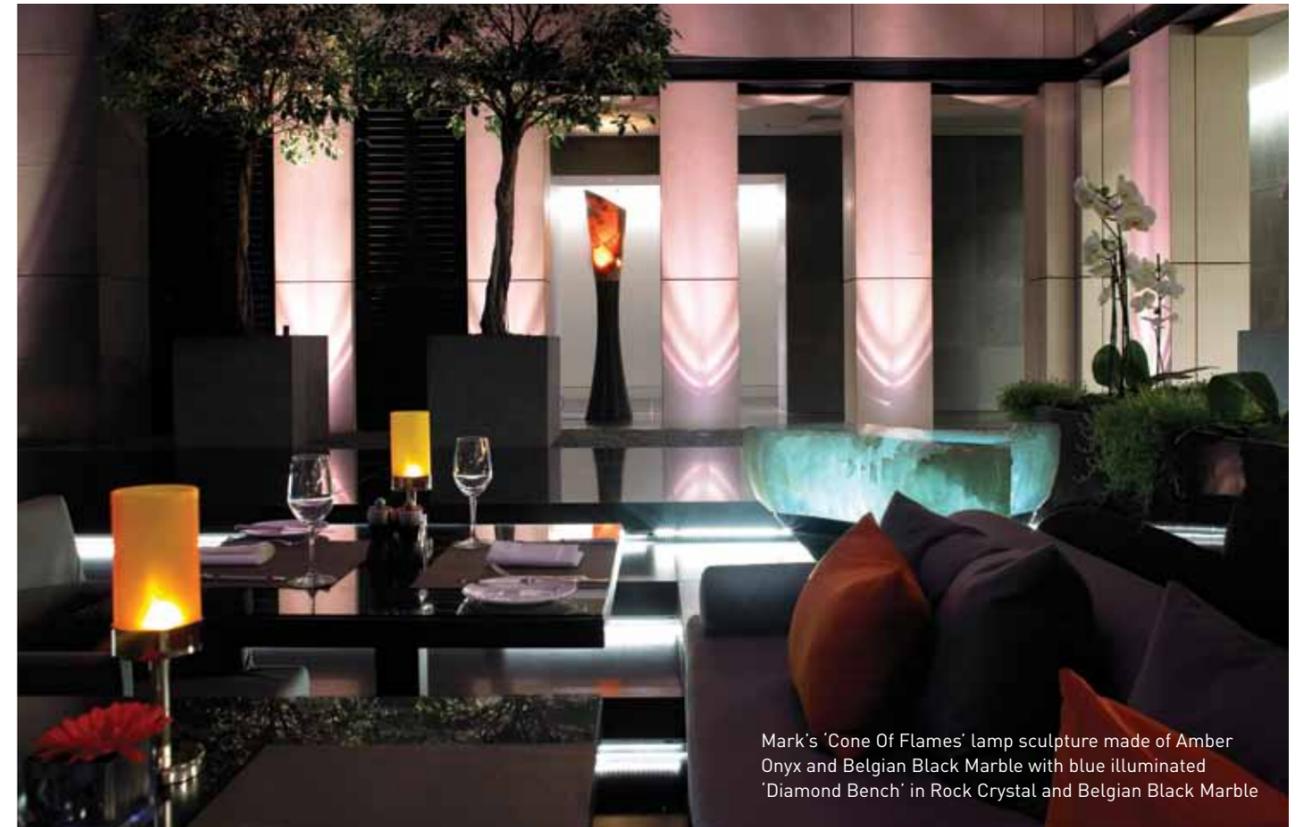


UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH... MARK HUMPHREY

We catch up with an award-winning artist-designer who's fast becoming one of the most prolific of his time



Mark's 'Cone Of Flames' lamp sculpture made of Amber Onyx and Belgian Black Marble with blue illuminated 'Diamond Bench' in Rock Crystal and Belgian Black Marble

'...Jalouse nightclub in Mayfair... Louis Vuitton, Aston Martin... as well as designing homes and masterpieces for George Harrison and Ringo Starr'

Mark lives and works from his riverside penthouse studio and gallery in West London. His CAD engineering department and headquarters are in Berkshire, and he has a business partner based in Tuscany, from where his stone pieces are shipped worldwide. Mark works across a range of disciplines: architecture, interior design, furniture, lighting, textiles, industrial design and sculpture.

Having studied Interior Architecture at Middlesex University, London his work is both international and award-winning. Mark Humphrey Ltd: Studio of Art + Design was launched in 2000. The company has worked on a variety of prestigious projects and commissions for Jalouse nightclub in Mayfair, the X-Factor room for ITV Studios, Fendi Casa, Dunhill, Nike, Louis Vuitton, Ralph Lauren, Aston

Martin, The Grosvenor Hong Kong, HQ for Apple Records, as well as designing homes and masterpieces for George Harrison and Ringo Starr.

Seeing himself as much an artist as a designer and craftsman, Mark's innovative sculptural style often using precious materials attracts an array of clients. His work is also in the private collections of Michael Schumacher, Claudia Schiffer and Steven Gerrard.

A British Government ambassador Mark has travelled to Beijing, Shanghai and Africa promoting the UK creative industries. He's seen here with his marble staircase sculpture at St James Theatre, London. In the following pages Mark reveals one of his exclusive projects and chats to us about his inspiration. ●●●

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COUTURE KITCHEN



'... as much an artist as a designer and craftsman, Mark's innovative sculptural style often using precious materials attracts an array of clients'

Who was this project for?

A private art collector.

How would you describe it?

An exploration combining the influences of ancient worlds with those of a modern lifestyle. The juxtaposition of antiquity and cutting-edge technology with craftsmanship.

What was your inspiration?

Interpreting the style of a Roman fountain into a piece of kitchen furniture that incorporates all appliances. It has wall cabinets decorated with Helmut Newton-inspired dancing figures, painted onto eglomise mirror panelled doors.

How did it evolve?

By sketching on holiday in Rome.

How do you refer to this theme?

'Modern antiquities' – the interaction of the ancient with the contemporary.

What are the special features?

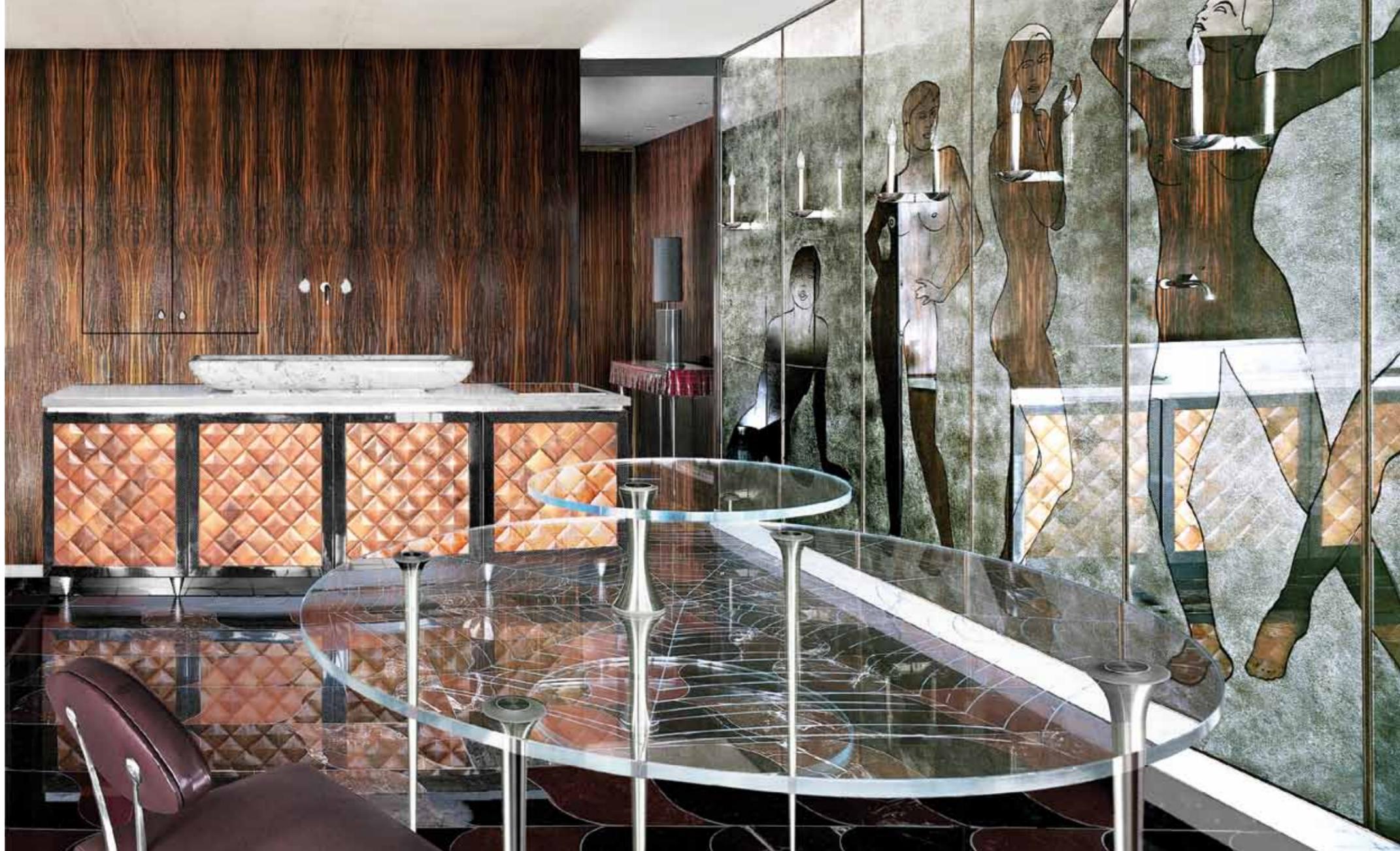
The opening eglomise mirrored doors reveal interior cabinets, a cocktail bar and library – including a secret pull-out table.

How are kitchens changing?

Kitchens are becoming more eye-catching, rather than just functional rooms for cooking.

Which materials have you used and where?

Marble floors, eglomise mirror doors, maple cabinets, buffalo leather floor, silk rug, ebony wall panels, walnut, carbon fibre, red agate, Carrara marble, glass and stainless steel. ●●●



COUTURE BATHROOM



“Bathrooms are becoming more theatrical, playing on exotic reinventions. They are no longer simply white products for bathing ourselves”

What was the inspiration behind this theme?

My imagination and approach of how Cleopatra would have once bathed.

How did this project evolve?

By layering my knowledge of Indian craftsmanship with experiences of Italian architecture.

Why this theme?

It's a combination of surreal, ancient design and a bathing vessel.

What's your favourite feature?

An illuminated, carved crystal glass shower door that was inspired by Da Vinci's Virgin on the Rocks.

How are bathrooms changing?

Bathrooms are becoming more theatrical,

playing on exotic reinventions. They are no longer simply white products for bathing ourselves, but in fact pieces of art.

How does this project sit with your usual work?

Seamlessly, although my work has become more sculptural, abstract and experimental of late.

What materials have you used here and where?

Marble floors, ebony and gesso wall panels, carved crystal glass shower door, marble, stainless steel, teak, brass, and red agate for the bathing vessel.

What is your design ethos?

To blur the creative boundaries and explore the relationships of art, invention and design. ●

