

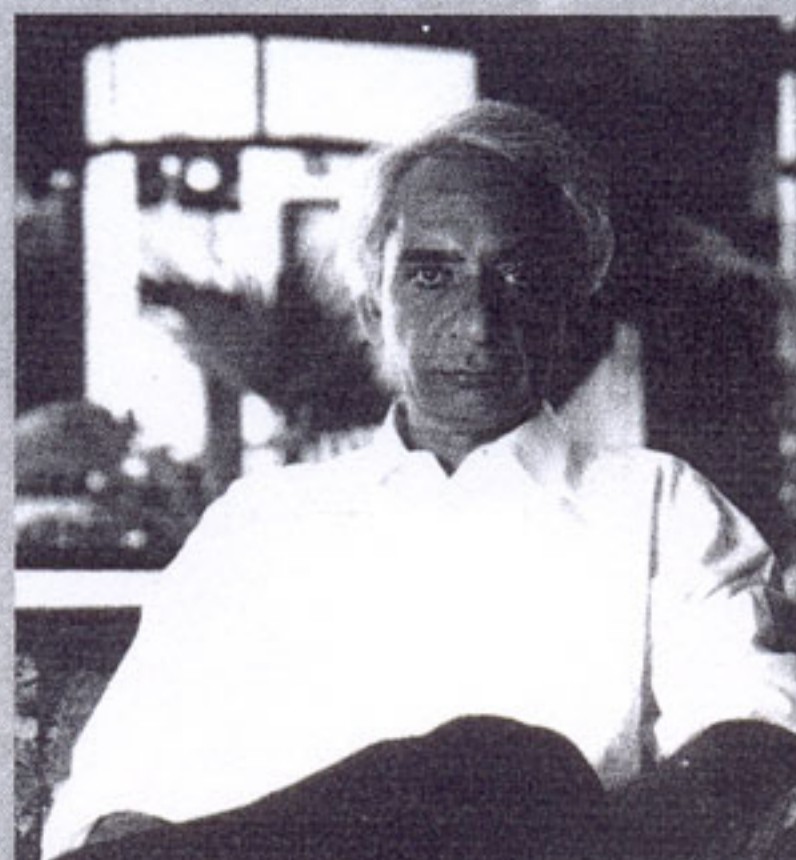
DREAMS IN SILVER

Ravissant is a name synonymous with luxury, lifestyle products and is possibly the largest manufacturer of hand made sterling silverware in the world today. Recently, at a shining ceremony in the capital, they announced the launch of their Sterling Silver Collection - 'Dreams In Silver'. The collection is completely handcrafted using tools like hammers, mallets, calipers and stakes - the traditional tools of silversmiths for centuries.

In an exclusive conversation with Fashionbloom Mr. Ravi Chawla, Managing Director, Ravissant informed that 'Dreams in Silver' collection is the result of the creative efforts of some of the world's best known designers like Michael Boy, Alistair McCullum and Simone Ten Hompel, who form a part of the Ravissant's core creative team. As Ravi spoke about the designers and his genuine admiration for the three was evident.

Alistair McCullum graduated in Silversmithing and jewellery at Loughborough College of Art and has created the "Mokume Gane" collection for Ravissant. The collection includes candlestands, flower vases, water jugs & glasses and tea sets.

Alistair McCullum has long been acknowledged in his field of expertise and his works appreciated worldwide. His elegant tableware and jewellery are held in a number of public collections, including the V & A, the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths and the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. He has



In an exclusive conversation with Anupam K. Sinha, Mr. Ravi Chawla, Managing Director, Ravissant informed that 'Dreams in Silver' collection is the result of the creative efforts of some of the world's best known designers like Michael Boy, Alistair McCullum and Simone Ten Hompel.

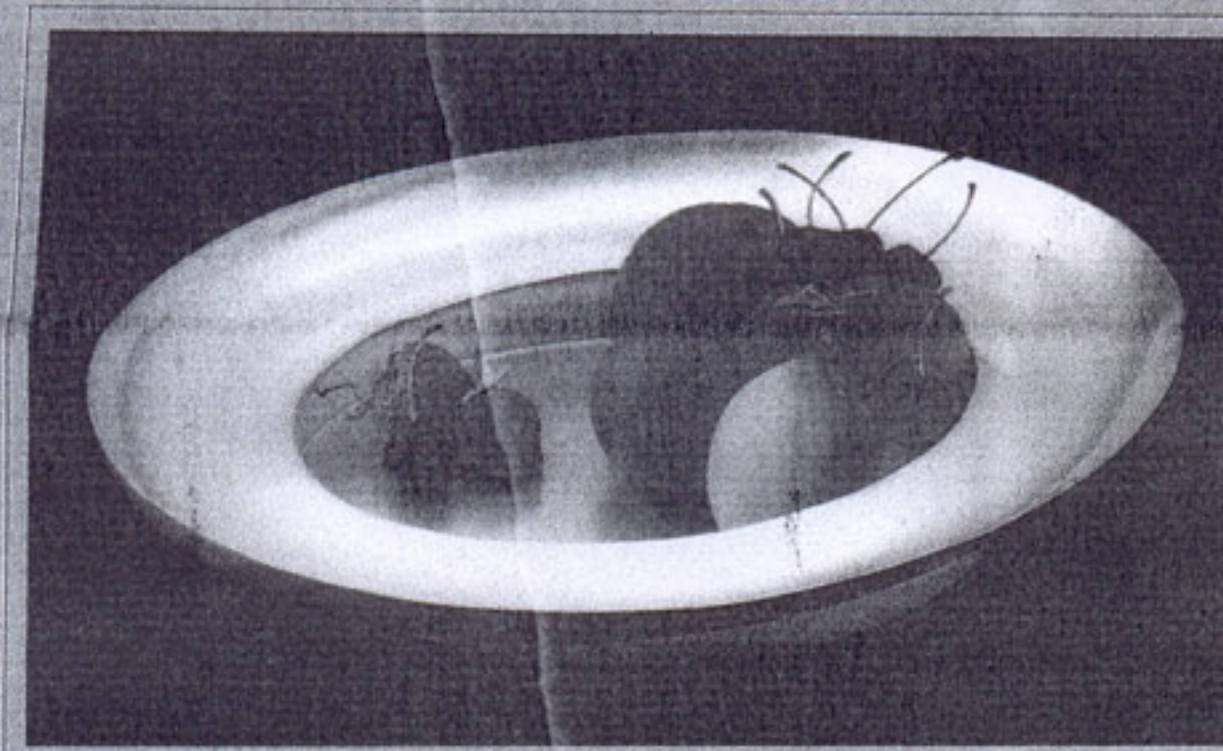
undertaken private and public commissions such as a ladle for the Sheffield Millennium Canteen and the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes Trophy for De Beers. Alistair McCullum is one of the very few people in the world who specialize in the traditional Japanese metal working technique called Mokume Gane. Mokume Gane is a decorative metal working technique and was invented in Japan by Denbei Shoami in

the late 15th century. The name Mokume Gane is a description of the patterns traditionally produced in Japan and translated into English means eye of the wood or wood grain metal. The technique involves joining sheets of silver, copper and copper alloys together by diffusion bonding to produce a sandwich. This is then forged into a thinner sheet; the pattern is created by cutting through the top layers to reveal their different colours. Once the desired pattern has been achieved the metal is then forged into a smooth patterned, sheet ready to be fashioned. The technique requires an extensive knowledge of metallurgy high levels of skill and abundance of artistic ability.

Michael Boy was initially trained as a professional goldsmith in Ulm and acquired technical skills in silversmithing, stone setting and gemology. He then studied product design with special emphasis on Jewellery and Tableware.

Michael has worked for Ravissant as a designer for the past over 10 years and has designed few of the most admired products of Ravissant collection. His work is influenced by Indian motives, local skills and the richness of Indian ornamentation, influenced by temple architecture, artistic expressions and ways of living. His work reflects a playful approach of mixing various techniques, materials, and styles culminating every year in innovative ideas for Ravissant collection.

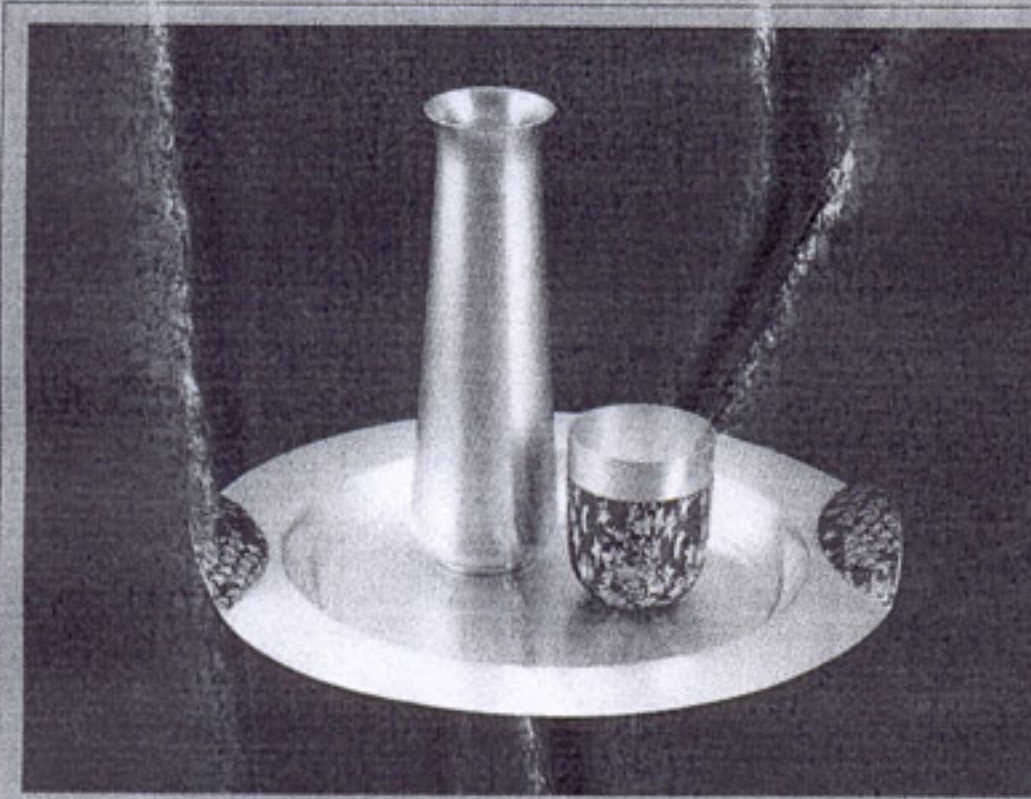
The Dreams in Silver collection of Michael is all about mingling the glitter of silver.



Simone Ten Hompel formally studied silversmithing, jewellery, and metalwork, however, she began working with metals much before, since the age of 11.

The most important aspect for Simone is the experience of her work through sight and touch 'I like to express metal in more than one way, and enhance through the visual and tactile experience, the fascination of its properties; in that respect I consider metal as my first language.'

Though Simone works with myriad of materials, she finds a special relation with



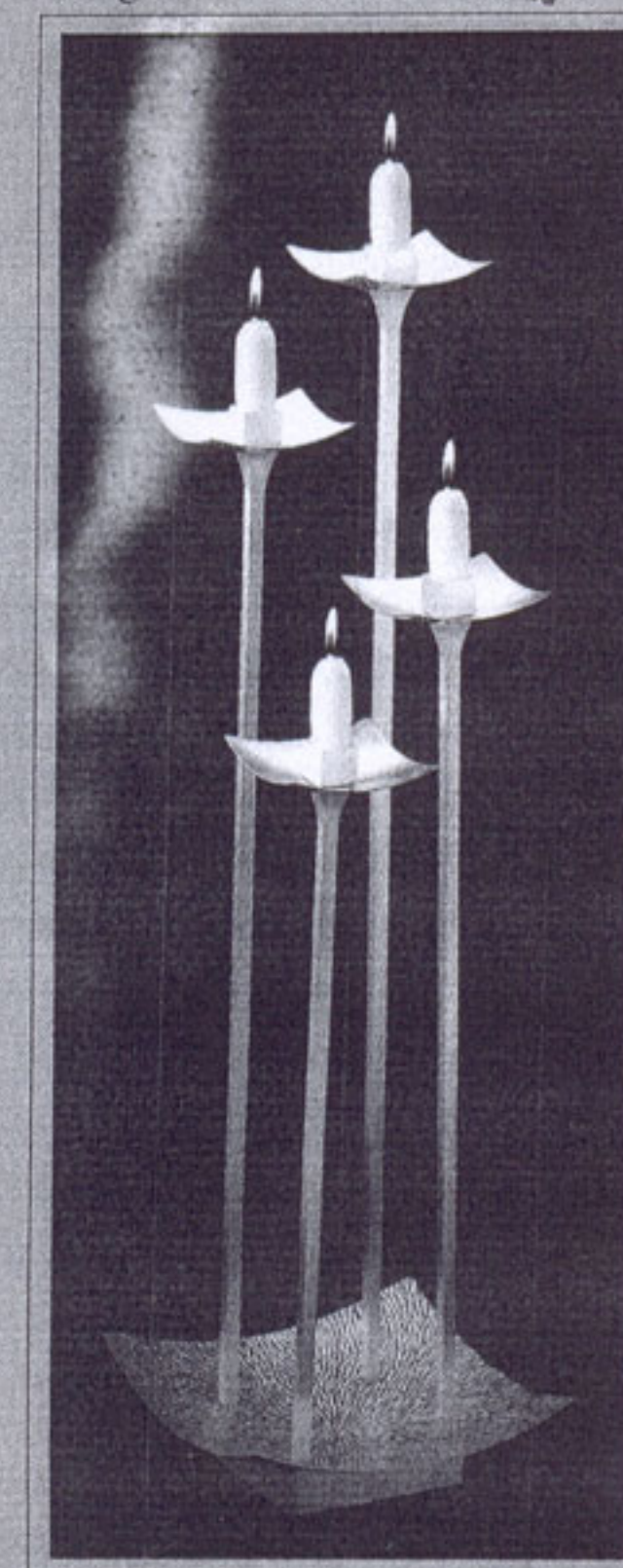
its reflected in the water and the light ripples, so, unfortunately, silver is not that pure that it will stay like this so, a bit like an alchemist you always have that struggle to get to this ready full moon colour".

Simone's works of innovative vessels, sculpture and tableware for Ravissant includes dishes with semi-precious stones, champagne bucket, ice bucket, candlestands, fruit dishes. In the words of Simone 'working with Ravissant has been the most wonderful experience, as

I was able to igning and implementation of the design was perfectly carried out by Ravissant master silversmith.

Ravi informed that everything at Ravissant is limited edition collection with no more than 20 pieces being made of each design. The exclusivity of the silverware was something that makes owning one even more a matter of pride.

Considering the amount of labour involved in terms of fusing the layers it is quite an achievement that they have managed to create a sheet with up to 128 layers. The way Ravissant is putting India firmly on the international map of silverware it is something for all of us to feel proud of, however, I dare predict here that in years to come owning a Ravissant might just become a symbol of fine taste and high living. Viva la difference!



MOKUME GANE - MAGICAL REALISM



Mokume Gane (pronounced moe-koo-may-GAHN-ay) is the Japanese term for "woodgrained metal". Mokume gane is an ancient Japanese metalsmithing technique that creates beautifully patterned metal. The process involves layering different colored metals, welding them together while maintaining the original colors, then texturing or manipulating the metal in a way that reveals a bit from each of the layers, which in contemporary jewelry may number from about 12 to 25. Creating the patterned metal is an art in itself; it is another art to create beautiful pieces from this crafted metal.