



curious & curious

HAND BLOWN GLASS | MADE IN ENGLAND
ESTABLISHED 2010





curiousa & curiousa

A decade ago the lighting market was in a very different place. Lighting was often on the one hand monotone, masculine and neutral, or on the other overly decorative and fussy.

Esther Patterson, the founder and designer of Curiousa & Curiousa, spotted this niche and so created her first collection of hand-blown lights that gave glass an elegant, colourful new lease of life.

The first four pendants launched back in 2010 now form part of Curiousa's 'Classic Collection' and it was the photograph on page three by local photographer Chris Webb that helped launch Curiousa & Curiousa at London Design Week in September of that year.

Curiousa & Curiousa's name is now firmly recognised within the interior design and architectural industries

with a host of nominations and awards and their lights are showcased in many prestigious locations around the world.

Every piece of Curiousa glass is hand-blown here in England, with each of our glassblowers using the centuries-old technique of free-blowing, forming the shape of the glass literally by hand and by tool, without the use of moulds. This mesmerising skill is very little changed despite a world of ever-growing technology. It is a process that cannot be rushed, relying on the creative eye and fluid movements of the glassblower; a practice that perfectly suits the idyllic Peak District landscape that surrounds the Derbyshire home of Curiousa & Curiousa where all our lights are hand-made to order.





Cover
Bespoke Stairwell Chandelier
Interior Designer Rachel Beckett

Pg. 3
First hand-blown glass pendant range
winner of the Elle Decoration Award 2010

Pg. 4
Anthony Wassell in his studio

Pg. 6 & 7
C&C launch photoshoot 2010

All photos by Chris Webb Photography

Opposite Page
Esther Patterson, Founder & Director
Photo by Jack Bridgland

Made by Many Hands

Curiousa & Curiousa was born from the creative drive of its founder, Esther Patterson, having graduated from Nottingham Trent University with a First Class Degree in Decorative Arts. Throughout her three years of study, she developed a commitment to working hands-on, to create authentic pieces where the story of their design and making process were visible to those who wanted to look.

Working alongside Anthony Wassell, a glass blower of 40 years' experience, Esther created her first glass pendants and table lamps using free blown glass - formed by the traditional methods of hand and tool.

Each piece of glass holds a testimony of the glass blower's art, with resulting swirls and bubbles all

part of the process. Esther explains "It took a while for our customers to regard these traces of process not as flaws and imperfections but as central to the intrinsic beauty of the free-blown glass itself. In fact, we celebrate them. They are what make our glass unique. If we used moulds, the process may be easier and the product more consistent, but our pieces would lose their connection with the hand that made them."

This commitment to hand-made carries through to all other components within the range; the walnut discs and cylinders are hand-turned by a local woodworker; the silk lanterns are hand-sewn; the fittings are hand-finished and every piece is hand-assembled here in our Derbyshire Workshop.









Pg. 8
Jonathan Abbott, Glass-blower

Pg. 10
Matt Richardson, Wood Turner

Pg. 11
Adrian McIntyre

Pg. 12
Georgia Errett

Pg. 13
Emma Hrubciak, Textile Artist

Pg. 14-15
Arkwright Mill Photoshoot

All photos by Chris Webb Photography

A Decade of Design

Esther initially launched the Curiousa & Curiousa range to include wallpapers, fabrics and furniture as well as ceramic lighting, but it was her range of glass lighting which really caught the public's imagination as well as gaining an Elle Decoration award. After this there was no looking back.

"It was all a bit of a whirlwind. I knew I'd found a gap in the market but I didn't realise just how eager the market would prove to be for coloured glass lighting", Esther explained.

"Curiousa & Curiousa grew quickly. More staff, bigger premises and of course more products. With every new design I've aimed to bring out the intrinsic beauty of the glass itself, through colour and form. So I don't use decorative

techniques or over-complicated shapes. I aim for the simplest of forms that reflect the making process and that keep the glass central."

Adding to her range of single pendant shades, Esther designed stacked and clustered chandeliers and in 2013 was commissioned by The Hayward Gallery to design what was to become her range of Triptych Stacks, based on Asian and Moroccan cityscapes and finials, which allowed her to design larger scale, statement pieces using a modular approach.

"This really opened up the possibility to create much larger lighting installations. We now produce not only a whole range of 'sculptural stacked lights' but also large stairwell and statement chandeliers."









Pg. 17
Fabio Pendants
Photo by Simon Bevan

Pg. 18
Orb Triptych Stack
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 19
Pear Drops
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 20
Bespoke Stairwell Chandelier
Interior Design Christine Eldridge
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 21
Siren Wall Lights
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Opposite Page
Martin Moore Kitchens

Innovation and Growth

Now in its tenth year, Curiousa & Curiousa has a dedicated team of employees and skilled crafts people committed to producing bespoke products to the highest quality and with exceptional levels of service.

Whilst the manufacturing processes are embedded in traditional, age old techniques, the working methodologies are state of the art. Working with interior designers and architects as well as with direct clients, designs are realised on CAD and visualised with 3D renders to ensure a common understanding.

With a wealth of commercial experience to draw upon, each piece is designed not only with its visual appeal in mind, but with its installation and

maintenance also considered from the start. This approach, along with a dedication to innovation, has been central to the growing reputation of Curiousa & Curiousa.

Having achieved IP65 accreditation, a good proportion of the range can now be used in wet areas such as bath and shower rooms as well as outdoor spaces.

Having introduced a new range of hand-made silk lanterns as well as launching bespoke wall coverings and fabrics, Esther is excited to expand the range further still, maintaining the same level of innovation and drive which helped her launch the company in 2010.



















Pg. 24
Classic Traditional Pendants
Martin Moore Kitchens

Pg. 25
Bespoke Stairwell Chandelier
The Arts House, Gloucester Road
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 26
Catherine Chandelier
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 27
Large Classic Retro Pendants
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 29 & 29
Ume Silk Lanterns

Pg. 30
Japonica Wall Light
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 31
Classic and Pear Drop Pendants
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 32
IP45 3-Drop Acid Cluster

Pg. 33
Bespoke Stairwell Chandelier
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 34
Orb Modern and Dine Light
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 35
Pear Drop Cluster
Alstonefield Manor
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 36
Bespoke Stairwell Chandelier
Hanover House, Notting Hill
Interior Designer Fiona Davison
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 37
Tiger Lily Chandelier
Interior Designer Isabel Cordero Padilla
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 38
Triptych Orb
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Pg. 39
Lotus Dine
Interior Designer Isabel Cordero Padilla
Photo by Chris Webb Photography

Rear Cover
Tulip Table Lamp
Photo by Simon Bevan



A special thank you to Chris Webb, a great photographer and great friend, who has been here from the start and whose fantastic work has helped us become the company we are today.

Photo by Eartha Johnson

London Showroom

Worlds End Studios, 132-134 Lots Road, Chelsea,
London, United Kingdom SW10 0RJ

Tel: +44 (0)20 7349 7231
studio@curiousa.co.uk

Derbyshire Showroom

Haarlem Mill, Derby Road, Wirksworth,
Derbyshire, UK DE4 4BG

Tel: +44 (0)1629 826284
studio@curiousa.co.uk

www.curiousa.co.uk



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