



### NELSON'S COLUMN

Restaurant facelifts don't just happen: they need careful planning and a hefty dose of inspiration. The owners of The Ledbury (pictured, above) in Notting Hill called on Battersea-based interior designer Clare Nelson when they decided a facelift was necessary; the result is wildly trendy and just a little bit special. Closer to home, Clare worked her magic on Wandsworth eatery, Chez Bruce.

But despite her high standing among restaurateurs and the trade, Clare is careful to maintain that rare thing: an interior design business which welcomes rather than intimidates their customers. True to her maxim that she will help you with anything – from a pair of curtains to a complete refurbishment – Clare and her young team are happy to talk you through countless swatches until you find exactly what you're looking for.

'When I started here, in the early Nineties, the area was much more run down,' explains Clare. 'But I'm terribly pleased that I chose it. It's changed so much over the years and more and more people have decided to live south of the river.'

Close to a number of high-quality interiors-related shops, Nelson Design is also temptingly close to a number of food shops used by Clare and her staff. 'We all use Fish Club and, of course, Chez Bruce is my favourite restaurant in London,' enthuses the designer. A quick poll taken in the office reveals other favourites – Fresh and Wild for the ready supply of organic food, Hamish Johnson on Northcote Road for delicious cheese, and the ever-popular Dove's the butchers. Added to this is the area's popularity with and tolerance of young mothers with babies and buggies – a perfect catchment area for Clare's up-tempo youthful take on stylish design.

Nelson Design, 169 St John's Hill, SW11; 020 7924 4542

### TOP TABLE

A good-looking alternative to traditional hall tables, and one that won't take up too much space, is this handsome wrought-iron console table, made by Tyson from a nineteenth-century French iron balcony (one of a number in stock). It measures 98 x 140 x 33cm and costs £1,586. Tyson, Havelock Terrace, SW8; 020 7720 9331



shop by British craftsmen. Designs are based on antique lanterns and can be customized to provide the ultimate combination of chic and gorgeous lighting for your home. Each piece is a unique work of art. For example, this exquisite 'Rotherfield' lantern, measuring 16 inches circumference and 28 inches high, is suitable for indoor or outdoor use, has a patinated bronze and verdigris finish, and costs £5,900 to order.

A selection of designs is on show at Joanna Wood's Pimlico shop, 48a Pimlico Road, SW1; 020 7730 5064.

Phillips & Wood is based at 4 Wilson Walk, W4; 020 8222 8117

# INTERIORS

From wrought-iron to faux flowers, Gráinne Dennison rounds up the best local design finds

### ONE THING TO CROSS THE RIVER FOR...

Is Phillips & Wood's new range of beautiful and stylish lighting. A fun collaboration between Joanna Wood, one of the country's leading interior designers, and decorative antiques dealer John Phillips, this top quality lighting is produced in a London work-

### FLOWER POWER

If you are looking for the best in pretty house presents to beat those winter blues away, try Sia in Wimbledon village. You can choose from a huge selection of faux flowers, as well as vases, bowls, textiles and even furniture.

Sia is based at 85 High Street, Wimbledon Village, SW19; 020 8947 9339



### PRETTY IN PINK

If you're thinking of a spring re-fit, try this exotic fabric, 'Iris,' the latest by Aleta Design. Launched at Decorex, it is 100 per cent cotton and costs £49 per metre. Next month, it will also be available in linen and wallpaper. Aleta is based in Battersea Business Centre, 99/109 Lavender Hill SW11; 020 7228 9676

