

JASPER CONRAN ABOUT

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Jasper Conran, OBE, is a British designer. Having trained at Parson's School of Design in New York, Jasper Conran produced his first womenswear collection in 1978 and was a founding member of the London Designer Collections – subsequently renamed London Fashion Week – where he continues to show today.

Jasper Conran has diversified from womenswear into menswear, fragrance, eyewear, accessories, luggage, collections for the home, interiors and the performing arts. In 2008 Jasper Conran received an OBE for his Services to Retail.

Throughout his career, Jasper Conran has pursued his passion for the performing arts. He has created costumes and sets for thirteen ballet, opera and theatre productions. In 1991 Jasper Conran won a Lawrence Olivier Award for Costume Design for Jean Anouilh's 'The Rehearsal'.

Jasper Conran was appointed the Chairman and Creative Director of The Conran Shop in 2012 where he spent three years conceiving and implementing a strategy to reinvigorate and reposition the business.

Jasper Conran opened his first hotel in 2016, L'Hôtel Marrakech.

JASPER CONRAN COLLECTIONS

Womenswear Collections

Jasper Conran launched his first womenswear collection in 1978. This preceded a six-page spread in Vogue describing him as the “rising star of British Fashion” and one of a “new generation of British designers.”

“The beating heart of his design ethos: English with an edge.” Suzy Menkes

He was a founding board member of the London Designer Collections – subsequently renamed London Fashion Week – and was awarded Designer of the Year by the British Fashion Council in 1986. Jasper Conran continues to show his womenswear collection at London Fashion Week.

<http://www.jasperconran.com/about/womenswear>

Jasper Conran at Waterford

In 1999, Jasper Conran was approached by the Waterford Wedgwood Group to design a range of crystal. He re-invigorated the sector by creating a range of contemporary Stemware. His collections went on to win the Prince's Medal 'Homes & Gardens Classic Design' Award in 2003 and 2006.

“Working with craftsman and experts in their field is a huge privilege. Their incredible skills can't fail to inspire.” Jasper Conran

Jasper Conran at Wedgwood

Following on from the success of his work with Waterford, 250 year old British brand approached Jasper to produce a fine bone china tableware collection in 2001. Famous for their patterns, Jasper Conran's first Wedgwood collection brought something fresh and contemporary to the table by being completely white.

<http://www.jasperconran.com/jasper-conran-wedgwood>

Wedgwood and Waterford products are distributed through premium department stores and independent retailers and wholesalers around the world, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, Japan, China and Australia.

J by Jasper Conran

In 1996, Jasper Conran was one of the first designers to collaborate with the British high street. He designed a diffusion line, J by Jasper Conran for the department store chain Debenhams. This enabled a wider audience to buy into the distinctive Jasper Conran style and led to the launch of J Home, J Childrenswear and J Menswear Collections.

Debenhams trades from 240 stores across 27 countries.

<http://www.jasperconran.com/collections/j-jasper-conran>

Jasper Conran Eyewear

In keeping with his clean, contemporary aesthetic, Jasper Conran designs an eyewear range for men and women.

<http://www.jasperconran.com/collections/eyewear>

Fragrance

Jasper Conran has created signature fragrances for men and women. Most recently he launched Jasper Conran Nude for women and Naked for men.

<http://www.jasperconran.com/collections/fragrance>

L'HÔTEL MARRAKECH

In 2016 Jasper Conran opened his first hotel in the heart of the Medina in Marrakech.

L'Hôtel Marrakech is a historic 19th Century Riad, originally the central part of a Caidal palace, comprising of five spacious suites surrounding a courtyard garden and swimming pool. With a focus on delicious food, great comfort and service, the hotel combines superb Moroccan craftsmanship with pieces of antique furniture, textiles, lighting and art from Jasper's collection, making it feel more like a home than a hotel.

In April 2017 L'Hôtel Marrakech was listed as 1 of 75 in the Hot List 2017: Best New Hotels in the World, Condé Nast Traveler USA

<http://www.l-hotelmarrakech.com>

PERFORMING ARTS

Jasper Conran is passionate about the performing arts, having designed costumes and sets for a total of 13 plays, ballets and operas. For his debut in 1991, he was presented with a Laurence Olivier 'Costume Designer Of The Year' Award for Jean Anouilh's *The Rehearsal*. A complex play to design for, flitting between extravagant 18th Century dress and fifties clothing, Jasper Conran produced a purely black and white collection, emphasising the play's dark comedy through texture and shape.

"Doing costumes is an outlet for my fantasy which I don't indulge when designing my own collections."
Jasper Conran

In 1992, Jasper Conran faced the challenge of bringing a new look to Simon Callow's version of the Broadway musical *My Fair Lady*, originally staged in 1956 with designs by Cecil Beaton. A central flower theme was vividly brought to life in the Ascot scene, where the ladies paraded in stalk dresses in various shades of green topped with huge hats fashioned as roses, tulips, pansies and lilies.

For Galina Samsova's 1994 production of *Sleeping Beauty*, Jasper Conran broke away from the traditions of classical ballet and the pink tutu; from the stylised black and white court scene through to the intensely brilliant oranges, greens and blues of the courtiers in the final scene. Using such striking colour, his costumes took the old story in to another realm.

The Rehearsal, Jean Anouilh, 1991

My Fair Lady, Simon Callow, 1992

Tombeaux, David Bintley, 1993

Sleeping Beauty, Galina Samsova, 1994

Brahms/Handel Variations, David Bintley, 1994

The Complete Consort, David Bintley, 1994

Swan Lake, Galina Samsova, 1995

Edward II, David Bintley, 1995

The Nutcracker Sweeties, David Bintley, 1996

Maria Stuarda, Donizetti, 1998

The Shakespeare Suite, David Bintley, 1999

Arthur Part I, David Bintley, 2000

Arthur Part II, David Bintley, 2001

<http://www.jasperconran.com/about/performing-arts>

JASPER CONRAN COUNTRY

In 2010, Jasper Conran's debut book *Country* was first published, a photographic and written portrait of a year in the English countryside.

“The fact that I am a designer – someone who has worked all his life with fabrics, colours, shapes and textures – does not make me an expert on rural affairs. But when it comes to appreciating the texture of the countryside, I think it might help.” Jasper Conran

Jasper Conran reveals his unique vision of 'Country' in a very personal and arresting photographic essay, captured during a year of encounters, explorations and insights.

It is this passion for British heritage and the workmanship of skilled traditions which led Jasper Conran to become an Ambassador for the Prince's Foundation.

<http://www.jasperconran.com/collections/jasper-conran-country>

‘CECIL BEATON AT WILTON’

In 2014 Jasper Conran curated and designed an exhibition of unseen Cecil Beaton photographs at Wilton House, Wiltshire, UK.

<http://www.jasperconran.com/news/jasper-designs-and-curates-cecil-beaton-exhibition>

AWARDS & POSITIONS:

Awards

1986: 'Designer of The Year', from the British Fashion Council (BFC)

1991: 'British Collections Award', from the British Fashion Council

1991: 'Costume Designer of the Year,' a Laurence Olivier Award for The Rehearsal

2003: 'Homes & Gardens Classic Design', a Prince's Medal Award for his Jasper Conran at Waterford collection

2004: 'Outstanding Design,' a British Interior Design Association Award for his Jasper Conran at Chesney's fireplace collection

2005: 'Object of Desire,' a Design & Decoration Award for his Jasper Conran at Wedgwood Chinoiserie range

2006: 'Homes & Gardens Classic Design', a Prince's Medal Award for his Jasper Conran at Waterford collection

2008: O.B.E (Order of the British Empire), for Services to Retail

2011: 'Innovation & Design,' a Conde Nast Traveller Award for his Jasper Conran at Tripp luggage collection

2013: 'Retailer of The Year 2013' for Jasper Conran at The Conran Shop at the Homes & Gardens Designer Awards

Positions

Jasper Conran is an Honorary Doctor of Letters at Heriot-Watt University, a Visiting Professor at the University of the Arts London and an Honorary Doctor of Civil Law at the University of East Anglia. He is also an Ambassador for the Prince's Foundation and a Trustee of the Wallace Collection.\

THE JASPER CONRAN FOUNDATION

The Jasper Conran Foundation was created in 2013. Its key objectives are to support children and young people with life limiting conditions, to provide relief for children who have suffered mental or physical abuse and to relieve poverty, homelessness and distress amongst people infected by HIV.