June 2022 £5.90





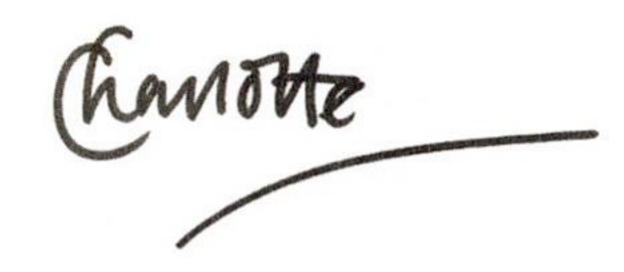


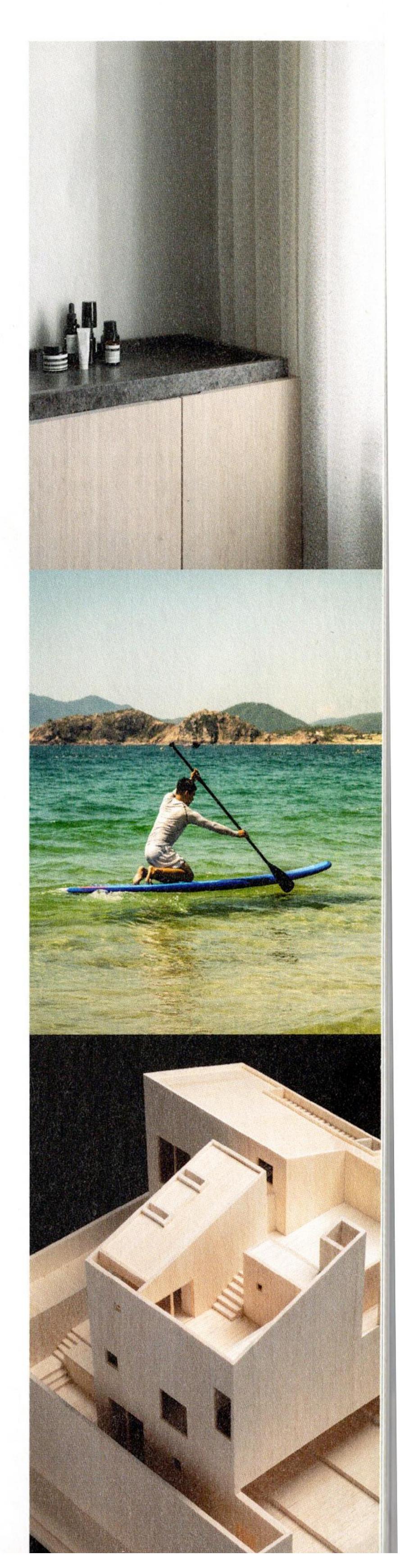






quote from one of our architect interviews really struck a chord with me this week. Neil Dusheiko exclaims "I would like to see a more soulful type of architecture, a move away from an architecture defined by image towards that made for experience. I often feel there is a neglect of the importance of the senses in shaping architecture - the smell of materials, the tactility, the sound of spaces. How these pervade and occupy a space, creating an atmosphere and forming new memories of a place." I think we're all ready for that move. When the order of the world is shaken and we're collectively facing stress, there usually follows a response in our tastes and desires, which more often than not, leads us back to comfort and simplicity (turn to 27 for the full interview). As Neil speaks of improving the way in which we approach building, there's a parallel to be drawn from the work of another creative team we feature this month on page 97, this time looking for inspiration in the creation of a new rug collection. The abiding thoughts that came to husband and wife designers Bessie and Oliver Corral of Arjé was the need to define and capture the essence of 'home' and the many associations that the term conjures within oneself. Here the thoughts are not bricks and mortar, but those immeasurable things that make us feel safe and connected. How do you take a blank canvas and create something - be it a building, rug, chair, kitchen unit or anything else - to heighten those experiences and create a positive emotional response? By careful attention to detail and building things that will last and gather memories and meaning? By combining new technologies with traditional methods and using our creativity to really consider every component part? By moving away from mass production to a slower way of making? There is no one answer. Some of the most sustainable solutions in architecture come from factory made homes that are assembled at speed - and we know the results can be astounding. If one size really did fit all there would be no need for this magazine. We'd have one house design, one school design and one town design. Part of the human condition is the overwhelming need to choose, for ourselves, the things that make us feel good. This is why we need that more soulful approach, why we need to consider experience above image and think carefully about the detail in the everyday. Architects and designers can shape this future, building a world around us to be adapted and enjoyed, happily, for generations to come, ultimately "forming new memories of place."







enkil the home of design and architecture

INTERVIEW...

Neil Dusheiko Architects

Keen to explore just how architecture can improve the lives of its homeowners, Neil Dusheiko set up his own studio and has since created a culture where designing sustainably is the norm

What's your story? I have always been drawn to the private spaces in which people live. I studied architecture in South Africa and throughout my travels I have always been fascinated about people and how they live. I love the minutiae of daily life and what people choose to surround themselves with, and I believe a well-designed home can have a great benefit to society. Architecture can help by providing spaces for people to live better lives. The well-being of every street and every suburb starts with a single home. I set up the studio to explore these ideals. I am passionate about helping people live better lives through improving their homes. I was very fortunate to have been able to design my own home in London. It was a major turning point in my thinking about what creating a home means. It also gave me direct insight into how clients feel through the ups and downs of the building process. In fact, we built our home while having our second child, which is a common experience for a lot of our clients.

Does sustainability play a role in your design process? Sustainability plays a huge role in our work as we want our projects to endure. It is not only about carbon counting, but the longevity of the work. We like the idea that our homes can be handed down to another generation with purely cosmetic alterations. We think carefully about the lifespan of materials. The more durable they are, the longer they last before needing replacement, which is good for our planet. We are constantly thinking about the physics involved in producing the materials we use and how they get to the site. Steve Webb, a leading UK engineer, asked "what are the logistics of building with a liquid material that has to

be delivered on a truck with a revolving tank within 1.5 hours?" He was referring to the use of concrete, the production and transportation of which uses vast amounts of energy with a lot of wastage.

Do you find that clients are receptive to sustainable ideas? Yes, we do - we explain the cost and environmental benefits to them. Architects have a responsibility to strive to produce more sustainable buildings. A brick company like Petersen Tegl for example, ensures that all of the clay it extracts to make bricks is used. Any waste during the manufacturing process is recycled. They need heat too (around 1,000°C) to fire the clay bricks, but Petersen have developed a system where the heat used to fire the bricks is used twice as it is also used to dry other bricks. Clay fired bricks can be used for hundreds of years without maintenance and they can always be recycled. We try to steer our clients towards using natural insulation derived from waste streams such as pulp timber fibre, rather than petroleum-based products. We often work on old buildings that have moisture inside of them so using a product that doesn't trap moisture is more sustainable and also makes sense. This is a constant learning process for us, and we know we don't always get it right, but we have open minds and we are always learning more.

How do you ensure a home is timeless? We are still exploring whether a home can be truly timeless. Every building has its own history, and any intervention becomes a new layer within its narrative. The rituals of everyday life have changed – even recently during the pandemic with the blurring of boundaries between home and work. We want the homes we build to be flexible so that they can be adjusted as

the needs of families change. A home is a sanctuary from the world outside and supports the private lives of the users, enabling them to live the lives they want. Satisfying those needs is the timeless pursuit of architecture.

What would you like to see change in the world of architecture?

I would like to see a more soulful type of architecture, a move away from an architecture defined by image towards that made for experience. I often feel there is a neglect of the importance of the senses in shaping architecture the smell of materials, the tactility, the sound of spaces. How these pervade and occupy a space, creating an atmosphere and forming new memories of a place. Personally, I feel there is something visceral about natural timber and kiln-fired clay and their associated atmospheres. Architecture is a poetic discipline. The South African born architect Stanley Saitowitz used to describe architecture as human geography. Just as our natural landscape changes with shifting tectonics and the weather, architecture is shaped by our human experiences, positive and negative. I studied architecture under Pancho Guedes in South Africa who said: "We must become technicians of the emotions, makers of smiles, tear jerkers, exaggerators, spokesmen of dreams, performers of miracles, messengers, and invent raw, bold, vigorous and intense buildings..." He also reminded us that "building shall yet belong to the people, architecture shall yet become real and alive, and beauty shall yet be warm and convulsive." Architecture is very much a living thing and at its best plays a deep part in how our society and lives function.

neildusheiko.com