



**FAVOURITE SHOP**  
Themes & Variations, London



**FAVOURITE ACCESSORY**  
Scarf designed by Celia for John Lewis



**FAVOURITE DESIGNER**  
Chanel



## Celia Birtwell

The iconic British print designer reveals her passions in life

Celia Birtwell is one of Britain's most important textile designers. She started out creating fabrics for her husband, Ossie Clark, in the 1960s, and was also a muse to painter David Hockney. More recently, she has revived her prints for Topshop and opened her own interiors shop in Notting Hill, selling fabric and wallpapers. This autumn she launches a homeware range for John Lewis. Here, she discusses the things she loves most.

### How would you describe your style?

Chanel crossed with old-fashioned schoolgirl, sprinkled with expensive jewellery. I always wear black or navy with cream, whether it be spots, stripes or linings.

### What is the next thing you want to buy for your home?

I have recently bought a tiny cottage in Shropshire, so I need to buy lots of presents for it, starting with a staddle stone.

### What is your prized possession?

I don't have a favourite one, since my possessions are relevant for practical and sentimental reasons. But my Carmen rollers are high up the list.

### What is your favourite object?

The Piero Fornasetti clock in my living room. It always makes me smile.

**Which city do you like best?** Paris is so romantic. I love to look around the amazing galleries when I'm fresh in the morning.

### Where do you most like to shop?

I love browsing in Themes & Variations in Westbourne Grove.

**How do you scent your home?** My favourite scented candle is 'Thé' by Diptyque. And you can't beat real flowers - I love their scents.

### Which colours do you love the most?

I always find myself using the same palette to start off a design: red, cream, charcoal, soft pink and blue.

### Do you have a signature perfume?

I'm working on it!

### What lipstick do you wear?

For daytime, I love to wear a soft pink gloss by MAC, and if I'm going out I like the lipstick 'Naked Paris', also by MAC.

### What is your favourite work of art?

It changes, but I do love *Le Repos (Marie-Thérèse Walter)* by Picasso.

### What are you reading?

*The Scent Trail: A Journey of the Senses* by Celia Lyttelton (Bantam Books, £8.99).

The author travels all over the world in search of the ingredients for a perfume.

It's so inspiring that I insist you read it!

### What music are you listening to?

Birdsong in my Shropshire garden is music enough at the moment.

### Do you collect anything?

Tiny toys from my grandchildren. If they are playing with Sylvanian Families and I like the look of a character, then I will negotiate to put it in my display cabinet.

### What is your favourite fashion accessory right now?

The scarves that I recently designed for John Lewis.

### If you were going to paint your walls a new colour, what would it be?

I would be daring and choose a red flocked wallpaper.

### Which restaurant do you love?

Pearl Liang in Paddington Basin is currently my favourite. The Chinese food is refreshingly different.

### Who is your favourite designer?

Chanel, Chanel, Chanel. Forever glamorous, forever stylish.

[celiabirtwell.com](http://celiabirtwell.com); [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)



**FAVOURITE LIPSTICK**  
'Naked Paris' by MAC



**FAVOURITE RESTAURANT**  
Pearl Liang



**FAVOURITE WORK OF ART**

*Le Repos (Marie-Thérèse Walter)* by Picasso



**FAVOURITE HOME SCENT**  
'Thé' by Diptyque



**FAVOURITE OBJECT**

Fornasetti clock