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New trends from Milan

The world's top interiors show

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Homes & Property

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I sent those rats packing

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MARVELLOUS marble was everywhere at the annual Milan furniture show earlier this month, with designers hewing whole chairs and tables from solid blocks that were far too heavy and costly for the real world. Yet London, as ever, is ahead of the game, with stores stocking affordable, measured doses of the real thing alongside stone prints and patterns on ceramics, rugs and wallpapers.

1 Inspired by vessels that held perfume and honey in the ancient world, these beautiful shapes are hand-carved from solid natural alabaster – £594 each, from Lapidica, King's Road, SW10 (020 3012 1000; lapidica.com).

2 Cole & Son's Fornasetti wallpaper, £76 per 10m roll, depicts the semi-precious stone malachite in various colourways, including black and white, pictured, a striking green, and taupe and silver. The showroom is at Design Centre Chelsea Harbour, SW10 (cole-and-son.com).

3 The Spindle Range of handcrafted glass pendants and solid marble side tables is available at London-based Feix&Merlin. The stools shown start at £2,652 and the pendant lights from £535 (shop.feixandmerlin.com).

4 Handmade in Portugal, these large, porcelain, dishwasher-safe serving platters have a swirling marbled glaze – £24 each from West Elm, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0800 404 9780; westelm.co.uk).

5 Stone cubes of recycled granite can be kept in the freezer and brought out to chill drinks. Sagaform Whiskey Stones cost £11.50 for a gift-boxed set of nine from Red Candy (0121 224 7728; redcandy.co.uk).

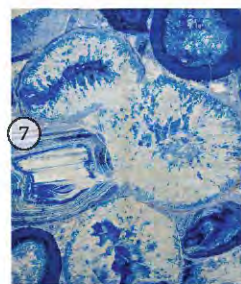
6 Lead crystal wine and champagne glasses with marble base, from £60 each at Lee Broom, Rivington Street, EC2 (020 7820 0742; leebroom.com).

7 Agate-pattern Sliced rug by German designer Jan Kath – £1,580 a sqm at Front, Bruton Place, W1 (wearefront.com; 020 7495 0740).



Let's get stoned

By **Barbara Chandler**



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