

urbis

**KITCHENS +
BATHROOMS**

24-PAGE TRENDS
BOOKLET

**A LITTLE
CHEEKY**
PLAYFUL
INTERIORS,
COLOURS AND
SHAPES

**RITE OF
SPRING**
GARDENS,
GREENERY AND
RENEWAL

CONFIDENCE + FLAIR
HOMES THAT PUSH BOUNDARIES
AND IDEAS

DECOR
EVOLUTION

Material minded

New Zealand-born designer **Hayden Martis** creates limited-edition design pieces from beautifully finished natural materials in his London studio. He has an unhurried design process, which results in pieces of technical difficulty and exceptional refinement.

WORDS CAMILLE KHOURI





These pages.

Lamps by Hayden Martis. The *Tension* lamp (opposite page) has an invisible connection between the cylindrical column and the disc, creating a seemingly impossible composition of shapes and light. The *Ascension* lamp (left) has a solid brass base out of which a carbon fibre form twists upwards, with a tiny LED casting light towards the sky.

of movement in space, through light'. Each of these is made with a 6.5kg solid brass base from which a wiggling line casts light upwards (*Ascension*), outwards (*Equilibrium*) or downwards (*Descension*). These were created using the technically challenging and obscure process of advanced carbon fibre curing, which allows the completely freeform 3D curves to be created.

London is an apt place for Hayden's style of work, as it is close to manufacturers that can carry out the types of precision work needed for his designs. There is also a market for his work in the growing number of hybrid art and design galleries, which provide him with a niche audience: something he is not sure he would have in New Zealand.

Rather than travel to design fairs, Hayden has mostly made sales through galleries and also through social media.

IT'S PROBABLY TAKEN ME a while to get to the point where I am happy to produce something," says Hayden Martis. "That is to do with my own internal monologue rather than anything else. You can make stuff and keep making it but I have tended to go the other way and spend more time writing, reading, thinking, drawing and sketching – and the work is now starting to come out. I could have pumped out work to make money but I just don't feel inclined to do that."

Owning one of Hayden's pieces is like possessing an artwork. The designer puts a lot of time and legwork into visiting the sites where his materials are found, including journeying to Carrara once or twice each year to see the stone studios there. Each of his Fallon and Falloff plates and bowls is crafted from a single block of stone and is a product of the inspiration he found in Italian and Spanish stone quarries. "It wasn't until understanding marble and being close to the factories and ateliers in Carrara that I got a feel for how that

material works," he says.

He also travelled to New Zealand's South Island in 2015 to research materials for his upcoming release, *Extract the Light*, which comprises pendants made from cored greenstone. "This is the first piece in what is loosely titled the *Heritage* collection," says Hayden. "I'm interested in telling stories of place and history through native materials in a very non-commercial, novel way. With the greenstone, I wanted to steer away from carving and look at the material itself."

The core drill process used for the pendants allows the material to be seen in as close to its natural state as possible, with the rind of the stone visible along with the transitions from the rough edge that was tumbled down the river right through to the translucent heart. These are also functional objects with embedded LEDs.

Another series of lights which took a long time in development, named *Ascension*, *Equilibrium* and *Descension*, is the result of a quest to create 'a sense



People

These pages.
Extract the Light is a new series made from South Island pounamu core-drilled from the raw stone.
 Hayden Martis' desk.



"I have steered away from doing a big show for the moment until I have a decent amount to take and expose to a larger audience. It's an interesting thing with the rise of Instagram over the last couple of years. People will see work on there and email me directly and I have facilitated a lot of sales that way." And business is going well – "I could probably not sketch another piece for another 10 years and have enough work, which is frustrating in itself, really!" he says.

Hayden studied industrial design at Massey University, where he learned the technical skills behind product, lighting and furniture design; however, he believes that creativity is something that cannot be taught. "The drive to make things and explore: you need that as a designer and you have to find it yourself." 