

1 Ozone's 'Untitled T' chandelier (from £10,470 approx) and 'Untitled DBS' lamp (from £2,595 approx), by Christophe Perichon, outshine many others - and not because of their polished-nickel or gold finishes. They combine the latest technology with traditional Parisian craftsmanship - and are good-looking to boot. Ring 00 33 1 53 01 04 76, or visit ozonelight.com.

2 Il Piccolo has produced a series of rugs blending modern design and traditional methods called the 'Nodus' collection. How? By bringing together contemporary designers with artisanal weavers from six countries. 'Cahier' (£2,025 approx for a 3 × 2m example), by Alberto Artesani, is made to order in India, in any size, from hand-knotted wool or silk. Ring 00 39 02 86 68 38, or visit nodusrug.com.

3 No-one does ethnic as elegantly as the French. The latest home wares from Annick Lestrohan, founder of Marseilles-based shop Honoré, is a case in point. Her new home collection features fouta blankets, available in red, green or blue (£140

approx each), and embroidered cushions (£50 approx each), both made in Morocco. Ring 00 33 491 33 08 34, or visit honore-france.com.

4 There are few occasions when you'll need to decant two dozen bottles of wine in one fell swoop. When the time comes, William Yeoward Crystal has the perfect carafe for the job: 'Bella' costs £2,500. Ring 020 7349 7827, or visit williamyeowardcrystal.com.

5 The 'Model A' stacking chair, designed by Xavier Pauchard in the 1930s, parachuted his metal-fabricating company, Tolix, onto the design scene and earned it a place in history. Less celebrated but no less appealing is his 'Table 55,' reissues of which are available from The Conran Shop for £495. Ring 020 7589 7401, or visit conranshop.co.uk.