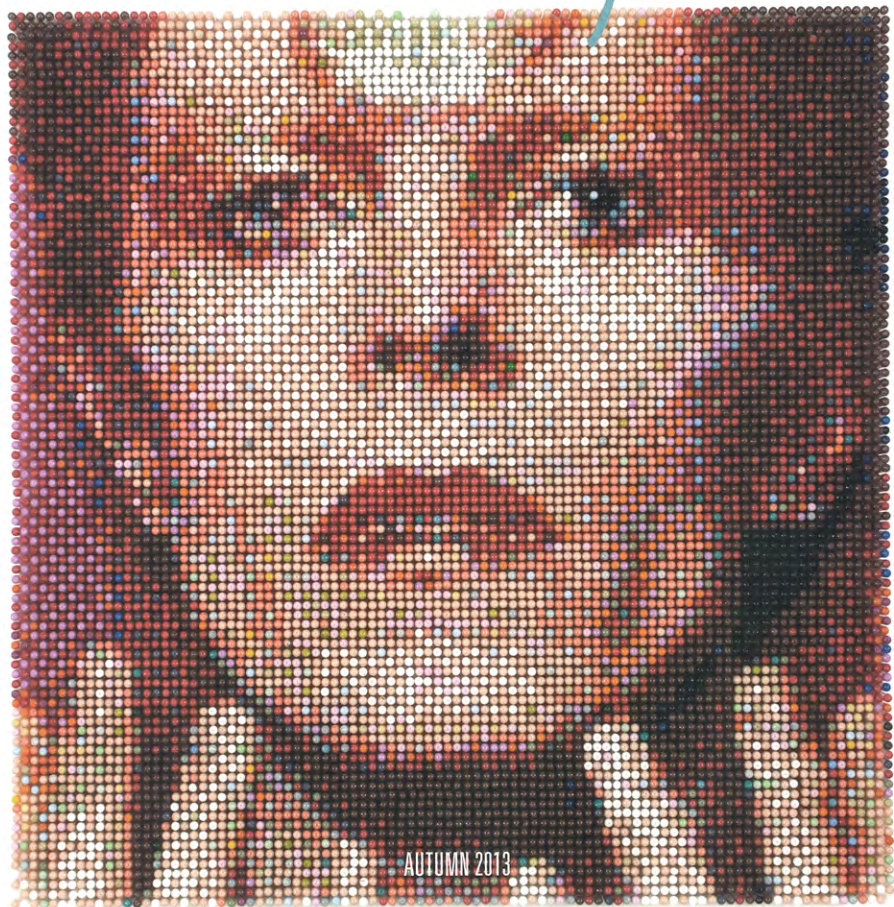


DOMUS

*Life*



AUTUMN 2013

# GRAND DESIGNS

With London recently hailed as the design capital of the world by the New York Times, there's never been a better time to explore September's London Design Festival. Domus Life meets four of its brightest sparks

## FEIX&MERLIN

It's an exciting time for Tarek Merlin, one half of the boutique architecture studio Feix&Merlin, which he runs with his business partner Julia Feix: this month sees the release of his TMforF&M range of furniture, their first foray into the world of interiors. Launching at a pop-up shop in Covent Garden during the London Design Festival, the collection is spearheaded by Tarek [Julia will be introducing her own range at a later date] and features two key products: the Spindle Stools,

moulded out of solid marble, and Spindle Pendants, exquisite hand-blown glass light fittings.

The pair met 13 years ago while working for renowned architect Will Alsop, and Tarek says going into business just made sense. "We entered a few competitions together; we were shortlisted in the first and won our second," he says. "So we thought maybe we were doing something right and should make it more official."

With seven years together under their belt and the architectural world well and truly conquered, Tarek started thinking about branching out. "I've always been interested in product design, furniture and lighting, and over the years had built up a collection of sketches. Eventually I showed some of my ideas to a friend at a marble workshop in Tuscany. He loved them and agreed to collaborate with me." Tarek had a few hand-blown glass contacts in the UK and went to speak to them about creating the lights he had designed. It was while watching them blow the glass that he had an epiphany about the ethos of the brand. "I really loved the skill and craft involved," he says. "From then on I decided that everything in the range should be handmade or have an element of hand-finishing to it, and that we should focus on manufacturing in the UK."

Now the aim of the brand is to combine tradition and craft with the modern, creating contemporary pieces with a traditional feel. "We want people to feel a sense of nostalgia with our pieces, but also to see them as a fresh addition to their home," says Tarek. →

[feixandmerlin.com](http://feixandmerlin.com)

To read more about Feix&Merlin, visit [domusnova.com/feixandmerlin](http://domusnova.com/feixandmerlin)



### D&A: Tarek Merlin

**Tea or coffee?** Coffee. **Cats or dogs?** Dogs. My partner and I have a miniature Pinscher and Julia has a Pomeranian.

**What's the last really great film you saw?** Prometheus.

**What are you looking forward to most about autumn?** Escaping it and going to see Julia in Brazil!

**What's the one luxury you can't live without?** My coffee machine.

**How would you spend your perfect Saturday?** Sun, yoga, coffees, Maltby Street market, mooching about with friends and dogs.

This page: Tarek Merlin & Julia Feix; Opposite page, above left: Tarek hand-blowing glass in the Feix&Merlin studio and a Spindle Pendant lamp; Opposite page, far left: Stools and Pendants from the TMforF&M range