

MAKE YOUR HOME A PLEASURE ZONE

JULY/AUGUST 1998 £2.80

# ELLE DECORATION

COOL CALM  
LE CORBUSIER  
HOUSE

40 BEST  
HOME  
BUYS  
UNDER £40

OUTDOOR  
LIVING ISSUE

25 PAGES OF LAID-BACK LOUNGING

POSSESSION OBSESSION?  
GET THE KEY TO LEAN LIVING

07



## VISIONAIRE



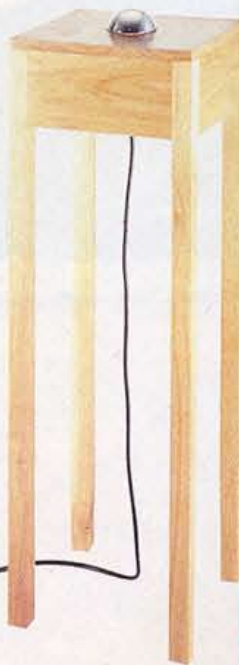
No. 1



### design visionary

At £283, 'Light', issue 24 of *Visionaire*, guest edited by Gucci's Tom Ford, lives up to its reputation as the 'magazine de luxe'. Why not save your pennies and check out the entire set on display at the ever-chic Colette in Paris, 20 July-5 Sept (00 331 55 35 33 90), and be first in line for issue 25.

Below: table light by Michael Anastassiades



### people

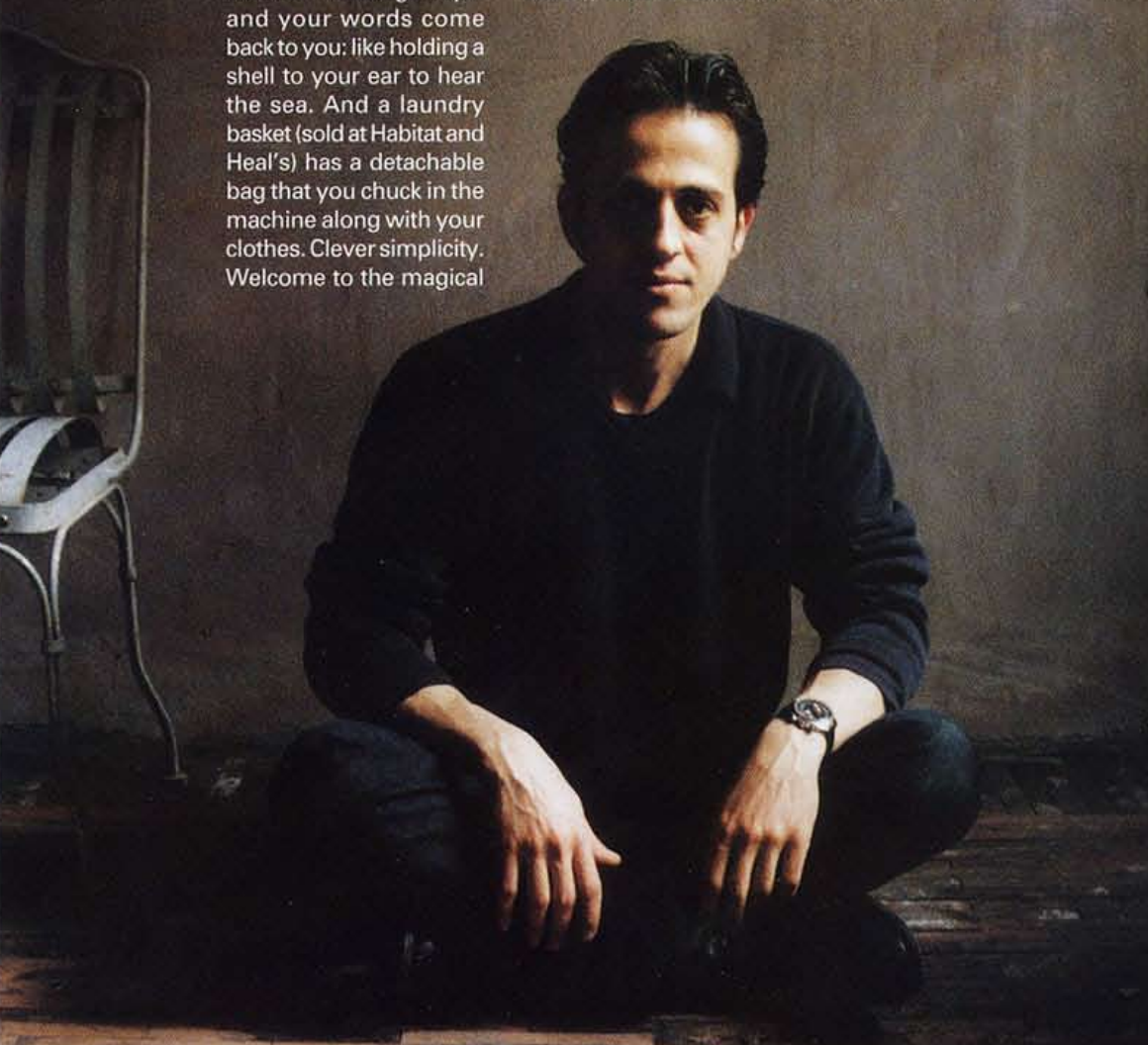
## Michael Anastassiades marries art, design and ideas to make things that are witty and fun

A bedside table is also an alarm clock: the clock is hidden inside the lid and the whole table vibrates when it's time to wake up. A tall, skinny table in the hallway is perfect for sneaky make-up checks: its swooping top is a mirror. Another table is also a light. The colour of the appropriately named 'thermometer table' changes as it gets hot or cold. And it's not just tables that get the benefit of such lateral thinking. Speak into the wooden 'message cups' and your words come back to you: like holding a shell to your ear to hear the sea. And a laundry basket (sold at Habitat and Heal's) has a detachable bag that you chuck in the machine along with your clothes. Clever simplicity. Welcome to the magical

world of engineer turned industrial design wizard Michael Anastassiades. Part philosopher, designer and sorcerer, this Athens-born 31-year-old makes 'objects that respond to their environment'. In other words, he marries art, design and ideas, so that things that are usually static become interactive, witty and fun. Anastassiades' most recent work, apart from fashion designer Hussein Chalayan's shows ('it's about creating an experience'), was a series of

experimental furniture inspired by the English garden. A collaborative venture with architect Fiona Raby and designer Tony Dunne, the British Council-sponsored project included a device for growing and straightening cucumbers, a 'garden horn' for speaking to plants that might otherwise feel neglected, a 'cricket box' for collecting and playing garden sounds, and a seat for sharing with flowers! *MO Michael Anastassiades (0171 928 7527)*

PHOTOGRAPHS: SEAMUS NICHOLSON, MICHAEL MACK



**Q** 'It's not exactly a white I use: pots that are just white are alienating – too pure. I use *reladon*, a natural bluey-green glaze that dates back to 12th-century china' *Edmund de Waal, ceramacist*