



all over the shop

## THE CULT SHOP

# eliská

Sleek furniture mixes with contemporary prints, vintage objets and quirky gifts in this one-stop interiors shop.

Grasping the big, silvery Buddha's hand on Eliská's black door is the first indication that a warm welcome awaits. Step inside to where a real fire crackles and a friendly assistant offers coffee and cake. It's a personal touch that interior designer Eliská Sapera feels her clients deserve. "Interiors are such a personal thing that it's important to take a very hands-on approach," she says.

Sapera has run her boutique interior design practice for 10 years. Originally from New Zealand, she grew up in South Africa, lived in Paris, then took a holiday in London in 1976 – and stayed. In 2008 she combined her new office with a shop "to show people what I can do". It's a fine window on her work. Bespoke furniture – such as a croc-print, patent leather cabinet (from £7,500), adaptable as a wardrobe or hi-fi unit, and a compact sofa upholstered in distressed shagreen leather (pictured above, from £3,000) – is dressed with own-brand throws (a selection pictured above: double-sided cashmere, £400; machine-washable angora/merino mix, £150 and £350; woollen hound's-tooth, £100) and her lusciously coloured suede cushions (from £25). Eliská bed linen, meanwhile, launches this spring.

Sapera also offers a complete design service, from single-room to entire property renovations, and will source goods for clients. "I go out hunting, come back with ideas, track down site-specific pieces and even bid at auction," she says, for a client profile that includes young bankers and

international high-flyers. And here the shop doubles as a mini room set. "My style is eclectic – I do a lot of mixing – and even in a small space you can show how things work together," says Sapera. So she displays a 17th-century oil portrait above the aforementioned shagreen sofa; while bold, monochrome flower prints by Japanese photographer Hiroyuki Arakawa (from £1,500) create a contemporary context around an Edwardian sofa reupholstered in metallic grey leather (£4,000).

Her own designs are mixed with carefully edited pieces such as Aiveen Daly's Spank Stiletto dining chairs with ribbon lace-up backs (from £750-£1,050) and Eichholtz lamps with silvered ginger-jar bases (pictured above, £205 with silk shade). Vintage finds include a Venini 1940s Murano glass pendant lamp (£950) and mirrors, both antique and contemporary (from £1,200). Quirky silverware is a further draw, such as a 1900 travelling condiment set (pictured below left, £225), a 1920s silver-plated tray (£350) with 18 goblets (£350) and a 1930s cocktail shaker engraved with drinks recipes (£380).

Balinese celadon tableware (dinner plates, £80 for four) and stemware (flutes, £60 per pair) are also popular, as are smaller gift items such as organic cosmetics (from £5.95) and scented candles (pictured left, £35). "We're getting requests for 'alternative' wedding gifts," says Sapera, who intends to add further homewares, making this truly a one-stop shop for all things interior. **NICOLE SWENGLEY**  
Eliská, 16a New Quebec St, London W1 (020-7723 5521; [www.eliskadesign.com](http://www.eliskadesign.com)).



## FOR GOODNESS' SAKE

### seeing the light

Marcel Jean Vos, founder and owner of Chelsea Harbour-based lighting company VOSLED, is taking his latest development to south-east Africa. The light-emitting diode board – which boasts a lifespan of 100,000 hours and can run on electric, solar or battery power – is, he believes, the future of low-energy, low-cost lighting in Africa's poorest regions. Teaming up with Our Forgotten Children, a non-profit working across Kenya, Malawi and Zambia, VOSLED will loan experts to teach locals how to use the technology. "Even 'waste' materials, such as plastic containers, can be fitted with the diode boards to make household lamps," says Vos. "We also aim to help create jobs by developing a cottage industry of LED lamp production for export, and hope to supply the resulting products." The company is donating six per cent of all its profits to Our Forgotten Children, an effort it hopes will generate £180,000 over the course of this year. VOSLED, 2/27 Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour, Lots Road, London SW10 (020-3155 3066; [www.vosled.com](http://www.vosled.com)).

### heart of glass

“My prose etchings on the glasses were inspired by the [Anglo-Saxon] Staffordshire Hoard. I wanted to celebrate the craftsmanship of these ancient treasures, and the fact that they were saved for the nation, by a £3.3m fundraising drive led by The Art Fund in 2010. I'm passionate about democratising access to the arts.”

Novelist, mythographer and cultural historian Marina Warner.

£50 for two tumblers etched by Marina Warner. All proceeds benefit The Art Fund ([www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org)).



### a room of one's own

New York-based interior designer James Huniford, founding chair of Design on a Dime, has enlisted the talents of over 50 fellow designers (including Katie Lydon, Laura Bohn and Miles Redd, creative director of Oscar de la Renta Home) for a fundraiser for Housing Works – a US-based non-profit that, since 1990, has provided free housing, job training and legal advice for over 20,000 homeless and low-income New Yorkers living with HIV/Aids. Each designer will fit out a room with homewares and furniture donated by over 100 designers, artists and brands. Following a VIP reception (and the chance to buy), all products will be available to purchase at a public sale. All the proceeds – which last year totalled \$700,000 – will benefit Housing Works' new 874 Jefferson Avenue Project: a three-year project to transform an abandoned building in Brooklyn into 12 sustainably built housing units. VIP reception, May 5, New York (tickets \$150). Public sale May 6-7 (free). See [www.housingworks.org/dime](http://www.housingworks.org/dime).

SIBÉAL POUNDER AND LINDSAY MACPHERSON