



A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF  
TOM DIXON AND HIS WORK

Tom Dixon is bringing his unique sense of style and glamour to Sydney's exciting new vertical village, Quay Quarter Tower.



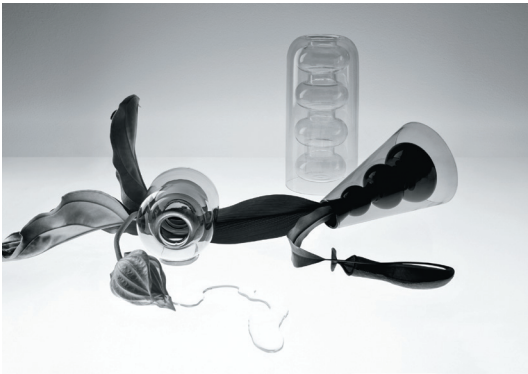
Right: Tom Dixon sculpting in his studio  
Cover: Tom Dixon sitting on a piece from his FAT chair series

It's hard to believe that a humble, self-taught designer born in Tunisia should go on to international fame, with products in every major design collection around the globe. But Tom Dixon has always been full of surprises.

Dixon spent the first four years of his life in Northern Africa, where his father was a teacher. In the early 1960s, young Tom moved back to England and went to school in Huddersfield, where he spent most of his time in the art department messing about with clay.

Later, he enrolled in art school, but didn't enjoy it, and so he dropped out to play bass in an indie band called Funkapolitan. The band enjoyed moderate success, signing with a record label and touring with Simple Minds and The Clash.

In his spare time, Dixon was taught oxy-acetylene welding by a friend who owned a panel beater. He mastered the art by welding bits of salvaged metal together live on stage at a London strip club he helped manage. Customers at the club wanted to buy what Dixon was making. Dixon thought it wonderful, he could take something worthless and turn it into something precious. And so, a fledgling business was born.



Left: Bump  
accessories range  
Right: Bird Chaise,  
Pylon and S Chair  
Back Cover: Melt Light

By the late 1980s Dixon was working with Italian furniture giant Cappellini for whom he created the famous 'S Chair'. However, his big breakthrough came in 1994 with Jack; a moulded plastic 'sitting, stacking, lighting thing' that became an instant design icon.

In 1998 Dixon was enlisted to help rejuvenate the ailing Habitat brand. Four years later, he left to start his own eponymous company. Over the past 20 years, Dixon has earned a reputation as one of the world's great designers and entrepreneurs, with a wide range of products, ranging from candles to table lamps. In 2001, Dixon was appointed an O.B.E. for services to British Design.

DRS (Design Research Studio) was launched in 2007, to focus on interior architecture, under the Tom Dixon banner. Some of DRS's high profile projects include Restaurant at the Royal Academy London; Shoreditch House; and the Mondrian Hotel on the Thames.

Although Tom Dixon has worked in Australia previously – his spectacular 'Melt' lamps were specified for the revamped Bennelong Restaurant at the Sydney Opera House in 2015 – Quay Quarter Tower will be the designer's first major Australian interior architecture project ●



