

MY FAVOURITE THINGS



Ben and Lucy Clarke of Curve Interior Design, Manchester, share their design passions and reveal how a love of record covers and Lego in their formative years eventually led them into creative careers, culminating in the development of their own company in 2006.



Indispensable everyday luxury

Ben An en-suite bathroom. Everybody needs a bit of sanctuary, especially with three girls in the house.
Lucy My Bugaboo 'Cameleon' pram. I never leave home without it.

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Most inspiring piece of architecture

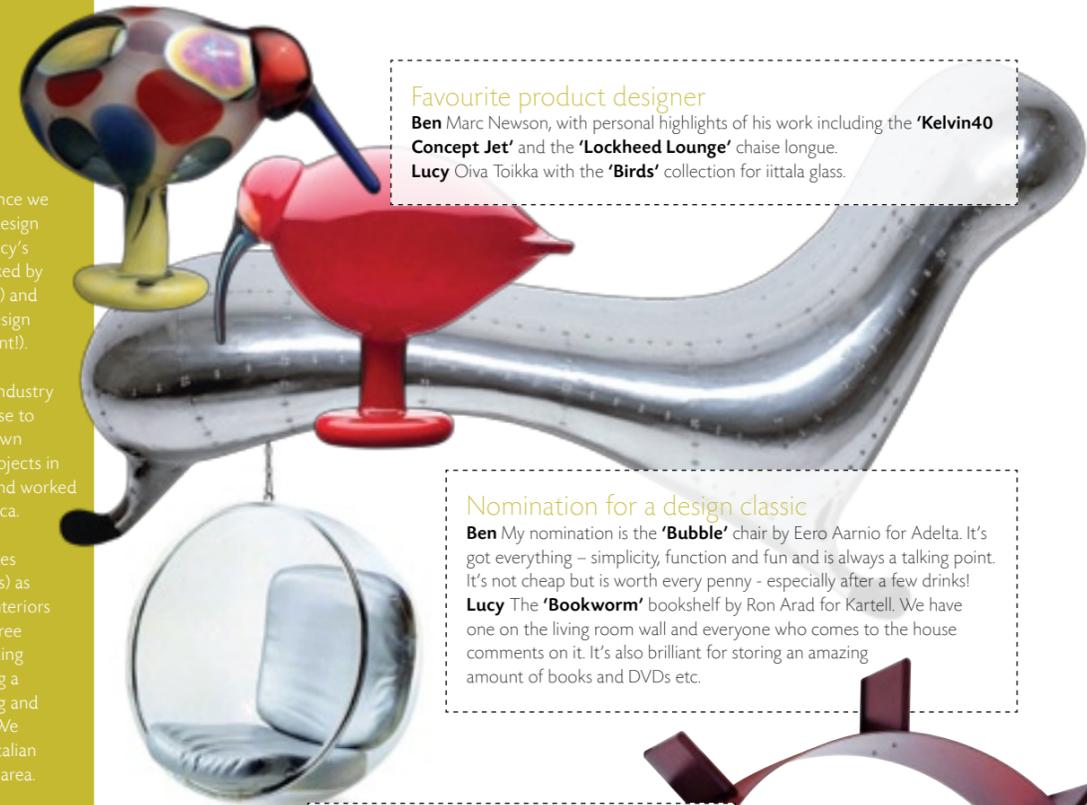
Ben The Millau Viaduct at 2.5km long and 270m tall. Awesome!
Lucy Gaudi's architecture in Barcelona. Closer to home, the contrast of experiencing Manchester's buildings old and new, from climbing the bell tower in the wonderful Town Hall to a cocktail half way up the Hilton Tower.

What first sparked your enthusiasm for design and where has this interest led you?

We have both been interested in design since we were kids. In fact, we met while studying design at Manchester Metropolitan University. Lucy's background is in graphic design (first sparked by her love of indie record sleeves in the '80s) and Ben's is in craft, furniture and industrial design (Lego was always a popular birthday present!).

After both being employed in the design industry for ten years, in 2006 the opportunity arose to fulfil a long-term ambition and start our own design practice; we've since completed projects in Manchester, Cheshire and across the UK and worked on villas in the South of France and Mallorca.

Our design services cover private residences (encompassing renovations and new builds) as well as show properties and commercial interiors (bars and offices etc). Generally we offer free initial consultations – building on the existing thoughts or progress of our client, working a project up to storyboards, budget planning and ultimately implementation of the design. We are also the exclusive representatives for Italian manufacturer Poliform in the Manchester area.



Favourite product designer

Ben Marc Newson, with personal highlights of his work including the 'Kelvin40 Concept Jet' and the 'Lockheed Lounge' chaise longue.
Lucy Oiva Toikka with the 'Birds' collection for iittala glass.

Nomination for a design classic

Ben My nomination is the 'Bubble' chair by Eero Aarnio for Adelta. It's got everything – simplicity, function and fun and is always a talking point. It's not cheap but is worth every penny - especially after a few drinks!
Lucy The 'Bookworm' bookshelf by Ron Arad for Kartell. We have one on the living room wall and everyone who comes to the house comments on it. It's also brilliant for storing an amazing amount of books and DVDs etc.

Design-related quote or philosophy

"Design is a plan for arranging elements in such a way as best to accomplish a particular purpose."

Charles Eames, chosen by Ben

"I shop therefore I am."

Barbara Kruger, chosen by Lucy



Nomination for a future classic

Ben The 'Ugolino' chandelier from the Lolli e Memmoli collection for its beautiful fusion of material and craftsmanship. In my eyes this creates the ultimate focal point for any luxurious dining room.
Lucy I love the Missoni Home products; the 2009 collections have just been launched and in my opinion they just get better every year. The patterns are unique and represent a fantastic investment to finish off any interior design project.

