

TOP STORY

Designers celebrate four decades of innovation at V&A

Design devotees (including Steamer Trading founders David and Liz Phillips and managing director, Ben Phillips) were treated to a slice of ceramic history to present day at the launch of the V&A's Queensbury Hunt exhibition. The exhibition opened in April, complimenting the V&A's current focus on British Design 1948-2012, and runs until September 2.

David Queensberry and Martin Hunt became partners in 1966, and have helped shape our tabletops over the past four decades. The partnership is acclaimed for pioneering white-ware and tableware shapes that addressed what people were actually eating (such as pasta). These included revolutionary rectangular and square tableware, which exploited new manufacturing technology in the 1980s, and reacted to rising interest in Asian food.

Queensbury Hunt's impressive client list includes Hornsea Pottery, Thomas from Rosenthal, Habitat, John Lewis, Crate & Barrel, Le Creuset, David Watson Pottery and Jamie Oliver.

On opening the exhibition, educationalist and writer, Sir Christopher Frayling reflected on the partners' journey through recent culinary history, "From an era when olive oil was what you put in your ears, to celebrity chefs who love white, to food stylists who prefer our patterns."

David Queensbury told PH: "If you want to be very fashionable, it's going to be short-lived." Hence the need for designs that address function and needs. He expressed the partnership's design ideology as "the extraordinary within the framework of the ordinary."

Exhibits included Contrast for Hornsea Pottery in the 1970s, Trend and Loft ranges for Thomas from Rosenthal, Feeling for Guzinni (winner of the inaugural PH/CHA's Excellence in Housewares Top of the Table in 2000) and Queensbury Hunt's current patterned work, using new glaze technology, from Royal Fernwood Porcelain.



Another exhibit, the Chicken Brick made by Henry Watson Potteries, was originally commissioned by Steamer Trading co-founder David Phillips when he was buyer for Habitat. The brick continues to be produced by the Watson family pottery after some 40 years.

Top: Loft (an extension of the pioneering Trend tableware, designed by Robin Leven of the Queensbury Hunt team) is one of the top exports from Rosenthal Thomas.

Left: Designers that have shaped tableware: David Queensbury (left) and Martin Hunt (back) with Jagath Peiris from manufacturer, Royal Fernwood and PH's Jo Howard at the launch of the Queensbury Hunt exhibition at the V&A.

PEOPLE

La Cafetière has promoted John Jackson to the position of managing director. John joined as national sales manager in June 2008 and became sales and marketing director in 2010. The Greenfield Group managing director Lew Bingham says: "John has made an invaluable contribution to the significant global expansion of our business – a strategy that has seen La Cafetière's sales double in the last three years."

Ken Daly (right) has been appointed chief executive officer of JML. Ken has been group managing director since 2007, and has been with the company for 17 years. Ken is responsible for the company's worldwide operations. Meanwhile, Mark Graas has been appointed to JML's group board of directors. Mark has been the managing director of JML's Benelux operation since 2009, making significant developments for the company in Holland and Belgium.



Heather Grunwell has joined Grunberg's team as sales representative for the north. Tom Basford is now focusing on some larger of the company's accounts in the north.

Rob Lozowski is the new event director for the Kitchen & Dining sectors at Spring Fair International and Autumn Fair International. Rob has 20 years' events experience, was a professional rugby player in his previous career, and enjoys cooking.

OXO UK has announced that agent Robert Sanger is now exclusively responsible for both OXO Good Grips and OXO Tot within the South East and London. Robert will continue as the OXO UK agent in the South West and South Wales.

What More UK has expanded its international and UK sales teams, with the appointment of Laurent Decarpentry and Peter Yates. Laurent (who grew up in northern France) is responsible for increasing the companies exports, while Peter is responsible for some of the companies larger UK accounts.



NESPRESSO COMPATIBLE COFFEE CAPSULES

"Our new design capsules are available in gift boxes of ten"

www.dualit.com

01293 652 500

info@dualit.com

Nespresso trademark is owned by Societe des Produits Nestlé S.A.

NEW
FLAVOURS