

DEAR SPEAR'S...

Readers share their thoughts on sustainability, design, tax regulations and more...

SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM

SIR — I enjoyed last issue's cover story, 'The New Capitalism', which explored the rising role of sustainability in shaping investment today. We seem to have reached a point where sustainability is becoming the linchpin of our economy.

We see this in the private sector, where forward-thinking organisations are increasingly embedding social impact into their core business strategy. Bolt-on CSR initiatives are no longer enough – it's now recognised as integral to their long-term survival. Meanwhile, the public sector is increasingly looking to the private sector as a partner to help deliver sustainable development.

Cynics may view this concept as a pipe dream, but adoption is growing and frankly it makes perfect business sense. Companies and investors that focus on creating positive impact are setting themselves up for sustainable economic prosperity.

Today, more money than ever is being directed towards investments with a purpose, but there's still a mountain of work to do. For example, more private capital needs to be unlocked to address the \$2.5 trillion funding gap that prevents the UN's Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) from becoming a reality.

I believe if we continue to work together we can explore new models that free up more capital, ensure accountability and ultimately improve people's lives.

Christopher Hirst
CEO, Palladium



SPIRITED OPINIONS
The writer of the lead *Spear's* letter in each edition will receive a bottle of Bacchus gin from Chapel Down, worth £35

WHATEVER SUITS YOUR PALETTE

SIR — I always find it interesting to read trend pieces about the return of this, or the death of that, but colour has never really been in or out of fashion – it's just a question of how you choose to express your own taste.

My style has certainly evolved over the years, but my core philosophy remains the same – to design beautiful, harmonious spaces that stand the test of time, and for me a primarily neutral palette ticks all the boxes. People love to pit one style against the other, but it's not a battle, it's simply a choice.

Because I've built a brand on the perfect neutrals, there is a huge misconception that I am anti-colour. I adore colour. In fact I've just designed a home that is full of bright colour, and my new Mickey Mouse collaboration with Disney is packed



with pieces in a number of dynamic colourways. Accents of vibrant hues can work beautifully in a scheme, but I love art and photography, and also accessories, which can just get lost and lose their impact in a sea of colour.

There really is no right or wrong, it is just a matter of preference – you either want a colourful palette or you want a neutral palette. For me personally, I don't want colour to be a dominant feature in the home, but neutrals are never boring when they're done right. I've built a brand based on neutrals which is still as in demand as ever over 40 years later, so there must be something in it.

Kelly Hoppen

STATUS UPDATE

SIR — Figures recently published by HMRC show an alarming 23 per cent drop in the numbers of UK taxpayers claiming non-domiciled status on their tax returns in 2016/17. This has sparked fears that the tightening of rules may have led to a mass exodus of foreign entrepreneurs. However, the government does have method in its madness.

Since 6 April 2017 non-doms now become deemed UK domiciled after 15 tax years of residence and thereafter cannot claim the remittance basis. However, the introduction of 'protected status' offshore trusts means monies put in trust prior to becoming UK domiciled can grow sheltered from all taxes; and by careful structuring of bank accounts accumulated foreign income can be used for foreign expenditure and 'clean' capital for UK expenditure in a tax-efficient way. This means the UK remains attractive to non-doms and is still open for business.

Mark Davies
Mark Davies & Associates

MILLER'S TALE

SIR — Thank you for your interview with Gina Miller (*Spear's* 64). Initially I was one of those who felt immense frustration with her legal challenge. The decision had been taken (I was a Remainer, for the record), and we now needed the government to move forward quickly to deliver certainty to UK businesses. To seek to involve a polarised parliament seemed to offer the opposite – more division, more uncertainty, more delay.

However, after reading your interview it is clear that Mrs Miller is far more balanced and principled than much of the media would portray. Whatever view one holds on Brexit, there can be no justification for the abuse she has endured for wanting to make a difference.

Richard Rogerson
CEO, RFR

To submit a letter for publication in *Spear's*, email letters@spearswms.com or write to: The Editor, *Spear's* Magazine, John Carpenter House, John Carpenter Street, London, EC4Y 0AN. All correspondence will be considered for publication unless otherwise stated.