

Above: Species tiles by Olivia Monthan. £38 for three. Hiddenartshop.com. Below: beetle jewellery shines in Vogue, December 2007

Below cushion, £45, Heleneology.com. Bug chair by Lou Rota, £340. Liberty, Cumbrian bugs collage, £1,500. Clairebrewster.co.uk

Left: plate by Lou Rota, from £20. Liberty. Below: La Rochère glass, £5, KJC

The motif

Once fascinated with birds and butterflies, designers are turning to creatures that scuttle underfoot for decorative inspiration. Bugs and beetles are crawling into our homes on Lou Rota's customised vintage furniture and crockery, adorned with creepy-crawlies of all varieties. Claire Brewster turns old maps into insect artworks, while Olivia Monthan's Species tiles are a humorous take on the problem of uninvited guests.

Left: German cockroach sculpture, £800. Clairebrewster.co.uk. Right: Tibetan wool Beetles rug, £2,850. Sonerville Scott

The destination

Once braved only by backpackers, the islands of Mozambique's southern Bazaruto Archipelago now give the Maldives a run for their money. Head to Benguerra Island's lavish new lodge, Azura, for villas with infinity pools and butlers. A short boat ride to the mainland, groups might prefer Pambele (left), a fully staffed villa that sleeps 15. May and September are lovely, but this is a year-round destination – and, with only a two-hour time difference, jet lag won't ruin your trip. Book through Africa specialists Toescapeto.com.

The must-read

The Believers, Zoë Heller's follow-up to the hugely successful *Notes on a Scandal*, is a dark, archly funny story of a secularised Jewish New York family, who are thrown into tumult when patriarch Joel Litvinoff dies. Son Lenny slips into drug use, while daughters Rosa and Karla wrestle with the question of whether newfound religious and political principles can ever be



inVogue

The flower

Scented narcissi, grown on the Isles of Scilly as part of a thriving cottage industry, can be delivered to your door. They're sea-freighted, packaged in a biodegradable box, affordable, and they smell heavenly. From £30 for 100, Scentednarcissi.co.uk.

The performance

Israeli choreographer and dancer Hofesh Schechter is a man of many talents. His last work, *In Your Rooms*, was dubbed by one critic as "the most important new dance work in Britain since the millennium". The 32-year-old also scores his pieces that have been performed at Sadler's Wells and The Place. See him performing *Uprising* at British Dance Edition in Liverpool (February).

The singer

Rough Trade records was so excited by the rich, torch-song voice of 23-year-old Duffy, heard on a demo she sent the record company, they set her to work with producer Bernard Butler. For those of us weary of the antics of Amy and Lily, this big-time talent from small-town north Wales, who has been writing songs since the age of 10, is putting the focus firmly back on the music. Catch her album, *Rockferry* (March).

