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13 DEAR REAR 'My Beautiful Backside' designed for Moroso by the Indian-Anglo design partnership of Nipa Doshi and Jonathan Levien www.moroso.it **14 SOLID SEATING** Buonarroti by Armani Casa www.armanicasa.com **15 LIPS INC** Gufram's famous settee based on Salvador Dali's lips now comes in a pink version (Pink Lady) www.gufram.com **16 LOUNGE AROUND** Plupp sofa designed by Kati Meyer-Brühl www.bruehl.com

COLOUR STARTS HERE...

Mixing it up 'Statement sofas really are more sculpture or art,' observed Sheridan Coakley of SCP. 'Some of the more extreme designs only really work in lobbies in palatial homes or hotels'. SCP, however, commissioned textile designer Donna Wilson to bring a new look to its range, with her Hue sofa at Milan. 'I looked at it rather like a painting,' say Wilson. 'I wanted the arms to be large, oversized and naive looking – and then to use Mondrian-like blocks of colours.'

The result is simple surfaces with large flat planes of toning colours, which work particularly well

in blue or a more neutral grey. 'And I was on hand to tweak the comfort,' adds Coakley, who is a specialist in modern upholstery, with his own British workshop.

Pascal Mourgue at Ligne Roset is a sculptor, and his latest Patchwork design (arriving in the UK this autumn) is a pleasing assembly of highly flexible shapes, again in flat planes of colour. Choice includes a blue group; a red, pink and orange group; a green group and a monochrome group.

Sheridan Coakley points out how easy it is to turn a standard sofa into a decorative piece. 'A sofa

by its very nature is bespoke,' he says. 'There are hundreds, if not thousands, of options by the time you take the sizes and different fabrics and colours into account. You just can't do that with a table.' Bespoke manufacturer George Smith of the King's Road, agrees. 'Putting together different fabrics, or fabrics and leather, can completely alter the look of design,' says marketing manager Hermione Mcleod-Hatch. 'We recently had a client order a simple classic design in silky lustrous ribbed fabric in a combination of green and pink. It looked sensational.'

At House Couturier, also in the King's Road, the bespoke options are even more extreme, with virtually any shape worked out on CAD in different fabrics, to order.

Finally, going green in East London is Andrea Simonutti of Urban Upholstery, who has 20 years of experience as a high-quality upholsterer for top firms in Italy. He is rescuing stylish old furniture and giving it a flamboyant treatment with ends of rolls of designer fabric.

'Recycling does not mean giving up on aesthetic quality,' he says. 'I see a sofa as art.'