



Join the *by Gabrielle Pike*
dark side

Owen bedstead, from £849,
 Owen bedroom chair, from
 £449, both Vale Furnishers

Bring out the dark side in your home and go indigo this autumn! Use this season's "hottest" colour in interior design to redecorate an entire room or just to add and update your home with a few well chosen pieces. If you are not ready to embrace these decidedly inky tones, opt for any shade of grey instead to create and achieve a stylish look. Mixed with natural wood and shiny metal, it softens the effect and creates an inviting ambience...



Venjakob Andiamo
 dining range,
 Vale Furnishers



Benny large sofa,
 from £899, Vale Furnishers



Voyage Maison
 Aslan cushion
 in truffle, £49,
 Vale Furnishers



Beachcomber
 mantel clock,
 £69, Vale
 Furnishers



Four jam
 jar glasses,
 £19.95,
 Vale Furnishers



Cattelan Italia Eliot wood dining table, Vale Furnishers

Luxury is the new austerity - as opposed to make and mend - and you can create a lavish look anywhere in your home with simple but stylish accessories. The buzzword this autumn is "Beautility" - combining functional objects with stylish design. Look for anything that spells utilitarian elegance, from simple crockery, pots and pans to furnishings and room designs in traditional honest materials that will gain character with age...



Kurve Living range, Vale Furnishers



Aleal Manhattan mirror, from £455, Vale Furnishers



Crazy Cookware casserole pot, £20.99, Vale Furnishers

Family values retained

A modern furniture store came to Farnham's East Street this April, offering an extensive range of contemporary and eclectic furniture as well as home accessories under the expertise of its managing director, Mark Chandler.

Founded in 1960 by Mark's grandparents Roy and Violet Chandler in Ash Vale, the business has grown substantially, but always remained a family affair. Mark's father Alan joined at the age of 16, and Mark took over as MD in 2011.

He remembers: "As with most family businesses, I started off working for Vale Furnishers pushing a broom around the warehouse on a Saturday. In 1999, I became a full-time buyer and merchandiser and now I am managing director. We are proud to say that our family values have stayed the same over the years - we run the business the way my grandparents did."

Opening their second showroom in Farnham, the company created some striking effects in their new building, attracting a new young and style-conscious customer base.

Vale Furnishers prides itself on the diversity of its products, not only providing customers with a choice of major brands, but also some iconic European manufacturers, with designs from Italy and Germany, which are divided into four collections - Vintage, Casual Living, Eclectic and Contemporary.

"It has been nice to see some familiar as well as new customers at the Farnham store, wanting something a bit different for their homes," Mark adds. "Our eclectic collection has proven to be a great success - these are marketed as one-off design pieces with the current interior trends in mind, which has also encouraged existing and prospective customers to engage with our social media channels."

Mark is proud of the great team behind him, some of which have been with Vale Furnishers for nearly 40 years, and he is planning to develop the stores further and boost the company's online presence by appointing an in-house designer, enabling Vale to adapt to market changes even quicker.

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www.valefurnishers.co.uk, www.valeinteriors-surrey.co.uk