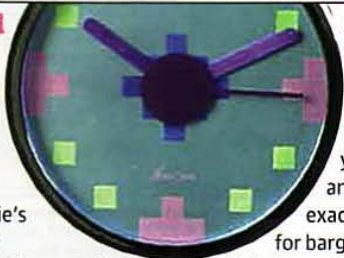


DESIGN DISPATCHES

Caroline Roux

Time for bid

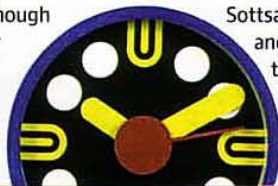
Twentieth-century design is gaining ground in the auction houses, to the extent that Christie's in London's South Kensington is devoting a week to it at the end of this month. Prints go under the hammer on the 27th, from predictable popsters such as Peter Blake and Joe Tilson to contemporary



artists including Takashi Murakami. On September 29, it's fashion. And in the middle, on the 28th, you can snap up products and furniture. This isn't exactly the place to hunt

for bargains, although a fabulous pair of Peter Hall curtains (a huge red block print) is estimated at £200 to £300. And if you're

brave enough to buy into the 1980s, a decade whose design star is finally rising, you could be making a reasonable investment. Besides, who can deny the charm of this set of clocks designed by George Sowden – a rare British postmodernist who worked with the Italian greats such as Ettore Sottsass in the 1980s – in 1982 and estimated at £1,200 to £1,500? For further information, call 020-7752 3120, or visit christies.com.



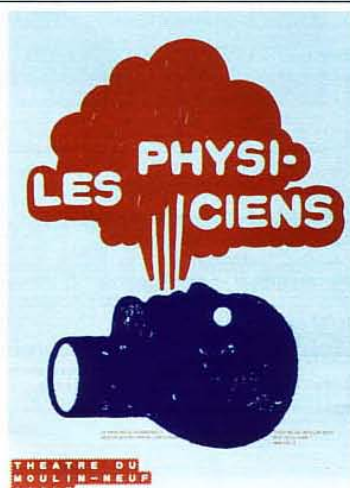
Westward So

The London suburb of Chiswick has never had any trouble attracting good design. Gentleman architect Lord Burlington built his splendid Palladian villa, Chiswick House, there in 1729. CFA Voysey designed the proto-Modernist Sanderson Factory in 1902. And now it gets its very own outpost of members' club Soho House. High Road House, as the Chiswick variant is called, has been designed by Ilse Crawford with two members' floors, but a street-level classic brasserie and hotel rooms (seagrass matting, white louvre blinds, sort of Chiswick-sur-mer) open to ordinaries like you and I. Meanwhile, just down the road, Hotel Moran (left) has sprung into action with a neat interior design – lots of green, which is still looking like this year's colour – by Project Orange, fast becoming the UK's most consistent and busy boutique hotel specialists. It's all so near to Heathrow, and yet so far... High Road House, 020-8742 1717. Rooms from £160. Hotel Moran, 020-8996 5200. Rooms from £145 (£99 weekends).

Delivered by hand

There was a time when digital design created the most cutting-edge work in the graphics world, as practitioners such as American David Carson let rip with their newly primed programmes. Now, as a sleek banality so often prevails at the screen face, a group of designers have taken recourse to the handmade to up the edge of their work. The Museum of Design in Zurich has gathered a stunning selection of

posters, which go on show in Glasgow from September 8 to November 21 (thelighthouse.co.uk). Letterpress printing, pen and ink drawing and other 19th-century skills now join the ranks of experimental, 20th-century ones – such as photographic reconstructions – creating real tension. There's nothing wrong with computers, or their programs, but this show suggests there's nothing as exuberant as a properly crafted piece of design produced on paper.



INSPECT A GADGET

Mil Millington

I have a general policy to avoid MP3 player column. This is because there are now around half a dozen fractionally different models there, and every week another three million are launched sheer, numbing ubiquity things means they don't underarms of my interest made effectively invisible one is so inured to encounter them generally – like Lord or very ugly people in Westminster. So I feature them only arrive waving a unique shape that's sufficiently different to my jaded eyes. The Mobipower 1900 commits the usual sin: it needs a separate USB lead to your computer, for example does have one pupil-snatcher. While most MP3 players have built-in rechargeable batteries, a playing time of between 10 and 15 hours, the DAH-1900 real ante. Doubles it to 40 hours. 60? 80? Nope and nope. The 1900's battery lasts for 15 hours. That's long enough to wait for a series of 24, back to back, to have enough time left to go into a set of kitchen cupboard drawers, it, that plumber in Leatherhead, urinated into a vase and then emptied the contents into a custom-made water tank could have lasted. Doubt for the entire 150 years of community service. It's long enough for a bank payment to clear through PayPal. A name dawned. Let there be mobile. **MobiBLU DAH-1900, £119.99 from amp3.co.uk (0131-275 0000) or gadgets@guardian.co.uk**

GARETH GARDNER