

Thinking outside the box



Janet Fitch kicks off the New Year by focusing on the innovative

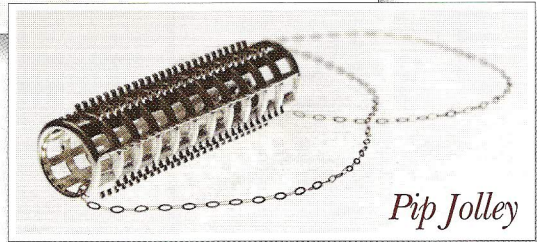
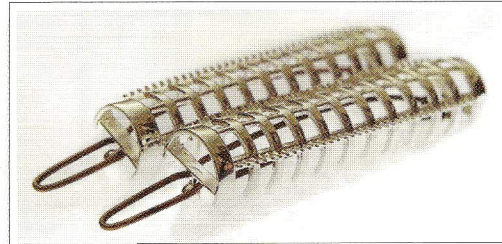
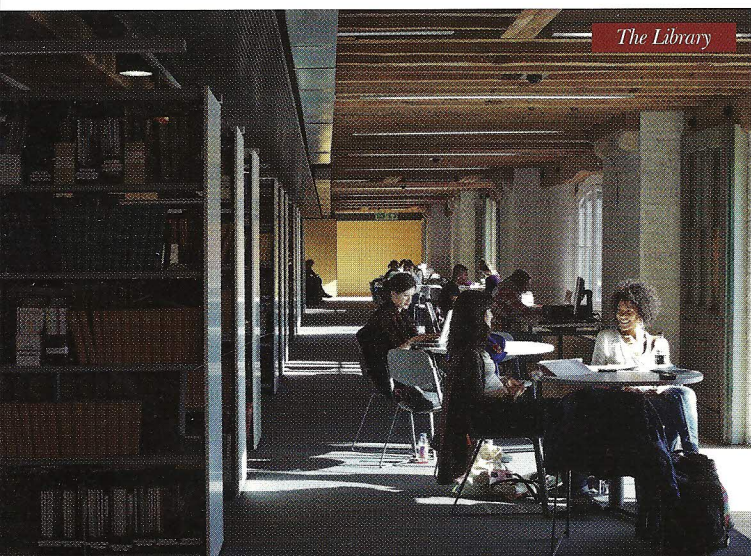
use of materials and design concepts by jewellery graduates, designer-makers and brands

Happy New Year, and let's hope it's a resoundingly successful one despite some of the predictions – if we're all doomed as prophesied on 21 December 2012 then there is even more reason to push the boat out over the coming months! However if, as seems most likely, the Mayan calendar has been misinterpreted, then here's to long life and happiness in our trade.

Another prediction is for a worldwide shortage of rare earth metals over the next three years, which prompted me to start the New Year with a selection of jewellery that doesn't rely on traditional materials.

Central St Martins College is famed for alumni like Alexander McQueen, Stella McCartney, Antony Gormley, and jewellery designer Theo Fennell. The jewellery school has nurtured the careers of many excellent and innovative designer-makers, and is now ensconced in its new home in Kings Cross – the Grade 2 listed Granary Building, designed by award-winning architect Stanton Williams, providing a modern and purpose-built environment for the education of art and design students.

Central St Martins College



Pip Jolley

Lowe and Partners, the global communications agency, sponsored the inaugural Nova Award in the building's new Lethaby Gallery. The winner's and runners ups' designs, from across the disciplines, were shown in Crossover, the aptly named exhibition embracing the creative crossover processes the new building is designed to foster.

Jewellery designer **Pip Jolley** was commended for her witty collection of hair rollers, grips and slides, displayed on period packaging, and inspired by the effort and ingenuity that 1940s women put into their hair and makeup. (www.pipjolley.com)

Browsing the Christmas exhibition in the Lesley Craze Gallery in Clerkenwell Green, London, I came across the beautiful sculptural leather pieces created by award-winning Middlesex University graduate **Tania Clarke Hall**, and then visited her in her studio in Cockpit Arts nearby. "Leather is my chosen material. With its flexible, forgiving but robust nature, it's my perfect creative playmate," she says. Slashing, colouring and twisting the cut edges, Tania creates bold, geometric but sophisticated and wearable forms. (www.lesleycrazegallery.co.uk, www.taniaclarkehall.com)



Tania Clarke Hall