

Wallpaper*

NOVEMBER 2004

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN INTERIORS LIFESTYLE

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Camp Corbusier

Check into his forgotten holiday home

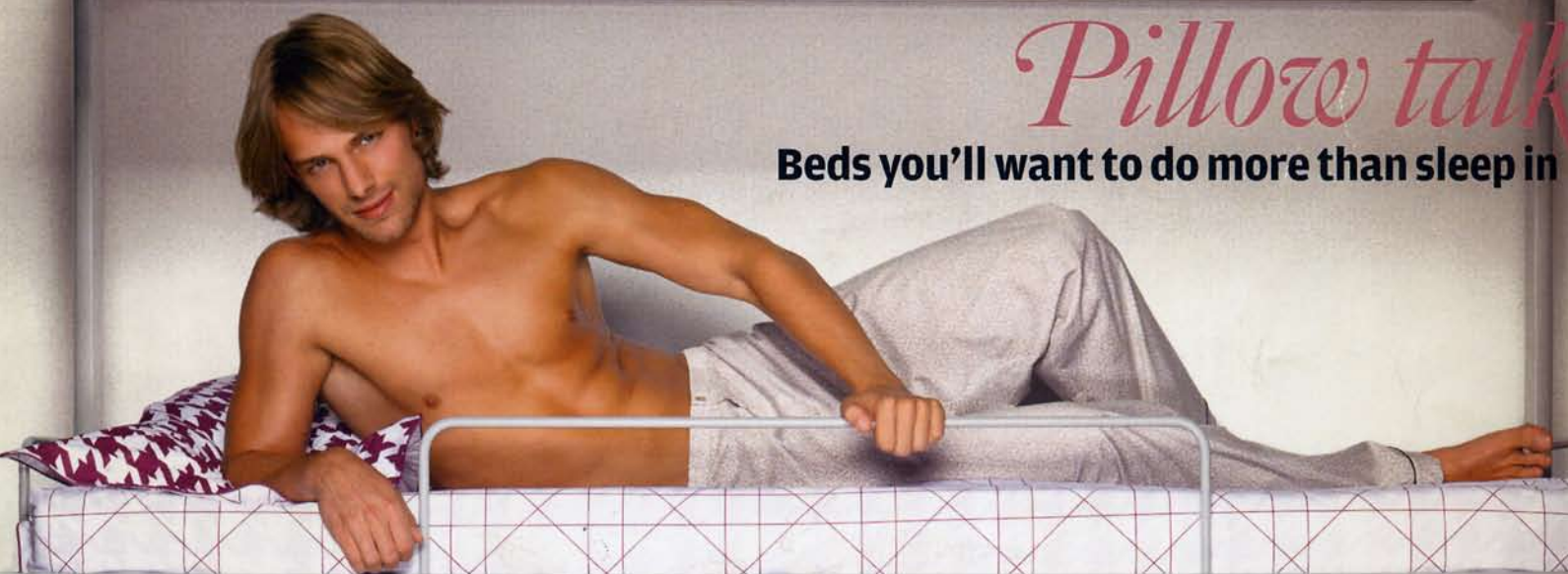
Snap decisions

The 20 photography books
you really have to own



Pillow talk

Beds you'll want to do more than sleep in



In the market for...

table accessories, fun 'n' games, classic watches

Plus

Inspirational interiors and
design discoveries from Spain,
Sweden, Serbia and Seoul



Hot metal

Nikolas Piper worked for an advertising agency, until a chance meeting with a blacksmith changed his life.

His new career is simply ore-some

Writer Alex Bagner



However you decide to snuggle up as winter sets in, it is imperative that you do so in style. When it comes to storing wood for our log fire, we're throwing the wicker into the flames and heading to a workshop in Spain, where German-born designer Nikolas Piper has shown his creative spark with this log basket made from wrought iron.

'It is one of my favourite pieces,' says Piper. 'I love the idea that when you fill it with wood, the form slowly disappears.' With no formal training as a designer, Piper graduated from Berlin's Fine Arts School with a degree in Communication Design, before moving to Madrid to embark on a career as a creative in an advertising agency. All was to change when he was renovating his second home in

Majorca and employed a blacksmith to work on the windows. 'We hit it off from the start,' explains Piper. 'I showed him my designs that I'd sketched over the years, he liked them, and instead of just doing them for me, he taught me how to work in iron.' That was 12 years ago, and today Piper is designing and producing a whole range of metal furniture from his studio, in an old cow stable in Segovia, 100km north of Madrid.

'I still wake up every morning and can't believe I'm doing it,' says Piper, although he admits that having the courage to give everything up and start again was not easy. But work is coming in thick and fast, with clients from as far afield as Miami and Paris all demanding his sensual forms to decorate their homes. Commissions closer to home have

included designing the conference room for the Spanish Economic and Social Council, terrace furniture for the new residence of Prince Filipe of Spain, and wine cellars and hotels in Salamanca. Despite only having three other workers in the studio - along with his partner Jose, who is in charge of marketing - Piper never refuses a client.

They make products from garden furniture to staircases to garages, all produced by hand in the workshop. Over the past three years, they have also moved into selling designs on the internet. 'It's a dream come true,' says Piper. And a lesson to us all, that following a pipe (or should that be Piper?) dream may not be as impossible as it first sounds. ✪
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FEEL FOR STEEL

Above, 'Colección W' wood basket, €361

Left, 'Luz' armchair, price on request

Right, 'Colección Joe' console table, €760

