

London Evening Standard

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The final insult?

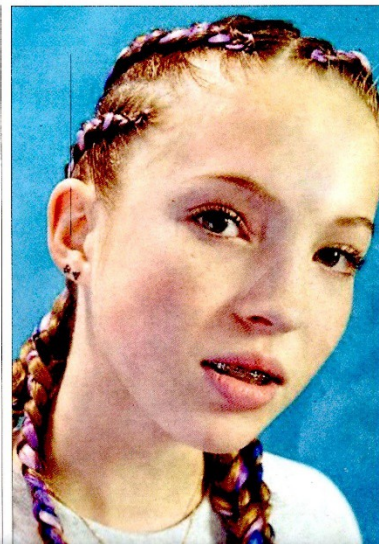
Jose Mourinho wants to kill off Arsene Wenger's top-four hopes

Sport

Pages 56 & 57

MAY FACES FIRST UPRISING OF ELECTION

TORIES: ABANDON SCHOOL FUNDING



Inside

London Evening Standard
FOOD MONTH



What's on our food festival menu
PAGE 13
The full programme online at londonfood

RESIN is loved by designers. They are drawn to this malleable material, which starts life as a transparent liquid and yet solidifies in moulds – and they're dreaming up furniture, lighting and vases. An early, iconic example is Japanese designer Shiro Kuramata's Miss Blanche armchair of 1988, which looks both modern and romantic, with red acrylic glass roses suspended inside its geometric transparent resin backrest and arms.

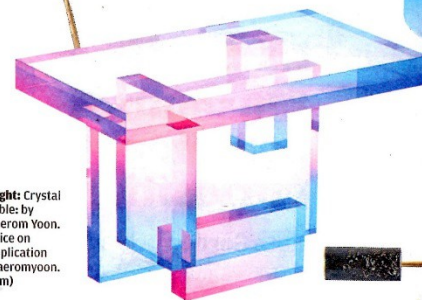
Today's designers are seduced by resin for a variety of reasons. It can be dyed with pigments to create any colour and depending on their strength, the pigments can render resin opaque or tint it in deliciously delicate pastel shades. "Despite looking hard-edged, resin is luxuriously smooth and soft to the touch," says Canadian **Martha Sturdy**, who designs resin furniture and acces-



Purple reigns: Amethyst console by Hélène de Saint Lager, from £6,000 (london.connoisseur.co.uk)



Right: Andy Martin Blocks tables are priced from £5,760 (andymartinstudio.com)



Right: Crystal table: by Saerom Yoon. Price on application (saeromyoon.com)

Resin revolution

Super-versatile resin is the latest dream material for the home and comes in vibrant neon through to delicate pastels. By **Dominic Lutyens**

sories. "Unlike metal or marble, it responds to the temperature around it, so in a warm room it feels warm, too. It's practical, durable and non-porous: spill wine on it and it can be easily wiped off. Scratch it and you can sand it down – the mark disappears."

Resin was originally used in industrial contexts, such as warehouses and car parks, because it's so hardwearing, points out architect **Andy Martin**. He has created a multicoloured polyester resin furniture line called Blocks, which combines clear and frosted resin elements. His pieces capitalise on the way dyed resin glows and casts colourful reflections when light penetrates it.

"In the Sixties, artists such as Steve Kaufman made resin sculptures," he continues. "Over the years, resin has



New Romantic: left, Japanese designer Shiro Kuramata's Miss Blanche armchair (1988), with scarlet acrylic glass roses suspended in the geometric transparent resin backrest and arms



New Romantic: left, Japanese designer Shiro Kuramata's Miss Blanche armchair (1988), with scarlet acrylic glass roses suspended in the geometric transparent resin backrest and arms



rusak

Below: table Chief £1,450; Yellow Collection vases small £222 (marcinrusak.com)

gravity-defying. He traps marble vases and bowls inside clear resin cubes so the marble forms appear to hover. From £1,238 (matterofstuff.com).

Taking a more organic approach, London designer Marcin Rusak suspends real flower petals in resin to create his elegantly geometric Flora Lamps. Similarly romantic are French designer **Hélène de Saint Lager's** tables coated in "puddles of resin", incorporating anything from flowers to twinkling metallic sweet wrappers. Her designs adorn several Dior shops and a Schiaparelli boutique in Paris.

KOREAN designer **Saerom Yoon's** Crystal tables are comparatively clean-cut, yet their sharp edges are softened by the resin's sugary pastel shades, which are specially formulated not to fade in sunlight.

More vibrant are polychrome vases by Seoul-based design studio **Hattern**. Some are made of hazy, frosted resin, while others come in clear resin tinted in vibrant orange, pink, violet and green. As resin can be dyed any shade, the colour combinations are limitless. Price on application (hattern.com).

