

LIFE PROPERTY

MY SPACE

Matthew Burt,
furniture designer

This is the sitting room and reception area of the cottage in Sherrington, Wiltshire, where I live with my wife, Celia. We moved to this part of the world in 1978 to start our business, and since then this room has been our side project. Every fibre of it – doors, floors and windows – was built by us, and what few bits and pieces we didn't make are works by artisans whose lives are entwined with our own. In a sense, the room has grown with us over the years. We have certainly come a long way since the days of working out of a shed in the garden. I was recently shortlisted by The Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers to design Prince George's high chair. We got down to the last five, but unfortunately were pipped at the post by Katie Walker. We were also honoured to have our furniture blasted to smithereens in *Skyfall*, the latest Bond film. Twenty years ago, our company was hired to provide furnishings for "C"'s office at MI6 HQ, the same office used by "W" and blown up in the film. Happily, thanks to CGI, both the office and furniture are still there, providing sterling service for Queen and country.

THOMAS MULVHILL

GET THE LOOK

CUBE CABINET
matthewburt.com
ROCKING HORSE
rockinghorses.uk.net



Fluted vessels These were made by Liam Flynn who, in my opinion, is the finest wood turner there is. They are sublime pieces: he truly understands timber. I swapped them for a cabinet of mine while we were at the Chelsea Craft Show

Wooden cube We won a competition to design seating at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, and this is made from offcuts from the bench legs. It's a small cabinet: one of the cubes is removable and, using magnets, you use it to open hidden drawers. We originally made 10, but they sold so quickly that it became a permanent product

Fish Eye mirror This belonged to Celia's grandmother, a remarkable woman who lived to be 101. It's a bit of a family icon. Every winter I'm sent out into the Wiltshire countryside by one of my daughters to find holly and various other plants with which to decorate it

Rocking horse This came to us through my wife's family. Celia played with him as a little girl, and I restored him in the Eighties so that our own children could do so as well. He's a bit of a vicious fellow, ready to buck his rider at a moment's notice, and there have been tears on his account

CHRISTOPHER JONES