

## Mark Cocksedge. Cover artwork by Morag Myerscough

## **GUEST EDITOR'S LETTER**

FRAN HICKMAN



Design is not just about cool-looking stuff. It's also about the way we live: the way we interact together, the space between us. The pandemic is making us all reassess this, and for designers this means accelerating an emphasis on sustainability. So when I was asked to edit the design issue of ES, I wanted to celebrate and bring together the London makers and doers who are most looking to the future. Whether that meant sending out Max Fraser and Mark Cocksedge to capture rising stars Oksana Bondar or Natsai Audrey Chieza at home; arranging for passionate design educator Daniel Charny to discuss his forward-thinking international workshop programme Fixperts with The Design Museum's Priya Khanchandani; or asking Deyan Sudjic OBE to write about why London is the centre of the design universe right now.

More practically, I also wanted to provide an indispensable guide to the best independent and vintage shops in town and highlight the many purveyors of British-made craft out there: products made using responsibly sourced materials with many pieces manufactured in mills or workshops and salvaged from extinction by makers keen to support local skills. These are the places where you can find something built with care and made to last. And perhaps most excitingly for me, the spectacular cover of this issue was made by Morag Myerscough. It sums up what I've tried to do, which is curate a magazine of — yes cool-looking stuff, but cool-looking stuff that is also inspiring. I hope I have succeeded, and that you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed making it...



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