

# Clear vision

Meet Dio Davies, the Notting Hill designer who's creativity knows no bounds



Having grown up surrounded by all things design, with an architect as a father and an artist as a mother, thinking beyond what has already been done has always been second nature to Dio Davies. Walking in to her studio, a cottage of sorts among an array of colourful quintessentially Notting Hill town houses, you'll be instantly struck by how much attention has been paid to detail.

There are huge swaths of chalky white everywhere, set against exposed brick walls and urban tones of navy and broody black, with a plethora of striking art cladding the walls, including a large black and white print of Mohammed Ali, covered in glittering diamond dust. Once you've assessed the sight before your eyes, you'll know for certain that good taste runs through her veins, like the life blood of her world, the thing that gets her up in the morning.

'My father had always been a keen astronomer, so I was always looking through telescopes up at the stars as a girl.' She says. 'I've always loved everything to do with art, colour and texture, but astronomy has been the inspiration behind many of my projects, including the 24 carat gold leaf Solar table and the platinum leaf Luna table which is about to be released.'

Owning a property company with her husband, Dio's design brand was birthed when clients started enquiring about the furniture inside the homes they had built and designed. For her, the next step was obvious and she has never looked back. On the top floor of her studio, her popular Happy Pill table sits in the middle of the room, quietly commanding

the space around it. It's a clear rectangle filled with thousands of coloured pills with white tips each with a happy face drawn on them, extraordinarily playful yet oozing sophistication simultaneously. Downstairs, her striking self playing piano is on display, with its bright coral interior organs clearly visible through its transparent glassy coating.

Having always had a soft spot for neon acrylic because of the way it absorbs light and glows with such luminescence, something that is reflected in its entirety through the Dio Davies brand's Neon Equinox range, a collection of clear acrylic tables paired with blocks of multicoloured neon acrylic. They are even available in all neon green for those that can't get enough of that invigorating acid green shade, like Dio herself.

No matter what colour you choose, each table will sit in the space around it tantalising, playing with light flow and creating delicate patterns around the room.

Dio explains: 'I am a big fan of Sci-Fi; I grew up watching films like Blade Runner, Tron and Star Wars. These films were so futuristic and minimalist, in the most elegant way. They all painted design in the future in such a striking and engaging way and I've always felt very much that the future is now, especially in terms of design.'

'Part of the beauty of life is trying to do what has never been done, that's how you leave your mark. Designers and buyers everywhere are now really embracing new technologies and materials. Just look at what we can do with acrylic! The lightness of acrylic means it doesn't interrupt what is going on around it yet it still holds its own as a point of fabulous design.'

The Dio Davies team will go above and beyond to give you something that is both, fascinating, beautifully crafted and completely personal to you. They've created a bespoke coffee table filled with dried lavender from the grounds of a house in the south of France where it takes pride of place. Another project suspended a slice of ancient tree trunk from the family estate inside a clear structure so it appeared to float. The whole family's names were engraved on individual plaques and pointed to the each ring marking the year of their birth. For Dio, nothing is impossible when you think outside of boundaries and limitations, because that's where the magic is made, outside the realms of restraint where timeless pieces are born.

Her Goldfinger meets neon chameleon meets the midnight sky approach to furniture creation is one-of-a-kind, resulting in pieces that will bring a modern or traditional interior into its own, serving as the precious last missing piece to the design puzzle that is your home. ■

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