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Life & Leisure

LUXURY

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THE A TO Z OF SUCCESS

THE LUXURY BRANDS
WITH UNRIVALLED
CLOUT, CASH AND
CREATIVITY



MARANELLO MAGIC

What makes Ferrari the
most desirable marque

FORCE OF THE SOUTH

Argentina's wine industry
shows its credentials

lifetime



Wine and dine

RAISING a glass to sustainable design is Brown Dog Furniture Company – aka design duo David and Tamara Gorrie. Their inaugural range of limited edition tables has been created from wood that has played a part in ageing some of Australia's best wines.

The Gorries have reclaimed large wine vats from the former Mildara Winery in Mildura. These are premium imported French oak vats that are naturally imbued with distinctive red wine markings.

David Gorrie found that the wide timber vats lent themselves beautifully to the making of furniture. "Given the large circumference of the vats, each board can be reasonably wide [here, about 13 centimetres]," he says. "All that's needed to create these circular vats is a slight chamfer on the edges of each of the boards. We mill these off before joining the timber to create the flat tables."

The range includes dining, side and coffee tables in a variety of sizes. Brown Dog also has a rather nifty try-before-you-commit service, allowing the owner to live with the piece in their home before making the final choice.

The company specialises in making contemporary furniture from reclaimed timber from around the world.

KATARINA KROSLAKOVA



Bag of secrets

All Coco Chanel really wanted was a handbag with a strap so that her hands were free, but her 2.55 became an essential fashion accessory.

Once upon a time there was a French woman named Coco Chanel. In 1955 she designed a handbag, and, because of the year, she called it the 2.55. It was a year when more and more women were juggling careers and family and desperately trying to look elegant while doing so. With both hands full, hand-held bags would simply not do.

One day when she was at the races Coco looked at her binoculars. They were so easy to carry, slung across her shoulder – the way soldiers and cyclists wore bags. Inspiration struck.

She made the 2.55 in two versions: a lambskin model for daytime and an evening bag made from silk or jersey. Both were attached to braided straps with gold chain links and were worn over the shoulder.

Women went wild for the bags. Not only were they practical, they were also beautiful. Coco used quilting, taking her inspiration from the riding coats of jockeys. She gave the bag seven pockets, including a discreet inner pocket for love notes and another little pocket in the middle for storing lipstick. She covered the inside with burgundy lining – the same colour as the uniform she wore as an orphan at the Aubazine Abbey.

All these facts and more are to be shared at a special event in Melbourne. Secrets of the Handbag is scheduled for July 17 at the Chanel Boutique in Chadstone.

HANNAH TATTERSALL

Design
Luxe



A touch of Frost

A DESIGN STUDIO'S WORK GOES BEYOND MAKING THINGS LOOK NICE.

Walk around Sydney and there's a fair chance you'll come across a landmark touched by Frost* Design. But unlike architects or artists whose marks are instantly recognisable, Frost* Design's work is slightly more stealthy. The design studio has helped the Sydney Opera House with a new marketing strategy, designed graphics and signage for the Qantas domestic check-in service, created a website for Cafe Sydney and developed a logo for the State Library of NSW.

Founder Vincent Frost says the agency's work goes beyond simply making things look nice – it helps organisations realise their drawing potential.

The State Library of NSW, for example, is a treasure trove of resources, Frost says, going far beyond books. The agency encouraged the century-old institution to broaden its public image and appeal to a wider audience by advertising its assets.

Frost says it is no easy task convincing long-standing organisations that their image needs a makeover. "People don't like to be criticised," he says. "It's about extending it rather than changing it completely." HT

The 2.55 handbag was created in 1955 for practicality, but soon became all the rage among fashion-conscious women.



ABOVE: Light installation by Frost* Design at ActewAGL House in Canberra.