

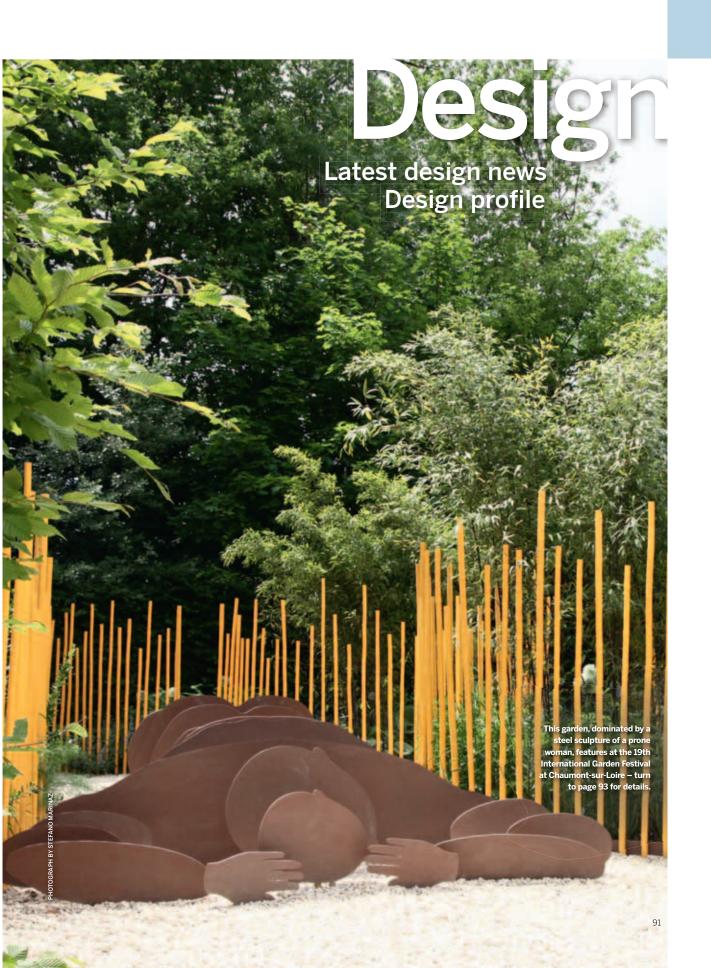
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ART

National Trust goes avant garde

Performance artist Marcia Farguhar declaims astride a life-size rocking horse on the lawns at Tatton Park (below right), while Steve Messam's giant red water lilies float in the lake (above right). Meanwhile, a dead tree at Croft Castle in Herefordshire is wrapped in red ribbon by artist Philippa Lawrence. All these works have been commissioned for Trust New Art, a threeyear partnership between the National Trust and Arts Council England that introduces contemporary arts and crafts into the gardens and buildings of historic houses. Other commissions include Annika Eriksson's lilliputian cinema, where vintage footage by Tatton's colourful former owner Maurice Egerton is intercut with the artist's own films. "We are not afraid to be challenging," says Tatton project manager Tom Freshwater.





These house name and number plates from ashortwalk are pure eco-chic. Made from recycled vending machine coffee cups, they look like slate but won't chip or break. Prices start at £23.95. Tel 01872 575000, www. ecohousenumbers.co.uk

