include this Oki-Nami oak dining set by Case, which references traditional Japanese furniture-making techniques. Dining table, £795; chairs, £250 each; Nomadic rug, £375; tableware, from £8 (heals.co.uk)



Cloth ears

Why have plastic when you can have fine Italian wool from Florence? This wireless speaker is upholstered to help it blend in with chic interiors (it comes in grey, black and beige, too). And it packs serious audio punch, with 360° sound and AirPlay connectivity. £699 (libratone.com)

HEAD OVER HEELS

This upholstered Daytona bed was designed by Stockholm-based architects/designers Claesson Koivisto Rune for Italian brand Cnova. The softly cocooning headboard forms part of the structure of the bed, making it feel minimal and elegant. From £2,640 (chaplins.co.uk)



Northern Design Awards



North stars

The restoration of Blencow Hall, a once-derelict medieval house in Cumbria (left) by Donald Insall Associates, won the Best Property award at this year's Northern Design Awards. We love how the lean in the tower has been retained due to an internal steel structure. (northern.designawards.com)



Creative Eye LUCY EVANS

The co-founder of Vintage Seekers on how to hunt out a classic

- To me, vintage means classic design with enduring appeal. It's what falls between antique and contemporary. A vintage piece is original, authentic and between 25 and 100 years old.
- I get upset by the misuse of the word, and that was one of the motivations for setting up [online store] Vintage Seekers. It's a quality-controlled environment that clearly defines what vintage means rather than using it to make something sound cooler or more desirable.
- I am driven by the excitement of 'the find'. That feeling really only exists when I'm hunting for vintage.
- When buying vintage, the devil is in the detail. Look out for ambiguous wording in descriptions. A reputable seller will be happy to answer your questions in detail and offer a refund if you get the piece home and decide it doesn't work.
- The lesser-known contemporaries of Eames, Jacobsen and Aalto are my tips for the future. Look out for Peter Hvidt, Grete Jalk and Orla Mølgaard-Nielsen. In photography, there's a peer of David Bailey called Ronald Falloon who shot Twiggy, Jean Shrimpton, The Rolling Stones – pretty much all the faces of the Sixties. His photographs are all limited editions and likely to increase in value.
- Demand is increasing for Seventies and Eighties postmodern design. Now that mid-century has been in the spotlight for so long, people are starting to look further along the timeline. Fifties Eames DSW chairs, £2,950 for four (vintageseekers.com)

