

JULIAN CHICHESTER

THIRTY FIVE YEARS
OF DESIGN
35



JULIANCHICHESTER.COM

LONDON | NEW YORK | HIGH POINT

In the thirty five years that I've been writing about interiors I've never met a truly original designer who has been able to give any useful insight into their work.

Julian is no exception; he talks with passion about the thrills and spills encountered on his 35 year journey but ask him about the how and the why and he will look back at you benevolently but blankly.



Originality isn't learned at college or mapped out on a spreadsheet. It has never been sparked by a focus group. Instead, it is completely instinctive and instincts tend to defy description. The designs - and the affection in which they are held - speak for themselves.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Don't believe the myths you hear about 1980s design; it was an era in which exciting new ideas were born and old ones revived. As growing demand for craft skills outstripped supply, Julian and his collaborator Richard Forwood saw an opportunity to work with Vietnam's best craftsmen to create furniture with a classic but crisp, tightly defined aesthetic. They travelled, experimented and evolved designs, the brilliance and quality of

which is evident in the prices they achieved 25 years later at Christies.

Not only was the design original but so was the way that they were achieved.



Collecting antique Buddhas in Thailand.

A PATH LESS TRAVELLED

If harnessing the talent and dedication of the artisans they encountered was the sum of what the pair achieved, it would be similar to so many of the others who followed a similar path. But instead it was merely the point of embarkation. Instead, later in the journey, while reading a catalogue on a work trip to Paris, Julian stumbled



"Our first Teak Garden collection was featured in *The Sunday Times* and quickly became a firm favourite with retailers and interior designers alike..."

on the pared back exoticism of free-thinking furniture designer Jean Michel Frank. It was not so much Frank's style that impressed him but the approach and he resolved to only ever march to the beat of his own drum.

QUIET EVOLUTION

The nature of every aesthetic tradition is that it is derivative at best, homogenous at worst; yet as Jean Michel Frank's contemporary Coco Chanel commented, 'in order to be irreplaceable it's important to be different.' It is difference that has been Julian's guiding light, experimenting with techniques such as water gilding and materials such as vellum that are the foundation of an approach to furniture that creates distinctiveness and mood to an interior. Could you ask for more.


Sunday Times shot.



Creative. Original. Different.

In conversation with Giles Kime, Editor, Country Life



JODIE HOPKINS 
Chief Executive Officer

Looking back on the incredible journey we have shared, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to work alongside Julian for all these years. It seems like just yesterday when Julian welcomed me into the JC Family 20 years ago, his face covered in ink from a burst biro during my interview. From our early days in Battersea to our success in Chelsea Harbour, we have navigated the industry and created a brand that is instantly recognisable and beloved by many. There have been countless memorable moments throughout the years - posing with the Russian Navy in Red Square Moscow, desperately holding onto a mirror on the roof of Julian's car driving round a Peckham car park, Julian's disdain for my love of Taylor Swift's music and his comically bad Northern accent, to name a few. Here's to many more years of laughter, unforgettable moments, and, of course, plenty of vodka!



HELEN BRINE 
International Sales Director

Some of my fondest memories are the annual works parties, where Julian and his wife Holly make lunch or dinner at their home in Hampshire for all the UK team.

Julian tells us hilarious stories of his travels with Richard, or the various antics with his family, but I also recall live lobsters scuttling around the barn kitchen and gate-crashing a neighbour's house so we could see the cool 70s décor. I also have too many hazy recollections of drinking vodka with him and Jodie in Paris... being so Bohemian!

DAVINIA HEARN 
Sales Director

In the earlier years of the business when we were based at the Old Imperial Laundry, Battersea, if he was around at the end of the day, Julian would often give me a lift to the tube station. But I wasn't allowed the front seat, that was reserved for his beloved black labrador, Percy. There he would sit, happy as could be with the window down, sometimes putting his head out so the wind made his ears flap. With reggae music at full volume blaring out over Chelsea Bridge, Percy loved getting all the attention from passers by - like the rock star he truly was!



So what do the team behind Julian remember most over the years they have been working for 'JC'? Here's just a few tales from both sides of the pond that go to show just what an English Gent he is!


NIKKI CLASBY 
National Sales Manager

Julian has taught me many useful life skills, from making a proper Pimm's Cup in my first High Point Market with the company seven years ago to successfully layering up five coats to beat the Parisian chills of Deco Off this year. He has shown me how to enjoy every moment, from getting a laugh out of all the State-side salad dressing options (he delivers a spot on "Raaanch!") to our hilarious pronunciation of the European product names at US team dinners (yes, we still struggle with "Chy-Chez-Der"). Not one memory could ever disappoint!



JONAS AVILA 
Warehouse Manager

Picture it: Axe-throwing competition 2023, Team USA vs. The World. Julian, as international team leader, ambitiously tossed his axe once...twice... (erm) several times without success. It was my turn, confident for Team USA as I had thrown several near bulls eyes prior. Impressive? VERY! Yet all I managed was a point or two, the axe often just ricocheting back towards me. Julian's turn was up again! He hits a bullseye and gets 3 and 4-pointers...every...single...time. Those previous misses were only his "practice rounds, of course," he claims. I am in AWE!

AMBER SEXTON 
Vice President

My journey with Julian started with a visit to London in June 2004. It was during the Old Imperial Laundry days and it was my first introduction to the world of Julian Chichester. During this trip we would get dressed up, drive off in his old Mercedes and head into London's antique shops. I quickly learnt how he liked to work, and the many, diverse places where he found his inspiration. Twenty years down the line, I know more than ever to always expect the unexpected with Julian. His love for design continues to shine through, stronger than ever, and the journey together has been exciting and fun, full of passion and drive.



JESSIE HILLCOX 
Global Marketing Manager

I remember attending my first High Point Market Week and driving around the town with Julian playing chauffeur. His music blaring out as he cruised along, taking us to all his favourite showrooms, junkyards and literally everything in between. We looked at contemporary design, antiques, art and even local flora and fauna! It was fascinating to see just how and where he takes his inspiration from, and to see design through Julian's creative eyes.

LATOYA HARGRAVE 
Shipping Coordinator

I still remember my very first conversation with Julian some six years ago, he said "we are family here, I value our team." Those few words meant so much and still do. You know you can always count on Julian for a warm embrace every time you see him. He is always so intrigued with our culture here in the US, and I love that about him.

Reinvention keeps us relevant

Staying ahead of the game through tradition and craft



In celebration of 35 years at the forefront of the changing landscape of design, Julian Chichester presents a stunning capsule collection of newly reimagined products, one from each of the past four decades, finished in distinctive new materials that demonstrate what the company is famous for - innovation.



“There are many things I draw inspiration from, but mid-century designers and architects are probably my greatest source. Marcel Breuer, Mies Van Der Rohe, Jean Michel Frank, Pauli Ernesti Blomstedt, Jaques Adnet, Eero Saarinen, Constantin Brâncusi, Isamu Noguchi, Marco Zanuso, Kaare Klint and Karl Springer have all been particularly influential.”

Inspired by the traditional craft of English furniture makers, influenced by mid-century designers and informed by a life of travel and immersion in the arts, Julian Chichester has an admiration for innovation.

By incorporating new finishes, updating intricate details, and adding modern twists, we have breathed new life into these timeless designs.

As we look to the future, we understand the importance of distinguishing ourselves and embracing our unique identity. We will continue to explore new finishes, experimenting with shapes and silhouettes, and utilising our expertise to create signature pieces that will stand the test of time.

The distillation of these varied inspirations through Julian's own creativity brings a fresh contemporary contextualisation to our designs.

Reviewing our vast archive of designs has inspired us to revisit classic shapes. We have chosen three designs, each representing a different decade, and reimagined them for the present day. We also invited Hatta Byng, Editor of *House & Garden*, as a special contributor to select a fourth piece of her choice from the back catalogue and to work with us in updating this for today's interiors.

The company's long history of exceeding customer expectation has been proven by working with so many seasoned profes-



From the archives
Our catalogues across the years





FRICK COFFEE TABLE  

W47.5 D27 H18.5
Red Gesso CC01.RGE.000



FRICK COFFEE TABLE

Designed with HATTA BYNG, Editor, House & Garden



"Nice coffee tables - rather than an ottoman - are difficult to find. The Frick has an elegance and a lightness. I thought it would be fun to reimagine it in Julian's glorious red gesso finish. The leather top matches exactly in colour, and with the subtle change of finish and slimmest brass detailing between the leather and gesso it feels very chic (to me!)."



Hand Finish



Natural Skin



Natural Wood



FELIX NEST OF TABLES 

LARGE W20 D22.3 H26
 MEDIUM W16.5 D16.1 H16.5
 SMALL W11.4 D13.38 H13.77
 Cane Wrap CC03.CWD.000



ANGLO INDIAN CHEST

Originally from the *Nineties*

"This chest with its feminine pretty lines gave us the ability to show off our three best skills – gilding, ebonising and fine woodwork. Our collection was just eight pieces when this piece was launched!" explains Julian. The new 2024 version in oiled African Walnut brings it beautifully up to date.



ANGLO INDIAN CHEST

W30 D18.25 H26
 Light African Walnut CC02.LAW.000



FELIX NEST OF TABLES

Originally from the *Tenties*



The original Felix Nest of Tables featured gilded steel frames and natural Vellum surfaces when first introduced in 2010—a chic combination that exuded 1920's Paris. Today they are presented with Cane wrapped frames, distressed Rattan surfaces and delicate Aged Brass accents to add a striking contrast. "These I love" says Julian.



KEMP DESK

Originally from the *Noughties*



"We launched this desk along with a console back in 2001, finished in a rather conservative Oak, yet it had an intriguing contemporary feel," says Julian. Reimagined for the present day in a stunning French Limed Oak, the silhouette legs are enhanced with tapered circle accents, and incorporated cable management transforms the Kemp into a time-less piece, worthy of any study."



It's all about who you know

Collaborations with other designers adds a new twist



New designs are sometimes born through exciting collaborations with other designers, either on individual pieces or a small collection. Either way, the end result is a perfect combination of talents, a creative and rewarding enterprise.



KATHRYN M IRELAND

Born in England and raised in both London and Scotland, Kathryn Ireland arrived in Los Angeles in 1986. Prior to launching her interior design business in the early 1990s,

Kathryn was an actress, clothing designer, and filmmaker. Today she is one of the most influential interior and textile designers in the world.



KEMP DESK

W59 D27.25 H30
French Oak Limed CC04.FOL.000



TURNER POCOCK

"It has been an absolute treat to resolve many of our recurrent design dilemmas through a collaboration with one of our absolute heroes and a true talent within the design world. Julian is an admirer of the classics and yet also an innovator and a creative.

It was such a pleasure to co-design pieces that accommodate the needs and rather unsightly results of the modern world (those annoying wires everywhere!) and to make them beautiful using artisanal crafts and the finest materials."

— Bunny Turner, Turner Pocock



From hospitality to bespoke

Tailoring designs to fit the needs of the individual



A scribbled idea on the back of an envelope, a mood board or just a conversation – it doesn't matter how the design process starts.

Julian's experience at creating bespoke, one-off pieces for clients is evidence not just of the company's flexibility as a manufacturer, but the team's enthusiasm to meet every challenge with a creative solution.



After collaborating with numerous top international interior designers for over 35 years, Julian's team is accustomed to fulfilling the precise standards and unique requirements that come with each new project. "We've encountered some interesting requests over the years," Julian mentions, leaning in with a secretive glance, hinting at intriguing experiences without revealing specifics.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Conducting thorough testing to meet industry safety standards is all part of our operation. All upholstered products are finished to meet global FR certification. We offer options for Customers Own Material (COM), in-house fabrics, and customised studding, nailing, piping, and finish choices. Our knowledgeable team is here to guide you on what would work best to achieve your desired end result.



If you want a TV to rise from a cabinet, or have a minibar inside, it's all possible, as are changing the dimensions or materials, the finishes... Made to order means just that. Above: © Rocco Forte Hotels Below: © Harbour Hotels



FROM START TO FINISHES

The design team provide technical drawings for approval before production begins, ensuring that every detail is accurately translated from the original design brief. Hand-applied finishes such as Brass, Bronze, Nickel, Faux Gesso, Mirror and Verre Eglomise are utilised throughout.

"Beyond the variety of woods, we often use other beautiful natural materials, such as Marble, Leather and Vellum," explains Julian, pointing out examples as we walk around the impressive Chelsea Harbour showroom, "and though it sounds obvious we always remind people that because they are natural materials there will be subtle variations in the finish, surface pattern and colour. That's what gives it so much character and patina, so don't expect a pair of things to match," he chuckles, "because that's just not the point."

Julian certainly knows all about character, he is one of only a handful of designers who truly epitomises their eponymous brand. Beguilingly interesting, intuitively creative, traditionally crafted with a dynamic energy - it's quite a combination..

Having our own manufacturing unit gives such flexibility, whether making for a big rollout or just a single item, the quality control and attention to detail is always there.



JEFFREY'S INTERIORS | 2023

"When I think of Julian Chichester, I immediately think of the teal vellum finish, I just knew it would inform a really striking room design. We love mixing details and changing sizes and finishes to best suit the client, Julian Chichester understand and

fulfil this need effortlessly. I also love shapes and form, so many curves! Add in some brass details for an additional layer of luxury and you're left with a perfectly finessed product that fits seamlessly into your designs."



julianchichesterltd Exploring our FOCUS/23 window display, guest designed by @jeffreysinteriorsed, complete with disco balls 🎵
Featuring our *brand new* Rita Four Poster Bed. A beautiful Adapt-

PAPER & WHITE | 2023

"I love Julian's simplicity, innovation and attention to detail. I also love the nod to mid-century design that has always played an important part in any design we are working on. Every piece looks and feels hand-made and, even though you may be using the same piece of furniture across different homes and projects, the fact that we as designers are asked to select our own fabric choice, the textures and materi-

als ensures a unique piece every time. At Paper + White, once we have the functional space sorted and the artwork hung, we start to collate, layer and mix other styles, artefacts and items of intrigue that bring the client's personal story and sense of character to life, and the wide variety of hand finishing and craft skills from Julian Chichester enables us to do this very easily."



julianchichesterltd 47w Our Chelsea Harbour Showroom Window is being designed for London Design Week by award-winning Interior Design and Art Specialists, @paperandwhite

MINNIE KEMP | 2022

"Good design should look effortless, like it has always existed, like trees growing in the forest or Kate Moss in skinny jeans. I usually start with a fabric I have seen and love or one piece of furniture I adore which you can then build around and create a narrative. I started here with the Mondrian bookcase, a design which really makes a statement to any interior. We wanted to Jazz up the vellum interiors by specifying our

own pantone colours to make the window graphic and bold, matching the colours to those in our "Lillypad" rug design - which reminds me of that sip of pina colada when you first arrive on holiday and the blue sea looks oh so blue. Then threw in some clouds, moons and a couple of Julian Chichester's fab mirrors because what could be more angelic than your own reflection darling!."



julianchichesterltd 47w Our Chelsea Harbour Showroom Window is being designed for London Design Week by award-winning Interior Design and Art Specialists, @paperandwhite



Julian Chichester's designs are always in demand and have had several cameo roles in some of TV and cinema's finest productions, appearing in popular titles including *Barbie*, *Wrath of Man*, *Anatomy of a Scandal*, *Billions*, *Ozark* and *The Crown*, to name just a few!

Our experienced team can supply an extensive range of high-quality interior case goods, lighting and upholstery to add real designer chic to any situation, from Screen and Network Media to Trade Shows, Show Homes and Exhibitions across the UK, US and internationally.

Pictures from HGTV's *Why The Heck Did I Buy This House?* courtesy of Kim Wolfe. ©Madeline Harper Photography..



Spring designs

THIRTY FIVE YEARS OF DESIGN
35



ALBERTO COFFEE TABLE

W39.37 D31.5 H15.75
White Gesso Legs 5516.GES.GES
Breton Blue Gesso Legs 5516.GES.BBG
Red Gesso Legs 5516.GES.RGE
Jade Green Gesso Legs 5516.GES.JGG



DOLLY LAMP SHADE

DIA 8.25 H6
Rattan 5505.RAT.000

JET ROTATION SCONCE

W13.38 D24.3 H11
Antique Brass 5517.BRASS.000



GILI PENDANT SHADES

LARGE DIA59 H42.75
Rattan 5511.RAT.000

MEDIUM DIA39.25 H28.25
Rattan 5512.RAT.000

SMALL DIA23.5 H23.5
Rattan 5513.RAT.000



ECO SIDE TABLES

DIA17.75 H23.5
 Brown Bronze 5508.XXS.ABS
 Antique Gesso 5508.AGES.ABS



FRAMED SILK SCREEN PRINT

W38.1 D1.18 H30.7
 Acrylic Frame BOXFRAME



CARLO SIDE TABLE

DIA23.875 H23.875
 Antique Gesso 4246.AGES.000



CARLO SIDE TABLE

DIA23.875 H23.875
 Breton Blue Gesso 4246.BBG.000



RITA BED QUEEN

W63 D83 H97.75
 Cane Wrap / Aged Brass 5502.CWD.ABS



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LONDON | NEW YORK | HIGH POINT