

Let battle commence



Will Greenwood, Chris Ashton, Mike Ford & Paul Hayward on England's Rugby World Cup opener

Free 20-page supplement inside

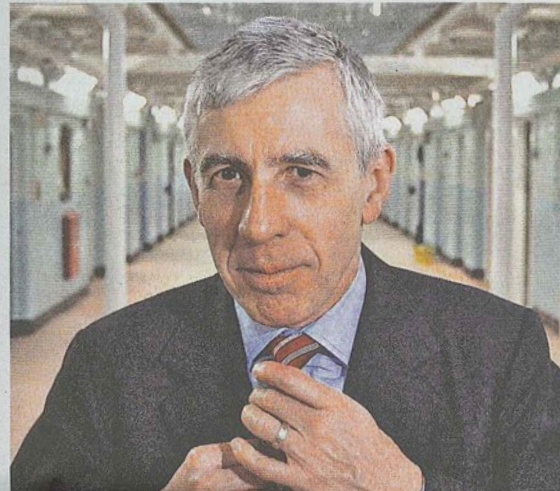
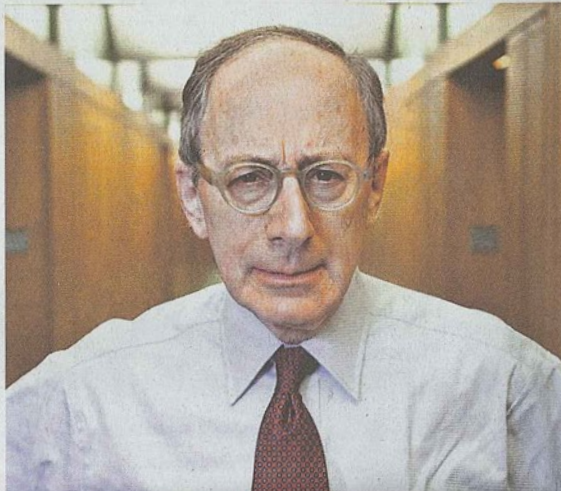
The Daily Telegraph

The proof that MPs cannot be allowed to police themselves

◆ Parliament's rules need to be changed, admit members of committee that exonerated two former ministers in cash-for-access investigation

By Peter Dominiczak, Claire Newell, Christopher Hope and Edward Malnick

MEMBERS of the committee that cleared Jack Straw and Sir Malcolm Rifkind over a "cash-for-access" scandal last night expressed misgivings about the parliamentary system that led to the former ministers being exon-



Hudson and endorsed by the panel of MPs and lay members, came seven months after *The Daily Telegraph* investigation.

In it, MPs insisted that Sir Malcolm and Mr Straw had been "scrupulous in observing the requirements relating to registration of interests".

STYLE



Groovy: the worst excesses of Seventies decor featured in *Abigail's Party* (1977)

The return of Seventies style

Exuberance, bold colour, strong patterns and crisp geometry – the era's individual taste is chic again, finds *Talib Choudhry*

The Seventies seem an unlikely era for a style revival. They had, until recently, been written off as the decade that taste forgot, dismissed as being full of designs we would balk at living with now: tan leather sofas, orange and brown wallpaper, avocado bathroom suites – all the worst excesses of *Abigail's Party*.

But just as the fashion barometer has swung back towards them, so has the design world, with interior and product designers referencing the decade in their new ranges and icons of the age being celebrated again.

This month, the work of interior designer David Hicks – whose eye-catching upholstery and groovy wallpaper were the apex of exuberant Seventies style – is being shown at Harrods as part of an exhibition entitled *Timeless Design*. As well as archive photography, sketches and accessories by Hicks, a collection of sofas and armchairs he designed for Parker & Farr has been re-issued. The designs look surprisingly current and desirable – a fact that comes as no surprise to Emma Mawston, head of design for Liberty Art Fabrics.

"The Seventies are often seen as having been full of sludgy browns, shagpile and large florals, but it was a

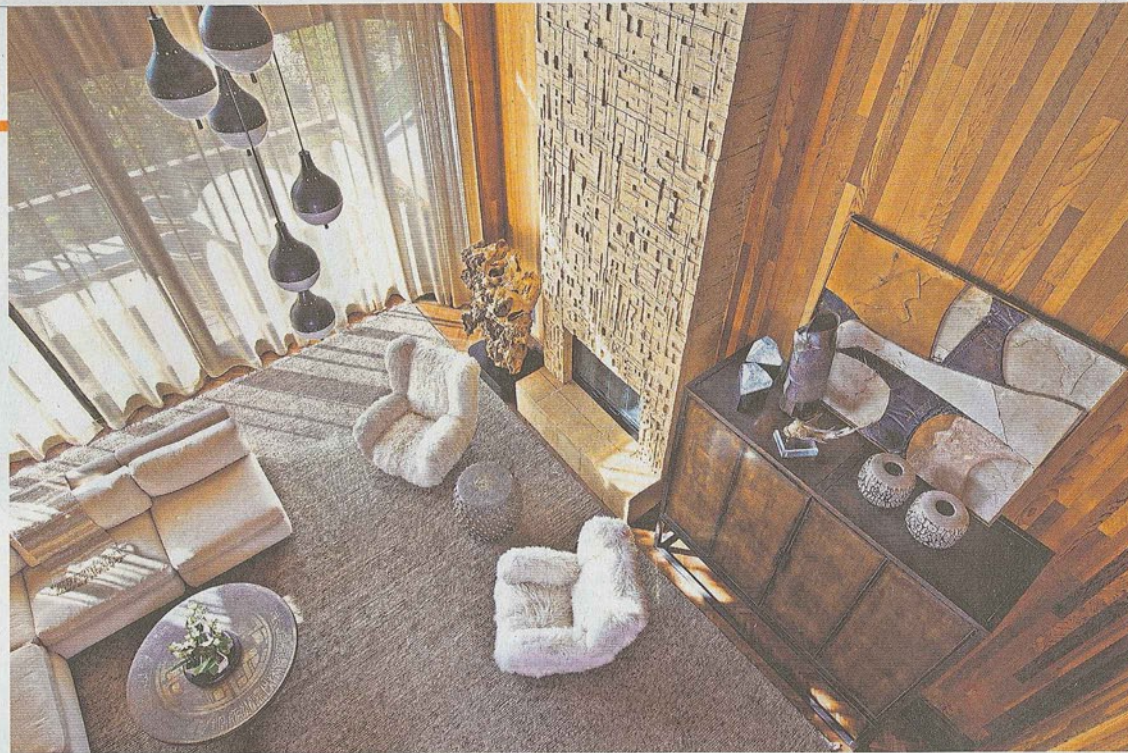
period of innovation, new discovery and exciting entrepreneurs in all fields of design and the arts," she says.

Like many of the current creatives in the design, textile and fashion industries, Mawston is a child of the Seventies, so it is no coincidence that the aesthetic they grew up with is being referenced in their work.

Rather than garish patterns, Mawston recalls a childhood home with stripped wooden floors, pretty Laura Ashley florals, hessian-covered walls and "great orange Habitat rollerblinds" – a colour that, once again, is enjoying a revival. The recent vogue for William Morris prints can also be attributed to their popularity in the Seventies.

Architect and interior designer Ashley Hicks (son of David) grew up in a very different home, highlighting the myriad decorating styles that the era encompassed. The crisp geometry, strong patterns and angular forms that surrounded the young Hicks were carried through into his own work, including bold carpet designs for Alternative Flooring.

"My father was a leader of the style, so I have it in my blood," he says. "It was anathema for a long time, but now it looks glamorous and exciting. Taste is always a cyclical thing – Tom Ford and others brought



COLOUR ME BEAUTIFUL SEVENTIES STYLE SELECTION

Wibble Small Hurricane, £27, by Dartington Crystal from John Lewis (johnlewis.com)



Ombre rug, £880 per m2, by Kelly Wearstler from The Rug Company (therugcompany.com)



Zandoo Sconce light, £1,200, by Arteriors from LuxDeco (luxdeco.com)



Brigitte lounge chair, £2,250, by Jonathan Adler (uk.jonathanadler.com)



Hanging hoop chair in brass, £3,750, by Lee Broom (leebroom.com)



Orange drum stool, £850, by Anna Gravelle from Urban Living Interiors (urbanlivinginteriors.co.uk)



A warm, retro-chic interior by Kelly Wearstler

it into [catwalk] fashion 10 years ago, and now it has filtered through to mainstream homewares."

Hicks attributes this willingness to take a more maximalist approach to decorating to the fact that "people are so bored with white, minimalist interiors, which were meant to suggest Zen purity but instead just feel cold, inhuman and pretentious".

The LA-based interior designer Kelly Wearstler's work is anything but. Her warm, retro-chic interiors are in demand around the world. "The best of Seventies design has clean, timeless lines and a sense of exuberance not equalled by any other era," she says. "I think the willingness to experiment by mixing patterns and colours is the real lesson from it."

But how should we integrate Seventies styles into our homes? "Be careful in your choices – a little goes a long way," Wearstler says. Hicks suggests mixing Seventies pieces with "softer, more historical things to create a counterpoint".

As Mawston asserts, this freedom to make individual choices and express our personalities through our homes is a direct result of the pioneering tastemakers of the Seventies.