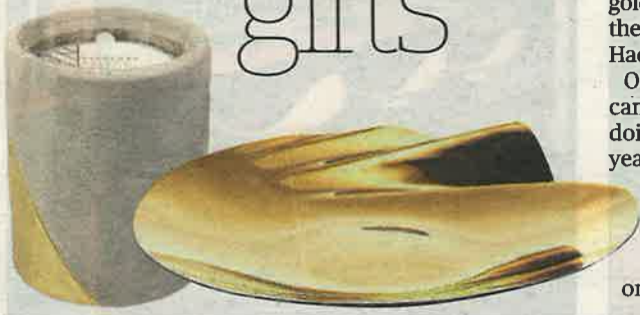


Homes & Property | Christmas shopping

Kate Gordon suggests art-inspired Christmas presents from the shops at London's museums and galleries

Museum gifts

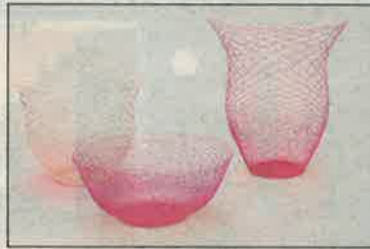


THE ROYAL ACADEMY: FOR A SENSE OF CALM
IF THE mere thought that Christmas is just a few weeks away is making you feel frazzled, bring calm into your life with the Serenity gold platter, left, designed by the late, great architect Zaha Hadid and priced £225.
Or if you love to give scented candles for Christmas but fancy doing something a bit different this year, consider this beautifully designed concrete and gold-encased candle, far left. It's perfumed with amber and the price is £30 (royalacademy.org.uk).



TRY TATE: FOR SOMETHING TO WAKE THEM UP – OR HELP THEM SLEEP
TATE SHOP has a terrific selection of artist-designed homewares, including these Doorways to the Kingdom of Heaven espresso cups and saucers, left, by Damien Hirst – perfect for an art lover's morning coffee, priced £20 for a cup and saucer. We are already eyeing the Louise Bourgeois-designed eye mask, left, at £28. The French-American artist, who suffered terrible insomnia, described the concept of sleep as "paradise" (tate.org.uk).

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM: TAKE TIPS FROM THE MASTER
THE home in Lincoln's Inn Fields of neo-classical architect John Soane (1753-1837), who built the Bank of England, features convex mirrors at every turn. Soane used them to bring in light and to expand the impression of spaciousness throughout the house – an idea that works perfectly year round, not just at Christmas. This one, above, is £55 from the museum shop. While you're there, book lovers can't fail to be impressed by these Corinthian Architectural Bookends, below, £150 (soane.org).



DESIGN MUSEUM: FOR SOMETHING CUTTING EDGE
PAPER vases, above, £11 from the Design Museum, double up as chic wrapping for bottles of wine. Also check out the Arhoj range – based on a classic Japanese design, our choice is the Winter bowl, above left, at £32.50 (designmuseum.org.uk).



STUDIO VOLTAIRE: FOR ARTISTS AND COOKS
FOR a variety of fabulous finds, visit this non-profit space in Clapham. We love the Pablo Bronstein Saint Sebastian pencil holder, left. It's artwork for the desktop at £390. If the cook in your family also happens to be an art lover, get them these amazing washing-up gloves, right, priced £50, by the artist Wilma Johnson (studiovoltaire.org).



NATIONAL GALLERY: BARGAIN DA VINCI
FOR a Leonardo you can afford, take a look at this beautiful cushion, above, £35. Designed exclusively for the National Gallery, it features the angel from The Virgin of the Rocks. And after all that Christmas shopping you'll be ready for a well-earned rest and a drink, so treat yourself to a set of six coasters, below, priced £6.95, featuring images from some of the gallery's best-known portraits (nationalgallery.org.uk).



GEFFRYE MUSEUM OF THE HOME: IT MUST BE TIME FOR TEA
LONDON'S only museum dedicated to the home is the place for unusual homeware gifts. The Stump teapot, above, is £25 (geffrye-museum.org.uk)

BRITISH MUSEUM: FOR TRADITIONALISTS
THIS hand-patinated replica of Aphrodite's head, right, £750, is stunning for a library or study. It's moulded from the original that's in the museum's own collection of Greek and Roman antiquities. The bronzed 30-minute hourglass, far right, £99, has all kinds of uses. We know a chap who uses it to monitor the time his kids spend on screen (britishmuseum.org).



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