

THE VINSON VIEW

Quality maniac and master shopper Nick Vinson on the who, what, when, where and why



WALLPAPER* AND KARL LAGERFELD, OUR HIGHLIGHTS

- October 2006 (W*092)**
A power-couple encounter with Zaha Hadid.
- March 2008 (W*108)**
We broke the news on Chanel's Mobile Art pavilion designed by Zaha Hadid.
- October 2009 (W*127)**
A 27-page portfolio, shot in Versailles and Rome, featured model Baptiste Giabiconi, who also stripped out of his Dior suit for the cover.
- March 2011 (W*144)**
Lagerfeld and DJ Michel Gaubert talked about two decades of creative collaboration.
- August 2011 (W*149)**
Handmade project Paper Passion fragrance, by Geza Schoen, Gerhard Steidl and Wallpaper*, with packaging by Karl Lagerfeld and Steidl.
- March 2013 (W*168)**
Lagerfeld shot Cassina design classics.
- March 2016 (W*204)**
Artist's Palate: stuffed peppers and tomatoes.
- March 2017 (W*216)**
As part of our *Subscribers Since* portfolio, we were allowed to see Lagerfeld's back issues.

Absent friend

Remembering Karl Lagerfeld - and, for once, Picky Nicky has only good things to say

The best thing about my job is the great talents I meet; the ones who, despite their busy schedules, will take the time to sit and talk. One of my most memorable encounters was with Karl Lagerfeld. I first met him in Rome in 2005, when Fendi was celebrating its 40 years of collaboration with the designer. The next few times were backstage after Fendi shows - those in the know avoided the crush of well-wishers and went to a special room where, seated at a white table topped with white orchids, a sketch pad and a glass of Diet Coke, Lagerfeld would happily entertain you, knowing full well there was a queue outside the door. Let them wait, he would say.

In October 2006, Lagerfeld posed with Zaha Hadid outside the Mercer Hotel in New York for our Power Couples feature. The pair had not met until this shoot, but soon after Chanel commissioned Hadid to build its Mobile Art pavilion and, naturally, we took credit for the matchmaking.

In 2009, we invited Lagerfeld to be one of our guest editors. I headed to Paris to meet him. He was very, very late. He brought to the meeting a cheap Tip and Strip pen, where a girl strips when the pen is turned upside down. His idea for the cover was to shoot French model Baptiste Giabiconi dressed (in Dior) and naked. Readers were to follow his instructions -

'Strip tease! Karl says peel please' - peeling off the newsstand-friendly picture to reveal all. I said we could find a way to do it and there would be no need for a second option, with no idea how much hand-applying 200,000 self-adhesive strips might cost. We sat there for around three hours, Lagerfeld speaking a mile a minute, always sketching to elaborate on what he was talking about or scrolling through an iPad Mini. We talked about the Bouroullecs and Marc Newson, whose work he shot for our issue, Konstantin Grcic and Martin Szekely. I was obsessed with two crystal tables by Szekely, 'Bing One' and 'Bing Square', that had sold out at Galerie Kreo. Lagerfeld told me he had bought both and that Szekely had just completed his studio and office at Chanel.

After the issue came out, Lagerfeld told us he had been quite taken by writer Alice Rawsthorn, who travelled to Versailles to interview him for the issue, turning up in 'white crêpe de chine, in summer; so brave'. Later, a bill came for several thousand euros, which turned out to be for a butler whose job it was to keep refreshing the Diet Coke during shooting.

In June 2011, I travelled to Paris for the launch of his stemware collection with Orrefors. It was a busy lunch, but he still managed to come over to say hello and compliment us on the latest issue. We shot

his Orrefors champagne coupe (filled with Diet Coke) for our Artist's Palate series, in the March 2016 issue. His favourite dish? Stuffed peppers and tomatoes.

In March 2011, for our feature focusing on longstanding dream teams, he photographed himself with long-term collaborator, DJ and 'iPad nanny' Michel Gaubert, leaning on a Ludwig Hohlwein chair he'd customised with our logo. In March 2013, I met up with him in Paris to preview a photographic project he was working on for Cassina. He'd agreed to do it if the brand sent its 'entire collection', so half the street was taken up with Cassina vans as there wasn't enough space inside his studio, which housed a 'Mexique' bookcase by Charlotte Perriand, laden with crockery, stemware, coffee capsules and sweetener. 'Don't die of respect, don't be afraid to use things for what they are,' he said. He was keen to know what 'the new girl' Patricia Urquiola was like, as he slept in her bed and loved her Baccarat collection.

When it came to celebrating 20 years of Wallpaper* in 2016, we knew Lagerfeld was one of our most loyal readers and naturally he allowed us to shoot his back issues in his Paris home for our *Subscribers Since* portfolio. Karl Lagerfeld, Fendi since 1965, Chanel since 1983, and Wallpaper* subscriber since 1996, thank you.