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the aesthete

Interior designer **Faye Toogood** is known for her whimsical English aesthetic and utilitarian-cool limited-edition furniture

My personal style signifiers are my Thom Browne brogues – I never wear heels – and my Max Bill by Junghans man's watch, which is based on a design from the 1930s and was the first present my husband Matt ever gave me. I also never take off my rings, even when I'm painting or in the workshop; I'm scared I'll lose them. My diamond wedding ring was my grandmother's and I bought my 18ct-white-gold and diamond baguette from Mappin & Webb to replace her eternity ring, which was stolen. *Thom Browne brogues*, from £540; www.thombrowne.com. *Mappin & Webb ring*, £2,500; www.mappinandwebb.com. *Max Bill by Junghans watch*, from £825; www.junghans.de.

The last thing I bought and loved was a felted-wool cardigan by Amy Revier. She handweaves everything on her loom in Highgate and only produces three to five pieces a month. From £1,300; www.amyrevier.com.

The thing I'm eyeing next is a collection of toy dinosaurs for my daughter Indigo. She's obsessed with them. The ones I want are by Schleich; they are so beautifully made they almost look handpainted. You can buy them at London Zoo. From £4.95; www.zsl.org. www.schleich-s.com.

The last meal that truly impressed me was at St John. My husband and I are regulars and I know what I'm going to order before I get there. I find the food very sculptural and pure. That so many new London restaurants have stolen from its menu and implemented copycat utilitarian interiors is testament to the fact that Fergus Henderson and his team are the real deal and true revolutionaries. *26 St John St, London EC1 (020-7251 0848; www.stjohngroup.uk.com)*.

The books on my bedside table are *Ricky Swallow Bronzes* by Stuart Shave and Darren Knight, and *A Way of Life* by Jim Ede, which is a black and white tour of Kettle's Yard gallery in Cambridge. I never touch fiction; I have so little time that when I get round to reading I'm desperate to learn something.

An indulgence I would never forgo is Mad et Len volcanic incense, which you drizzle over chunks of volcanic lava stone. The smell is far more intense than a scented candle. £102; www.farfatch.com.

The last item I added to my wardrobe was a black Simone Rocha full-circle skirt from Hostem. I never shop for clothes online; I like the experience of going into a boutique and seeing the owner's edit. I'm very loyal; my favourite designers are Rocha and Beijing-born Yang Li, and I only shop at

"I only shop at Hostem and Egg. I never buy clothes online"

Hostem and Egg. I buy at the beginning of the season and they ring me when they get pieces in they think I'll like. *Egg*, 36 Kinnerton St, London SW1 (020-7235 9315; www.eggtrading.com). *Hostem*, 41-43 Redchurch St, London E2 (020-7739 9733; www.hostem.co.uk).

My favourite room in my house is the kitchen. It's where we spend all our time as a family – where we eat, chat and dance to silly music.

An unforgettable place I've travelled to in the past year is Château La Coste, near Aix-en-Provence. It dates back to the 1600s and

specialises in sculpture and wine from the estate – a winning combination. I was blown away by the project's scale and vision: in the grounds are a floating spider by Louise Bourgeois, an underground nest by Andy Goldsworthy and pavilions by Tadao Ando. 2750 Route de la Cride, 13610 Le Puy Sainte Réparate (+33-4-261 8998; www.chateau-la-coste.com).

The best gift I've given recently is a photo by Malick Sidibé that I bought for my husband on a life-changing trip to Mali a few years ago. Sidibé is probably Mali's most famous artist and though you can buy his work in London I was lucky enough to be able to buy a print directly from his studio. It's a black and white image of a group of revellers on a beach



From top: Toogood's Amy Revier felted-wool Mies cardigan, £1,895. The Malick Sidibé print she bought for her husband. Schleich toy dinosaur, from £4.95. *Crouching Spider*, 2003, by Louise Bourgeois at Château La Coste. Thom Browne calfskin brogues, £900



dressed in fantastic 1970s outfits. There's so much joy in it. *Hackelbury Fine Art*, 4 Launceston Pl, London W8 (020-7937 8688; www.hackelbury.co.uk).

My favourite website is that of interior designer-turned-gallerist Oliver Gustav, who has impeccable taste. His interiors and the way he combines antiques, found objects and contemporary design is very inspiring. www.olivergustav.com.

AS TOLD TO EMMA O'KELLY

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