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No. 71 APR/MAY 2014 LL10,000



Lost and found

Retro is rediscovered

Fashion Old-school spirit **Gourmet** A taste of Venice **Art** Tapping into That Petrol Emotion **Beauty** Kiss long hair goodbye
Music Past sounds for the present **Icons** Model behavior **Travel** Keeping up with Cologne

A very big house in the city

By Grace Banks



Design has no limits at Finchatton

While walking through London in the '60s, Noel Coward mused, "I don't know what London is coming to – the higher the buildings, the lower the morals." Certainly London's architecture, from Tudor through to the Arts and Crafts movement, has always celebrated contemporary design. What marks successful aesthetics now is the ability to make a space of 300 years feel new and fresh.

Jiin Kim-Inoue, head of design at luxury property company Finchatton, is a master of this art. For six years now, Kim-Inoue has brought her own brand of cool to money-is-no object design, and her client list can't

get enough. "I started off being given a lot of bachelor pads," she says. "It's funny, I guess I can really get into the psyche of the bachelor." In her six years at Finchatton, Kim-Inoue has steered design across a dynamic property portfolio including The Lansbury in Kensington and private commissions in Lebanon and the Caribbean.

Context is key to Kim-Inoue's process. "I'm always respectful of the area the property is in, and I always consider space and atmosphere. I think you should design a place that you can see yourself living in. You're going to be there day in and day out."

Finchatton's founding partners handpicked Kim-Inoue after they met at her graduate exhibition. It is under Finchatton that she completed her career-defining project, The Lansbury, located in London's chic Kensington. Through The Lansbury, Kim-Inoue pursued her interest in texture, a

trend that she marks as key for 2014. "We made a desk using three types of wood, but only varnished part of it and covered a corner in metal. It's that contrast that I like." Future projects will see Kim-Inoue create a mono-colored room, brought to life through different fabrics, including linen and crocodile skin.

Where does her inspiration come from? Everywhere. "I was having a junk food fest, and I saw this wrapper and thought the print would make a really good rug! It can be as simple as that."

Kim-Inoue's dream spaces would be The Shard and somewhere really old, which is why she's so excited about Grosvenor Square, an upcoming project that'll be coordinated by Finchatton. "We create exceptional homes for exceptional clients. We're about getting stuck in with whatever aesthetics we're given."