

BRUMMELL

APRIL 2007 ✦

THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK FROM FINANCIAL NEWS

**Perfectly
formed**



DESIGN DIRECTORY: WHO TO HIRE FOR YOUR HOME / HOTELS WITH STYLE / PREMIUM RUMS
SAILING AND THE CITY / THE BEST DIGITAL CAMERAS / NAUTICAL KIT / CUTTING EDGE CARS



This page

Gardens by Luciano Giubbilei (left) and Philip Nixon (below).

Opposite page, left Soft furnishings by Pat Giddens. **Right** Work by builder Alexander Maltby

PILGRIM PAYNE

Established in 1850, Pilgrim Payne is one of the very few upholstery and carpet cleaners which actually shows up first to assess the situation and then comes back to do the job. With the current craze for gold-lined curtains, specialist firms such as this one (with major insurance policies) are much sought after. Staff are trained, dressed in uniform and punctual.

www.pilgrimpayne.co.uk; 020 8453 5350

ARNOLD CHAN

This is the man who every famous architect in the world uses to light his projects (clients include Calvin Klein and Miuccia Prada, as well as galleries like the Serpentine). A trained architect, Chan invented lighting on a grand scale, and no self-respecting minimalist architect anywhere on the planet can live without him and his large team. He has the biggest selection of A-list clients in the business and can turn any house into a Dan Flavin work of art, at a price. He also developed a lighting system that can change colours, first seen in Ian Schrager's hotels.

www.isometrix.co.uk; 020 7253 2888

BURFORD VALET SERVICE

Stephen Haughton cleans shoes for a living but like no one else. His travelling valet service is the Rolls-Royce of sponging, for men who spend £5,000 on their suits and just as much on their bespoke shoes. This is military shine for Etonians and Italian counts.

07774 476 327

SPACE HEALING FOR YOUR HOME

Suzi Morris was a healer and an Alexander Technique teacher but now goes into buildings to clear out bad karma and "negativity". Don't laugh: TV companies regularly use her and reckon everything feels more peaceful as a result. Ghosts vanish when she arrives; houses that have been hard to sell subsequently find buyers overnight.

www.suzimorris.co.uk; 020 7351 1788



IT/SOUNDSYSTEMS

CORNFLAKE SHOP

No one can live without their 20-inch plasma screen, which is connected to the fridge, which is connected to the bath and the front gate etc. To get all this right, you need the right sort of advice early on. Chris Adair, MD of Cornflake, is used to dealing with hotshots such as Robbie Williams and Dustin Hoffman, and manages egos as well as wires. He remains committed to resolving problems after the job is done and dusted – which makes him unique in his profession. His crew all arrive in Addison Lees – a performance in itself. www.cornflake.co.uk; 020 7323 4554

LIFESTYLE IT

Music systems can be loads of fun but computer installation ain't, so this team of IT experts has taken the pain out of high tech by virtually teaching clients such as Kylie Minogue to turn on their computers. They offer a lifestyle package,

which means that clients use the company for all their technical needs (in their houses, yachts etc), as well as tech support. They get engineers out fast and they are used to being shouted at under duress.

www.lifestyleit.com; 020 8423 2244

SPECIALISTS

SCREWDRIVER

What a fantastic idea Jack Bock had back in 1995 when he discovered that no one who bought flat-packed furniture could actually put it together (and buying Ikea is the new new among the rich rich, who can't can't ever figure it out). He hired retired engineers (now over 120 of them), and sends people around Britain to do what most men think they can, but clearly can't. Peter Jones recommends him to all its clients and, while on-site, most operatives are happy to hang a door or screw in a light bulb.

www.screwdriver-homework.com

GARDEN DESIGNERS

PHILIP NIXON

One minute Nixon was a salesman working in the City and the next he had won four Chelsea Golds. This is a gardener moving so fast you can hardly keep up. His style is clean, slick and architectural (lots of stone and bamboo), and his presentations make even the City's finest pitches look a bit scummy. A rising star with a growing list of important clients.

www.philipnixondesign.com; 020 7371 0066

LUCIANO GIUBBILEI

As beautiful to look at as his gardens are to sit in, Giubbilei is the darling of the smart Italian set (eg Avery Agnelli), and is a master in creating beautiful Tuscan lines in London gardens. He is more Gucci than organic, which is why he is the first choice of the minimalist design set and the private-jet crowd. www.lucianogiubbilei.com; 020 7622 2616