



## Mad Atelier: an exuberant design store in Hackney

A renovated pub is a hotbed of Mediterranean style, from showstopping sofas to playful lights



### WHERE TO FIND

42 Lower Clapton Road, London E5 (020-8510 3605; mad-atelier.com).

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When I push open the stripped wooden doors into Mad Atelier, the owners – Italian architect Chantal Martinelli and her French husband Julien Desormeaux – are hidden behind a velvet curtain. They are unpacking a pile of deep-blue round boxes laden with Limoges porcelain, each piece of tableware decorated with hand-drawn illustrations of celebrated Parisians – from Yves Saint Laurent to Serge Gainsbourg, cigarette in hand. “They’re by a French label called Maison Fragile and we fell for them immediately,” says Desormeaux. “They are playful, poetic, crafty and sum up what we believe is the elegance of Mediterranean design.”



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Seletti gold Mouse table lamp. £73 | Image: Leo Goddard

This kind of commitment to **craftsmanship** – and an architect's eye for detail – underpins Martinelli and Desormeaux's exuberant selection. Take the Kundalini Nami light by Alberto Saggia and Valerio Sommella (£1,250); it's both a playful take on the commonplace strip light and a simply beautiful piece of textured **glass** – an example of the unusual yet refined aesthetic that draws a creative clientele. Customers include **sculptor** Daniel Silver and Experimental Group partner Xavier Padovani, whose stable of bars and hotels stretch from New York to Menorca – bringing an international aspect to this enticingly rethought London local.



Maison Fragile porcelain Chers Parisiens dessert plate. £55 | Image: Leo Goddard

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