

40 best interiors addresses

From vintage to Scandi modern... whatever your style, we know just the place you should visit. By Gareth Wyn Davies

ALEX MACARTHUR

MacArthur does artful decay to perfection. Her shop is stuffed with old statuary, vintage antlers, foxed mirrors, opulent chandeliers, eye-catching objets and distressed painted furniture. At once slightly gothic and baroque, it's beautifully stylish rather than twee. 101 St George's Road, Brighton (alexmacarthur.co.uk; 01273 607533)



ALFIES ANTIQUE MARKET

Almost a day out in itself, Alfie's boasts nigh on 100 dealers, spread over four floors of a former department store and covering just about every era. Fans of 20th-century design are particularly well catered for. 13-25 Church Street, London NW8 (alfiesantiques.com; 020 7723 6066)

ARIA

The vaulted roof, Gothic trusses and exposed-brick walls of this former music hall (right) make a dramatic backdrop to the best in modern furniture, lighting and more. As well as all the old faithfuls - Starck's Louis Ghost chairs, Kartell modular storage etc - there's Content by Conran sofas, Orla Kiely bedlinen, small electricals, even arty Taschen books. Barnsbury Hall, Barnsbury Street, London N1 (ariashop.co.uk; 020 7704 6222)



36 stella

ATELIER ABIGAIL AHERN

Can't afford to engage Abigail Ahern's services as one of Britain's coolest interior designers? Buy into her look - a sort of edgy modern baroque - at her mini wonderland of a shop, which sells most of her favoured styling 'props'. Think supersized wire chandeliers, convex mirrors and witty accessories such as poodle lamps (left) and monkey candelabra. 137 Upper Street, London N1 (atelierabigailahern.com; 020 7354 8181)



BLODWEN

Modern Welsh tradition from Cardigan Bay is the catchline to this new online boutique. Which translates as gorgeous plaid lamb's-wool rugs in hot-house colours (above), modern-rustic furniture, turned-wood bowls, Welsh earthenware and vintage patchwork quilts so exquisite they look as though they belong in a museum. blodwen.com



BAILEYS

The contents of Mark and Sally Bailey's lovingly restored barns are almost Shaker in their sensibility - you will find plain but beautiful household goods and hardware, salvaged items, lighting and furniture (look out for the Howard-style Loft sofa in chocolate-coloured linen). Great for style-savvy eco-warriors and fans of pared-down living. Whitecross Farm, Bridstow, Ross-on-Wye (baileys homeandgarden.com; 01989 561931)

BEN PENTREATH

Charming, exquisitely tasteful little shop in Bloomsbury selling everything from mercury-glass candlesticks and Hunslet creamware to Marianna Kennedy's coloured-resin lamps and slipper chairs upholstered in ultra-chic black linen. Enter with a credit card at your peril. 17 Rugby Street, London WC1 (benpentreath.com; 020 7430 2526)

CARAVAN

Emily Chalmers, the owner of this shop, is an interiors stylist big on the whole just-thrown-together flea market aesthetic. Expect cutesy crockery, kitsch-in-a-good-way ornaments, hand-printed trompe-l'oeil wallpaper by Deborah Bowness and Jieldé lamps (above). A good hunting-ground for offbeat presents. 3 Redchurch Street, London E2 (caravanstyle.com; 020 7033 3532)



TOP SHOPS

CASTLE GIBSON

Castle Gibson specialises in affordable antiques as practical as they are pretty. The website is the perfect place from which to furnish a house. Theirs is a quirky yet coherent mix of Victorian, 19th-century French, and 20th-century industrial furniture. Great regulars include old leather armchairs, Victorian larder cupboards - a chic way to hide your television - plus old plan chests-turned-coffee tables. castlegibson.com; 020 8211 8690



CHRISTOPHER HOWE

Fix an 18th-century chair, covered in vivid natural-dyed leather, with a 1970s Swedish mirror, modern lights, vintage fabrics and a beautifully made copy of an antique. You could put together a great look here. 93 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (howelondon.com; 020 7730 7987)

CONRAN SHOP

How did we manage before Conran, tastemaker to the nation? After 35-plus years his emporium is deservedly a bit of a design institution; but from the dinky gifts in display cases to the squishy sofas it's all just as inspired - and covetable - as ever. 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (conranshop.co.uk; 020 7589 7401)