

etcetera

News, views and trends for... *May*

LEFT Amaze table, €98, Caterina Fadda.
BELOW Jolly tables, from €51, Paolo Rizzatto at Kartell.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Icon lamps, from €95, Ferruccio Laviani at Kartell. Mary tray, €15.50, Habitat. Highlighter ball pens, 90p each, Maji. BELOW Extendable screen, £225 per m, Tom Dixon.

TREND

SO TRANSPARENT

Put your eco-chic ideals on hold and prepare to embrace this year's top non-biodegradable materials: plastic, acrylic, PVC, Perspex. Call it what you will, it's massive and, according to our **Livingetc** stylists who hopped on the Eurostar and headed to the Maison et Objet exhibition in Paris, it was the talk of the ville. The biggest trend is for transparent pieces. And the colours? Anything but dear (so last year). Not surprisingly, plastics genius Kartell is the place to look for inspiration, with the Jolly table (above) and Louis Ghost chair by Philippe Starck two of their hottest-selling pieces (and infinitely cheaper than Cappellini's five-grand whopper of a chair, right). The fashion set seem to be predicting rainy days this summer, with PVC macs trotting down the catwalks of Versus (left) and MaxMara, but how do you get the look at home? Think accent, not overkill: accessories or a single piece of furniture will create colour, light and a brilliant sense of space.

Words: David Nicholls. Photography: Chris Moore (models), Fran Santos (Lustre screen). To Paris, up to 14 hours per day. From 2007, £10 return.

FROM LEFT