

MORPHEUS
LONDON

The Daily Telegraph
20th August 2016

The Daily Telegraph
Saturday 20 August 2016
telegraph.co.uk

Advice Property Doctors
'My flat is smaller than the plans'
page 9

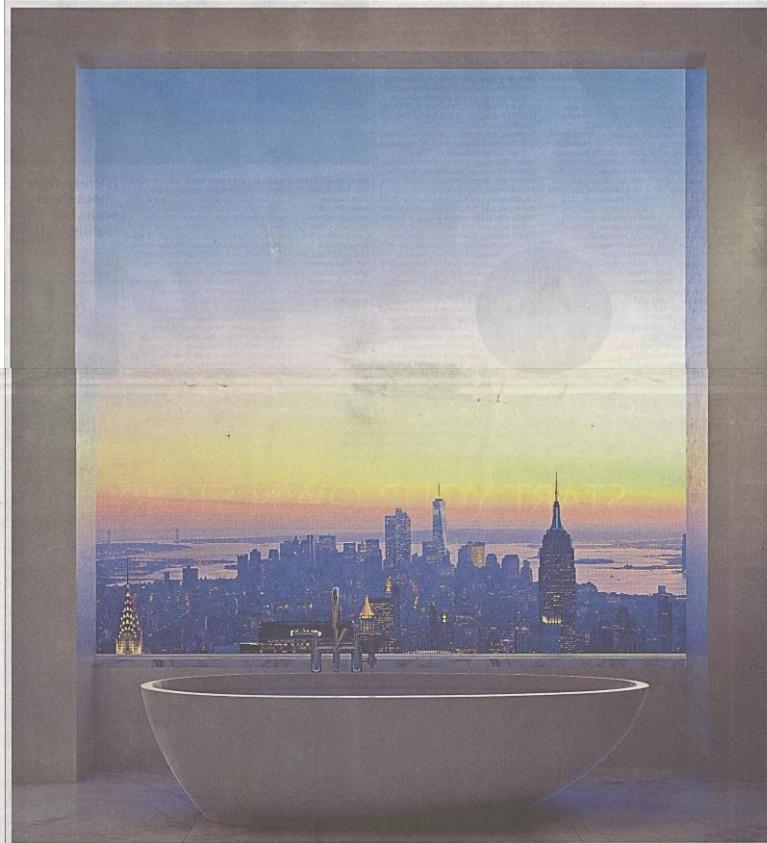
Hotspots Swimming in unusual pools
Be the next Tom Daley with one of these
page 6

Interiors Make scents at home
Tailor-made perfume for every room
page 5



**LUXURY HOMES
HOTSPOTS
NEWS
EXPERT ADVICE
BARGAIN HUNTER**

PROPERTY



The dizzying heights of luxe living

It's no longer just about a tower's size but amenities, location and – above all – views, says Anna White

The world has been embroiled in a race to the top, with each new super skyscraper overshadowing the last. While the United States built the first ever steel-skeleton structure in 1885 – the 10-storey Home Insurance Company Building in Chicago – it was the emerging economies that raised the bar in the 21st century. The tallest tower currently standing, completed in 2010, is Emaar Properties' Burj Khalifa in Dubai, reaching 2,722ft over 163 floors. It will be exceeded by the developer's next cloud-piercing proposal, the Neoma, which will be a notch taller and twice the height of the Shard. Saudi Arabia's Kingdom Tower in Jeddah, overlooking the Red Sea, will dwarf both at 3,280ft. The last phase of the \$1.2-billion funding has been secured for Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal's kilometre-high vision, which will surely break the record – for a time – when finished in 2020.

Continued on page 2

Full sales ahead:
last chance to buy

ST. GEORGE'S PARK
RETIREMENT VILLAGE | DITCHFIELD COMMON | EAST SUSSEX

The final phase of this award-winning retirement village set in the heart of the beautiful South Downs has almost sold out. Occupying a premium location within the village, Rafael Court and Pines Manor offer a range of one and two bedroom apartments, many with feature arch windows, high ceilings and great views looking out. St. George's Park is now an established retirement village with over 300 residents and world class amenities which include the newly opened Leisure block with 14m pool, Jacuzzi, Sauna, Gym, Fitness Room, Games and Hobbies rooms. In addition there is a Café, Hair Salon, Therapy Room and Laundrette. Demand has been high with only a few new apartments still available, so if you are considering moving St. George's Park with its superb setting and outstanding facilities could be the place for you.

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INTERIORS

Tailor-made home scents

Tory Kingdon meets the perfumers who concoct fragrances for different rooms

Rachel Vosper lights her favourite Fornasetti candle, Otto - Mediterranean herbs, sandalwood and the root of the iris flower - whenever she entertains at home. "It evokes fun, happy times because I associate it with having a party," says the luxury candle maker. "Using solely my own signature fragrances would be like taking my work home with me, so I tend to use other brands, alongside any scents I may be developing".

Vosper understands the power of scent to evoke certain emotions or set a tone. Hers isn't your average chandlery; from her Belgravia-based atelier, she works with clients to concoct bespoke scents for their interiors, a process that can take between two and four months. Alongside soft furnishings and personal knick-knacks, these scents create another layer of comfort at home. They can also give a clear indication of the type of space each room is intended to be: an energising morning room or a cosy snug can be created with olfactory styling as much as with visual design. And the options for scent creation are seemingly endless.

Vosper recently worked with a private client on fragrances for her French chateau and her London home. "For the chateau, I used a combination of notes from the client's much-loved childhood perfume and her husband's cologne to evoke nostalgia and reassurance," she says. "For the London property I used fragrances inspired by her favourite Parisian hotels; it gave a sense of sophistication that suited the design scheme." Vosper's nose

for interiors has been tapped by Hadley Property for its latest London development, Chelsea Island, a collection of 59 luxury apartments that launched earlier this summer. Vosper combined petitgrain, a woody, citrus scent that comes from the twigs and leaves of the orange tree, with bergamot, a more nuanced smell that is extracted from the peel of the bergamot fruit. The uplifting citrus smell complements the contemporary interiors and reflects the soft greys and lemon yellows of the living area.

"Interior design has developed into a much more experiential art; every sense is important," says Alex Isaac, head of design at Morpheus, which hired Vosper to create a scent scheme for Ashberg House, a new-build family home in the Boltons Conservation Area. "Smell is closely linked to memory, so we exploit these stimuli in order to provoke good feelings, a sense of tranquility or a more energetic, uplifting spirit in a client's home."

Demand for bespoke scents has wafted over to other luxury developments, too. At Kenure House, a conversion of a former townhouse and two news houses in Holland Park into a 3,746 sq ft, five-bedroom property, the architecture and interiors firm Echlin has worked with British perfumer True Grace. "We used a combination of candles and diffusers to create a scent scape for each floor," says Sam McNally, design director. On the ground floor, an English garden-inspired fragrance complements the light-flooded, fresh interior scheme and large living wall, and notes of bergamot and vetiver, an earthy, smoky fragrance often used as a base in men's cologne, are used in the drawing room to denote elegance.

On the lower ground floor, where



Scents and sensibility: Alexandra Soveral at her studio in Maida Vale, London

Know your nose

- **For energising**
Citrus notes are wonderfully lifting, as are alpine scents such as pine and cypress, which work well when feeling run down and are also antibacterial. Eucalyptus helps hangovers and rosemary aids concentration when studying or working long hours.
- **For disguising kitchen smells**
Geranium is a natural air deodoriser.
- **For inviting intimacy**
Dark and dense oils like patchouli and osmanthus are sultry and mysterious. When blended with jasmine or rose they're sensuous.
- **For adding elegance**
Try the musky smells of vetiver, ambrette and labdanum.
- **For child's bedroom/playroom**
Go for something mildly scented with mandarin or frangipani.

the office is kitted out with dark wood furniture and rich textiles, the scent is heavier and muskier - "Portobello Oud", inspired by the antiques and spices of nearby Notting Hill market.

High-end housebuilder Harrison Varna has commissioned natural-scent specialist Alexandra Soveral for Buxmead, its block of luxury apartments on The Bishops Avenue. Soveral's balsam and fir needle-infused scent in the communal areas is intended to "draw from the surrounding greenery so that when you open the windows there is little difference between the fragrance inside and out". In the spa there is a whiff of coriander seed, which is "fresh but earthy to mark the spa as a welcoming, unisex space". In the bar, a space that combines the marble-topped bar with parquet floors and contemporary leather sofas, "white patchouli with a dash of vetiver smells like leather and tobacco," says Soveral. "The effect ages the room to make it feel lived-in and full of secrets."

Buxmead has used traditional methods such as candles and reed diffusers to scent each space, but new

technology is enhancing the way fragrance can be delivered, emitting it through heating or cooling systems, or even integrating it with lighting. For electronically emitted scent - think Glade, but glam - Soveral recommends aroma diffusers from Stadler Form.

Soveral makes a point of using 100 per cent natural ingredients. "There is already so much pollution in our homes, why would we want to pollute further with a synthetic air freshener?"

The service has taken off in New York and Los Angeles, where Soveral has a growing client base. "Americans like the idea of creating their own personalised fragrance for the home, and also of extending it to create gifts of their own scented products for friends and family. Brits prefer to keep it as a more personal luxury, but one that seems increasingly in demand."

A bespoke scent consultation with Alexandra Soveral (alexandrasoveral.co.uk) starts from £450, and with Rachel Vosper (rachelvosper.com) from £500

SCENTS OF STYLE
SPICE UP YOUR HOME



Leather collection
From £145, by Rachel Vosper (rachelvosper.com)
These come in several sizes and fragrances



Mandarin Canela
£25, by Voluspa (voluspa.co.uk)
A room spray that doubles as a body fragrance with notes of mandarin orange, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger



Jasmine
£47, by Stadler Form (stadlerform.com)
This discreet aroma diffuser emits puffs of extra fine mist using ultrasonic technology. The battery powered device can run for up to 24 hours



Mimosa and mandarin diffuser
£26, by Harley & Lola (harleyandlola.co.uk)
This fruity, natural scent is free from colourants and dyes and lasts for four to six months

Portobello Oud candle
£28, by True Grace (frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk)
A musky scent evoking Notting Hill market

