

IN STYLE



LIGHT-HEADED
One look at this rundum Panorama Lamp and you'll see the world in a totally different light. Made by German firm Schnurstracks, its swivelling lampshade depicts a transparent panoramic scene which can be changed according to taste. You can purchase one of its Cologne landscapes, more abstract designs like sunflowers and historic wooden sculptures, or get your own photographs sized to fit. US\$299 (NZ\$528) from www.panoramalampe.com

HOT STUFF
Zip into Wellington store The Vault at the speed of light if you want to own Vessel's Candeloo lamps. Sold in two colour combos (green/blue or red/orange), these rechargeable candles were designed by Andreu Osika and Duane Smith for the American company. Using intelligent circuitry, each emits as much light as a candle. And with the press of a button, they can be set to "gently breathe" with their light slowly phasing in and out to lull littlies to sleep. A pair costs \$155 from the Willis St store. www.vault-designstore.co.nz

LIGHT OF GOD
See the light with these Cross Bulbs... One glows red, the other yellow and both starred in Wellington film *The Irrefutable Truth About Demons*. \$12 each from The Light Bulb Man, formerly of Chews Lane and now at 80a Boulcott St.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Auckland's Catherine David is one switched-on lady... Not only is her Blackboard Table Lamp funky, it also offers a blank canvas to inspire each owner. Its base measures 150mm and the shade 200mm in diameter, though a larger 600mm pendant version can also be bought at www.catherinedaviddesigns.com. From \$380 with free delivery nationwide.

Light relief

True or false? American inventor Thomas Edison was responsible for creating the first lightbulb.

IF YOU agreed, shame on you. What were you doing during science class at school? Edison improved an earlier patent by adding a filament to make a longer-lasting bulb, which he then mass-produced for commercial use.

Before that lightbulb (with filament) literally flashed above Edison's head in 1879, our cavemen relatives used the sun's rays and the glow of their fires to survive. Bigger-brained homosapiens later harnessed such flames for use as candles, lanterns and gas-lights.

But it was electric lighting which revolutionised society, allowing major advances in science, technology, the arts and interior design.

New lighting can also be a cheap way to revamp your home, but consider purchases carefully. Rustic country lampshades may be all the rage in interior design magazines but will they really work in your concrete and steel kitchen?

Perhaps one of these fixtures will provide a beacon of hope.

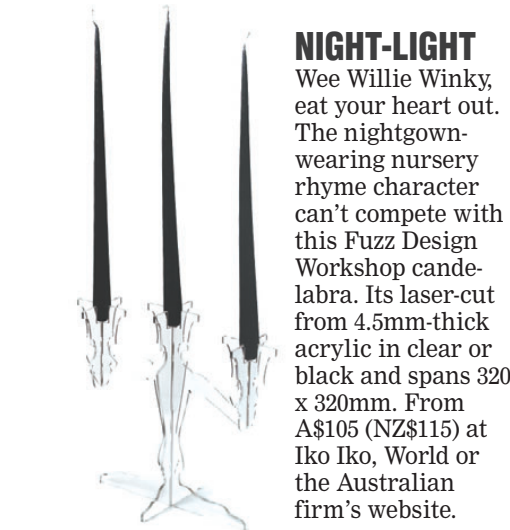
Compiled by Kylie Walker



ON/OFF
Trip the light fantastic in Harlem 23s Chandelier T-shirt, \$48 from upper Cuba St store Miss Demeanour.



LAMPOONED
Light as the proverbial feather — that's Ed Carpenter's Pigeon Lamp. With a wingspan of 230 x 80 x 230mm, this urban souvenir has a transparent plastic outer shell — lit by a 25W bulb — and clothes-peg foot attached to a beech perch. It's sold at ECC Lighting (Thorndon Quay) in orange, pink, gold and white for \$218. www.ecclighting.co.nz or www.edcarpenter.co.uk



NIGHT-LIGHT
Wee Willie Winky, eat your heart out. The nightgown-wearing nursery rhyme character can't compete with this Fuzz Design Workshop candelabra. Its laser-cut from 4.5mm-thick acrylic in clear or black and spans 320 x 320mm. From \$105 (NZ\$115) at Iko Iko, World or the Australian firm's website.



LIGHTWEIGHT
I'm carrying a torch for Purforms GlowBody mannequins. These are a new model from the 40-year-old Auckland company. Others prepared to shell out \$200 and up for the shapely bods can choose between male or female, a torso or figure in a translucent shade of their choice. From \$200 at www.purform.co.nz



MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO
Feeling curious, George? Take a look at SKK's Gorillaluce if you're seeking enlightenment. The environmentally-friendly lamp comes in two sizes (400mm and 500mm), six colours, and several international wiring configurations, including New Zealand. Five per cent of the profits from every sale are donated to Kenya's Colubus Monkey Trust and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. The small version costs \$65 (NZ\$160), the large \$79 (NZ\$195) plus postage from www.savethgorillas.com

BRIGHT YOUNG THING
Also deserving of a plug is Wellington's Jenny Keate's Noodle Lamp. Made from fibreglass at an Upper Hutt car-plant, it stands 1300mm tall and comes in red, black, white or customised lacquer finishes. The designer, who's also responsible for the award-winning Lily Lamp, sells her work through Artikel (Wakefield St) for \$795. www.jennykeate.co.nz

WHY I LOVE...

Money

Coining it old-style

Alistair Robb is a numismatist. He has an even more complicated relationship with money than the rest of us. He's made advising people on it his business and collecting it his hobby. By Diana Dekker.



Rarity lover: Alistair Robb with a Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand medal. Picture: MAARTEN HOLL

ALISTAIR Robb keeps his money safely in the bank, as you do when you're a prudent tax consultant. Every now and again he visits it, trails down to the bank some time between 11am and 3pm, signs in, puts up with clanging doors, a multitude of locks and sneaky surveillance and just takes it out of its big strong box and delights in it.

As a tax consultant he's concerned with money and who cares what it actually looks like. As a numismatist he appreciates money for its intrinsic rather than its face value, though many of the coins and banknotes in his collection are worth infinitely more than the amount they were made to represent.

He'd really like to have his collection at home, displayed in pull-out drawers or on the wall, so he can see it and touch it any time, but these days, he observes, anything "nice or unusual" needs to be under lock and key.

"A car was broken into in our street just last night."

One sum of money is not the same as another to Alistair. He has been collecting the cream of New Zealand examples, banknotes and coins, for 40 years. More, really.

When he was a child his mother let living areas to people who needed to put money in a calfont to get gas and he began collecting the old Queen Victoria pennies.

"What a numismatist loves is finding an old coin in nearly brand-new condition," he says.

The backbone of his collection is a full range of coins from 1933, when the Reserve Bank became re-

sponsible for minting them, to 1967, when decimal currency came in. Among the rarest of them are the 1940 centennial half-crown — people tended to stow them away rather than spend them — and the 1935 threepence.

Only 80,000 threepences were minted in 1935. There were going to be none, the millions already produced deemed sufficient till the following year, but the little band of 35 money-loving members of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand implored the Reserve Bank not to leave a gap in their collections.

"There were four million threepences produced the year before and about four million the year after but only 80,000 in 1935 which made it a semi-rarity right away."

Alistair joined the Numismatic Society in 1967 when there were 350 members.

"Collecting old coins was a huge craze then."

Now the membership has more than halved and many enthusiasts are older people. There's so much, he observes, for younger people to do in their spare time, particularly on computers. But the Internet, with its cyberspace sales rooms, may also revive an interest in numismatics. Alistair has sold on the

Internet, though not bought.

His interest is old coins. Modern coins, like stamps, he says, "are produced for the chicken crossing the road". *The Lord of the Rings*, for example, prompted the production of 58 souvenir-type coins, known as non-circulating legal tender. Such issues are sold at such high premiums, he says, that they do not have real investment potential.

The Numismatic Society was founded in 1931. Its 75th anniversary will be celebrated on March 3 and 4. The governor of the Reserve Bank will speak at the event — "I hope on the subject of money rather than monetary subjects."

Alistair is looking forward to the Reserve Bank's new museum, which should be open by the end of June. He's offered to lend some of his collection, which includes many rare banknotes — including one that cost him more than \$20,000 — for display.

"I know I've got stuff they haven't got. None of the banks have been careful at saving their own issues. The Reserve Bank has a huge amount of early stuff, and other banks as well, but they haven't specifically made complete collections, which is really disappointing."

INTIMACY

Keep romance rolling

NEIL ROSENTHAL

LAST week we discussed the traits of a happy relationship. Here are some ways to keep the romance strong and vital in your intimate relationship:

■ Touch is the greatest aphrodisiac that exists. It helps us to get close, feel close and stay close. If you're not touching each other a lot, your relationship is unlikely to feel hot or passionate, and both of you will notice that the closeness and connection you once had has waned. I'm talking about affectionate touch, not sexual. That being said, have you ever noticed that affection often leads to sex?

■ You can't withdraw when you're hurt or angry. So many people withdraw from their partner because they're hurt or angry. But withdrawal is the death knell of an intimate relationship. Withdrawal kills intimacy. Far better for you to say you're upset, angry or hurt, and to talk it through. You must take your wall down if you want a close, intimate relationship.

■ Create time to be alone together every week, and treat that time as sacred.

■ Notice, call attention to and openly appreciate your partner's wonderful qualities.

■ The heart of me feeling valued by you is whether you are responsible to what I say matters most to me. Therefore, if I say something is important to me, make it important to you also, if you possibly can.

■ Say what you like and love about your intimate partner. What character traits does s/he have that you respect or admire? Is she reliable? Is he trustworthy? A good father? A caring family member? Is she considerate? Compassionate? Sexy? Affectionate? Is he a friend to you? Fun? Romantic? Good-looking? A great dresser? These are the reasons that you chose your partner. Don't keep it a secret. Say or write it as a love letter.

■ When you talk with your partner, look into his/her eyes.

■ Find ways to have fun together. Create separate lists entitled "What's Fun?" Then create a se-

ond list called "New Things I'd Like to Experience, Experiment With or Try." Now share your two lists, and create a third list of things you can do together that are fun or enjoyable, or things the two of you would like to try. Then consistently — every week — do at least one item on that list. The couple that plays together stays together.

■ Always be a lover in training. Always be a "student" husband or wife, boyfriend or girlfriend — consistently willing to learn or take feedback about how you could be better, how to be a better friend, how to be more responsive, romantic or caring.

■ Thank your intimate partner for all s/he has contributed to your life. And spell out what his/her contribution has been. Don't just think it, say it.

■ Neil Rosenthal is a family and relationship counsellor. Write to him c/- The Editor, The Dominion Post, PO Box 3740, Wellington, or visit www.heartrelationships.com

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