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MIRROR MAX: four sight.
 Right, silvered glass vases by
 Michael Anastassiades.
 Below, 'Lightwood' lamp by
 design duo Vogt & Weizenegger



WARES OF BABYLON Babylon Design produced their latest capsule collection through a combination of fast footwork and cool commissioning. **Jonathan Bell** explains how they came up with the goods

Barely three years old, Babylon Design has already wowed the design world with its extraordinary lighting and mastery of materials. Now founders Peter Wyly and Birgit Israel are expanding the Babylon vision with a new collection, Babylon London, a fresh range of houseware, lighting and accessories made to order by an impressive assembly of designers and architects. As experienced designers themselves, the duo had a very clear idea of what they wanted. Designers were approached and briefed and the ideas just flowed. 'We were all very much on the same wavelength,' says Israel, Babylon's creative director. 'We didn't need 3D drawings: we could just look at a sketch – we trusted the designers.' The result is a collection of surprising coherence, bringing together a variety of quality materials moulded into strong, timeless forms. Israel is quick to point out that the emphasis is not on fashion – rather, she says, 'We hope these designs will last for ever.'

From ultra-fine bone china to sculpted wood, Babylon London has something for everyone; Michael Anastassiades, designer and philosopher, who has collaborated with Hussein Chalayan, has contributed four graceful silvered-glass vases with mirrored tubular interiors that resemble slender kaleidoscopic tunnels. Wyly, Babylon's design director, contributed organic stoneware bowls which appear to be moulded by nature. The adroit design conceals an inner insulating skin – perfect for keeping ice cream or gazpacho nicely chilled. Both