



pure magic

THE ASTONISHING POWER OF PERFUME

**JUDE,
SIENNA,
POSH
AND ME**

HEAT'S EX
EDITOR SPILLS
THE BEANS

**THE SEX
MESSAGE**

WHY WOMEN
WANT IT

BOY TO MAN

JAMIE THEAKSTON
SHOWS OFF
HIS POST-LAD PAD

style

THE SUNDAY TIMES

AUGUST 31, 2008

MAN ABOUT THE HOUSE

JAMIE THEAKSTON SURPRISED US ALL BY SETTLING DOWN — **KARA O'REILLY** IS MORE TAKEN ABACK BY HIS UNEXPECTEDLY FABULOUS TASTE



Think of Jamie Theakston and, depending on your age, you'll come up with: kids' TV presenter; man about town and, in his heyday, boyfriend of many a leggy lovely (including the actress Joely Richardson and the supermodel Erin O'Connor); subject of a tabloid brothel scandal; or award-winning breakfast-radio host.

Now you can add family man and aspiring interiorista to the list. For 37-year-old Theakston has finally settled down. In the past couple of years, he has married, moved house, acquired a veritable menagerie of pets (two havanese terriers, two cats) and become a father (of four-month-old Sidney).

His new home is one of those tall, skinny London townhouses, and although Theakston sensibly called in the professionals to do the hard work — the classy interior architecture firm Found Associates, which includes Lady Bamford and Claudia Schiffer among its clients — the final look is unmistakably his own. And very fabulous it is, too.

This is a man who has a great eye for design. In fact, he is so knowledgeable about interiors, he says he has even flirted with the idea of setting up a shop. Many of the pieces that adorn the house are well-sourced eBay finds. He says he has kitted out "pretty much 95% of the house" from the internet. Among his best buys are some rather rare and covetable bits of furniture — such as the 1960s Italian matching set of wardrobe, dressing table and drawers in the spare bedroom — and a collection of scene-stealing statement lights. He talks passionately about his finds. "I've always been interested in furniture. I had a very clear idea of how I wanted the house to look and I knew exactly what furniture was going to go where. I'm thrilled with how it's turned out."

Theakston is one of those well-known faces with whom what you see is what you get — and very likeable he is, too, being rather down-to-earth and self-effacing about the fame game. ►

The open-plan living room takes up the whole of the ground floor. 'My brief to the architect and builders was pretty straightforward — strip the house back as far as it can go,' says Theakston, above. Once he had the house in the shape he wanted, he began filling it with some great design: the sofa is B&B Italia (bebitalia.com); the stair runner was made to measure by The Rug Company (therugcompany.info)



RAY MAIR

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► In the past, he has said: “I set out to have a career, not to be a celebrity.” There is also a rather charming openness about him. Before he met his wife, Sophie, who was a manager at the members club Soho House, he talked constantly about how he wanted to settle down and have a family.

So, did Sophie get a look-in on the redesign? “I couldn’t have done it without her. She was supportive of all my ideas

and had confidence in me. I really did run everything past her.”

Now this house is done, he’s planning his next move: “My wife will be horrified to hear it, but I would like to do it all over again. This time, I am thinking of going for a William Morris, Arts and Crafts-inspired look.” Keep an eye out on eBay when he moves — his current furniture collection would be well worth snapping up. □

GET THE LOOK

1 Jonathan Adler Studio 54 needlepoint cushion, £85; supernice.co.uk. 2 Morgensen sofa, £750; theoldcinema.co.uk. 3 RAR rocker, £335; aram.co.uk. 4 Holmegaard candlesticks, £240 per pair; fandangointeriors.co.uk.

5 Floor light, £625; sigmarlondon.com



Above The kitchen is an unusual mix of concrete, steel and rustic timber. ‘We made it up as we went along: it was a bit trial-and-error,’ says Theakston. On the wall is his much-loved collection of royal commemorative china. ‘I like it for its kitschy appeal.’ The concrete bulb lights are from caravanstyle.com, and the dining table and chairs from andrewnebbett.com.

Far right, top Theakston’s bedroom features made-to-measure faux-suede-covered shutters from tnesc.co.uk and a Danish dressing table from eBay. twocolumbiaroad.co.uk, fandangointeriors.co.uk and themodernwarehouse.com are all good sources for vintage Danish design. **Far right, bottom** The small courtyard garden was designed to resemble a living room by the Chelsea gold-medal winner Philip Nixon (philipnixondesign.com).

Right The lights are from liberty.co.uk



JAMIE THEAKSTON PRESENTS THE BREAKFAST SHOW ON HEART 106.2FM; FOUNDASSOCIATES.COM