

THE VINSON VIEW

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



AN ORGANISATIONAL MANIAC...

- Takes pleasure in writing lists and takes even more in striking them off
- Experiences satisfaction in the sound the To Do app makes on a completed task
- Instructs post office staff where to attach stamps and stickers on parcels
- Fills the dishwasher in a regimented order to make emptying easier
- Has towels and tea towels ironed, folded and hung in a particular way
- Has only one type of coat hanger in all closets, which all face the same way
- Loves order in closets, cupboards, kitchens, drawers, pantries and luggage
- Has their preferences noted in hotels and restaurants
- Always arrives on time - never late, never early
- Is a Wallpaper* Subscriber Since 1996, but also personally selects newsstand issues so as not to miss out on acquiring both covers

01 Perfect harmony

Wallpaper* readers know the joy of getting their freak on

I got talking to an investment banker at this year's Art Basel Miami Beach who told me he'd been reading Wallpaper* since the very first issue. He always buys a newsstand copy, which he selects carefully, and a subscription one, and keeps them all in order in mint condition at his home in Vienna. I could so relate to his maniacal attention to detail.

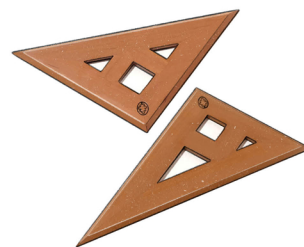
Over the years, I've paid close attention to the workspaces of Wallpaper* colleagues. There was the photography director whose desk only ever sported, aside from his computer, a bottle of water and his mobile phone, and the interiors director whose desk was piled high with brochures and catalogues that were perfectly aligned at right angles (whenever I deliberately meddled with his towers, they would be set right in the blink of an eye). Then there's the fashion director with a thing for hiding cables, coiling them neatly behind phones and laptops, and a managing director with a low tolerance for coats on the back of chairs (offending garments were photographed and an email immediately fired off). In my own office, three iMacs sit side by side, evenly spaced, with screensavers in the same shade as the pink paint on the walls and desktop files routinely policed.

Everything at architect (and Wallpaper* subscriber) Glenn Sestig's office in Ghent aligns; anyone leaving any paper on their

desk at night is called back in, books must be straight, and all computer desktop filing must be in the same order on each and every device. Anya Hindmarch issues office rules that include desks being clear every night, a ban on Post-it notes on screens and walls, no coats on the back of chairs, and only white lever arch files and mugs.

There is a similar maniacal obsession with the contents of fridges, both in my own house and Sestig's, where all labels must face forward – although, he says, his fridge 'still never looks like it does in the Gaggenau photos'. Bathroom products are another area to organise; thankfully, Chanel recognises this, producing magnetic lids so that the intertwined CCs can only be twisted to face forward in its Les Exclusifs and Bleu de Chanel ranges.

I heard that, in the 1980s, Rei Kawakubo would place four fingers between hangers in her stores to make sure the rail spacing was uniform, behaviour that really appealed to me. On Giorgio Armani's yacht *Main*, all sunloungers come with a basket so that guests' sunscreen, bags, books, sunglasses cases and other paraphernalia can be kept tidy and out of Mr Armani's sight. Never let it be said that the average Wallpaper* reader is an organisational maniac, but being neat, meticulous and obsessed with minute detail are qualities that refine us. ★



02

Fair and square

First produced in 1918, Bottega Ghianda's set square, handmade using dovetail joints in pear or walnut, is perfect for alignment fanatics. €180, bottegagehianda.com



03

Fantasy find

Henning Koppel's 1978 sterling silver and ebony desk set for Georg Jensen is the one of my dreams. It can still occasionally be found at auctions.