

SOMETHING OLD/SOMETHING NEW MIRRORS

# Touches of glass

Judith Miller, left, and Nick Vinson ask which is the fairest of them all

## i Wall mirror English

Made late in the reign of George II, this wall-hung mirror delightfully exemplifies the English rococo style. Key elements – including flaming and foliate scroll borders; crocket finials and tracery from the Gothic vocabulary of ornament; a pagoda cresting (above a lute player) and trellis work (interspersed with flowerheads) of Oriental inspiration – are evident throughout the giltwood frame, which also reflects a contemporary fascination with grottos, rustic niches and rockwork. From £100,000  
[www.partridgesfineart.com](http://www.partridgesfineart.com)

## ii Convex wall mirror American

Although initially inspired by English designers such as Adam, Hepplewhite and Sheraton, Federal style – prevalent in America from 1776 to the early decades of the 19th century – came to be influenced by the richer French Empire aesthetic. It drew on classical Roman imagery, evident here in the carved wreath, the oak leaf and grape cluster and the spread-winged eagle – a symbol of both imperial Rome and American independence. \$10,000-15,000  
[www.pookandpook.com](http://www.pookandpook.com)

## iii Z-Form table mirror Franz Hagenauer

Established in Vienna in 1898 by Carl Hagenauer, the Hagenauer Werkstätte was best known for its art deco pieces, many of which were of African inspiration. But, this chromed steel Z-frame mirror by Franz Hagenauer, one of Carl's son's, is essentially western in concept. Terminating on the top and bottom in a pair of highly stylised hands, it has a playful quality characteristic of Franz's work but also its streamlined angularity encapsulates the strength of line and sheer dynamism of the best 1930s art deco forms. \$6,000-\$8,000  
[www.ragoarts.com](http://www.ragoarts.com)

## iv Wave mirror Albert Paley

This large floor-standing mirror – it is 2.5 metres wide – has a circular mirror plate held in a bevelled steel frame, which also supports an blonde-wood shelf. It was designed in 1992 by Albert Paley, who started his career in the late 1960s as a jeweller, but most of whose contemporary work is in massive “larger than life” sculptural form. It exemplifies his philosophy: “If I could make the statement strong and definite as possible then even if someone didn't like what they saw, they couldn't refuse to respond.” \$20,000-30,000  
[www.ragoarts.com](http://www.ragoarts.com)

## v Table mirror WMF

From about 1880 to the present day, the German company Württembergische Metallwaren Fabrik – better known as WMF – has produced continental pewter and silver-plated wares in every fashionable style. But it was the curvaceous, sensuous forms of nature championed by the art nouveau movement (*Jugendstil* in Germany) that proved especially suited to the malleability and subtle reflective sheen of WMF's polished alloys. Here the mirror plate is enclosed by a characteristically lithe art nouveau maiden holding and entwined by sinuous flowering tendrils. £1,200-£1,800  
[www.lyonandturnbull.com](http://www.lyonandturnbull.com)

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## 1 Prilly mirror Phillipe Cramer

Geneva-based Cramer set up Cramer+Cramer with his mother Barbara in 2001. Working mainly in silver, porcelain and wood, he makes full use of local Swiss craftsmanship for his production and his pure, simple aesthetic is what you would expect from modern Switzerland. He also has a furniture collection produced by Bernhardt Design in the US. His Prilly mirror comes in two heights – 70cm and 45cm – and each of the six facets are mirrored. It's an elegant piece best placed on a console table like a sculpture. SFr1,800-SFr2,800 (£730-£1,110)  
[www.philippecramer.com](http://www.philippecramer.com)

## 2 Organic mirror Tomas Maier

Over the last few years Maier has been building an impressive home collection to fit alongside the ready-to-wear, accessories and fine jewellery that make up Bottega Veneta's core business. For this mirror he worked the brand's signature *intrecciato*, or woven leather, over the frame and used an unusual smoky antiqued mirror that adds to its decorative nature. The piece is made to order and comes in one of five colours – ebony, walnut, uniform, parchment or black. €3,500  
[www.bottegapaveneta.com](http://www.bottegapaveneta.com)

## 3 G mirror Pierre Charpin

Gallerie Kreo, run by Clémence and Didier Krzentowski, specialises in limited edition furniture and objects by internationally renowned designers. Their collection includes an impressive range of mirrors from Hella Jongerius, François Azambourg, Michael Young, Christophe Pillet and Charpin. The latter's G mirror was first produced in 2006; the numbered and signed edition is limited to eight plus two artist proofs and two prototypes. Made of highly polished aluminium with mint green lacquer, it also comes in yellow, black or white. €10,000  
[www.galleriekreo.com](http://www.galleriekreo.com)

## 4 SMS mirror Antonio Citterio

B&B Italia's Maxalto collection is contemporary yet still classic. This mirror, part of the AC line designed by Antonio Citterio, who co-ordinates the entire collection, is designed for leaning against the wall, its foot angled to keep it at a perfect pitch for viewing head to toe. It comes in two sizes, the taller 220cm by 80cm and the wider 185cm by 120cm. The steel frame, with its void below, leaving the mirror almost floating, comes in varnished nickel, bright chrome or bronze as shown. €1,191  
[www.maxalto.it](http://www.maxalto.it)

## 5 Copper mirror Michael Anastassiades

A graduate of the Royal College of Art, Anastassiades specialises in limited-edition pieces in materials such as bronze, copper and marble. His work is stocked by Moss in New York and he does special commissions, including a chandelier for the Aghia Sophia Cathedral in London. This mirror is one of a series of three, all made of copper sheet constructed over a wooden frame. The geometry creates pleasing shapes on the wall and the polished copper is highly reflective. Limited to an edition of 10 pieces each. £12,000  
[www.michaelanastassiades.com](http://www.michaelanastassiades.com)

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