

The Cut

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Curiouser and curiouser...

A house in which every object is of interest

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THE ORIGINAL Wunderkammern were showcases of marvels in Renaissance castles, but Kim Hersov has created her own cabinet of wonders in her Notting Hill home. The house - a Grade II-listed building from the mid-1800s, which the San Francisco-born fashion editor moved into seven years ago - is filled with prints and paintings, shells and flora, and all manner of objects that draw a second, lingering look.

Take the living-room console: displayed on this single surface are a bowl of porcupine quills, a pair of conch shells, sea-urchin shells on candlestick pedestals, sea fans, a carved skull and a sculptural table lamp, all under the watch of an imposing Mat Collishaw photograph from his *Insecticide* series. The amalgam of old and new, natural and artist-created makes for a mystical, rock'n'roll mix. 'My previous house was a little more grown-up - it was like playing house a bit,' Hersov says. 'This one feels much more like me.'

Hersov, the editor-at-large of Net-a-Porter's *Porter* magazine, worked on the house with interior designer and long-time friend Hubert Zandberg. Together they styled significant pieces with irreverence. (Where to put the grand Fortuny light from her old house? Over the freestanding tub in the master bathroom, of course.) They installed contemporary artworks by the likes of Pieter Hugo, Polly Morgan, Thomas

PICK AND MIX

An ever-expanding collection of intriguing objects and contemporary art comes together in one Notting Hill home.

By Emily Cronin. Photographs by Ingrid Rasmussen



Clockwise from right Zandberg took a layered, eclectic approach to Talitha's first concept shop, which features vintage and antique homewares and fashion alongside contemporary pieces; woven boxes, antlers and zinc candlesticks are among the objects for sale; Zandberg installed a tiered silk Fortuny light above the tub in Hersov's bathroom

Previous page A custom-made four-poster bed by interior designer Hubert Zandberg in Kim Hersov's bedroom.

Above Hersov (right) and Shon Randhawa, co-founders of the fashion label Talitha, in front of a Christian Astugueville mirror in the living room of Hersov's Notting Hill home

Demand and Hersov's partner, Barry Reigate, alongside nostalgic items, including all those shells. 'Since I was little I've loved shells,' she explains. 'My grandmother had a whole wall in a corridor of her beach house lined with them. These are an ode to her.'

The evocative, global-gatherer vibe of the house carries over into Talitha, the fashion label Hersov co-founded with Shon Randhawa in 2013. Hersov and Randhawa - an embroidery expert and co-owner of Patine, an India-based ready-to-wear line - were friends when Randhawa asked Hersov if she would like to work on expanding Patine into Western markets. 'I had this naive, pure view that it was what was missing in the market, and what I loved,' Hersov says.

She mined her memories of the vintage pieces she grew up wearing to create a collection of bohemian yet refined embroidered blouses, kaftans and kimono jackets, and they spun the line off into a stand-alone brand, Talitha. Its first collection launched online when Hersov was mid-air, en route to Kazakhstan for a Ralph Lauren project; it sold out before her flight landed.

Four years later, Talitha has 86 global stockists, Randhawa has trebled the workforce at her artisan facility just outside New Delhi to keep pace with

'My grandmother had a whole wall lined with shells. These are an ode to her'



Right A teal silk wall enlivens the decor in Hersov's bedroom. On it hangs an artwork by Barry Reigate. The bamboo planter is an antique, from the 19th century.

Far right Hersov's sitting room features a painting by Alastair Mackinven, quilt boxes from her grandmother and from Guinevere Antiques, and examples from her collection of shells

demand, and Hersov has a new career as a fashion entrepreneur. 'I don't even know where to start in telling you how much I've learnt,' she says. 'Fabrication, distribution, construction, how to put a collection together, you name it - you don't get that being an editor.'

Zandberg, meanwhile, has championed the project all along. He filled Talitha's first studio with an assortment of furniture and objects from his collections. Early buying appointments took place in Hersov's living room, in the environment she and Zandberg had created. 'We sort of took over her living room for a year,' Randhawa says. 'The clothes fit right in.' It was only natural that when Hersov and Randhawa had the opportunity to open a concept shop, they would collaborate with their unofficial house designer.

The shop is a 10-minute, cherry-blossom-lined stroll from Hersov's home, but walking through the front door feels like entering another room in the same house. The bi-level space is styled as a global traveller's bedroom



and living room, furnished with 'things that have memories that make them very relevant for Talitha': cloisonné jars, layered rugs, ikat-print tableware, zinc candlesticks, and African stone-bead necklaces from Owen Hargreaves' stall on Portobello Road. There are woven baskets and place mats from Madwa, a non-profit company that works with artisans in Madagascar, Swaziland and South Africa, and exclu-

There is a mystical, rock'n'roll amalgam of old and new, natural and artist-created

sive reissued textiles by Tibor Reich, the post-war designer who created fabrics for Concorde and the QE2.

Some of the pieces are siblings of others already in situ in Hersov's home. The four-poster bed is a duplicate of Hersov's; the wall colour - Flamant's Goa, a lush peacock blue - is a near-match to the lush, shantung-covered walls in her bedroom. Which makes it all too easy for Talitha's founders to

shop the space themselves. So far, Hersov has snapped up the round, wicker-framed light from the wall above the bed. 'I thought it would look really good in my house, since it's the same bed,' she says, smiling.

There are clothes, too, with Talitha pieces and vintage finds displayed on rails that merge with the decor. Hersov, Randhawa and Zandberg plan to transform the space to reflect seasonal collections, shifting the contents and design at least twice a year. And everything is for sale. 'It gives narrative depth to the clothes,' says Randhawa. 'It's a new experience for me, that when people come in, instead of just wanting clothes, they want the props too.'

Ruth and Tom (Chapman, founders of matchesfashion.com) said that when they opened their Wimbledon store, they stocked it with antiques, and decorators would come and buy everything,' Hersov recalls. 'They said, "You'll have that problem." I really hope we do.' Talitha, 22 Powis Terrace, London W11; talithacollection.com

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