

UK HARPERS AND QUEEN MAGAZINE - 1983



Derek Frost, one of our better young designers (he is design director of Fox Linton Associates), finds that he is increasingly being asked to design more furniture as 'people are now coming round to spending large sums of money on commissioning contemporary pieces of furniture.' Commissions tend to come from private individuals, but at least as an interior designer Frost has more contact with rich potential patrons than most independent furniture designers. Nonetheless, he thinks that more corporate sponsorship of modern furniture design is needed and finds it quite ridiculous that 'a lot of people in business feel that a modern piece of furniture lowers their status'. He is very fond of deco, and designed this deco-inspired desk - 'although the forms are really much more massive than deco' - for an oriental client. The striking blue and black stained-ash colour scheme derives from Japanese furniture and is counterpointed by a strip of silver leaf of gesso applied by craft-whizz Sebastian Wakefield. Unlike most British furniture designers, Frost is a stylist rather than a craftsman, and so the desk was unexceptionally but well built by a commercial firm. He plans to do more furniture designs, and likes the fact that 'with furniture you can design something that people pass on, while interior design is temporary'.