



TONY BANNISTER

My London

The trend scout gets back into the groove of the city that defines cool.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Artesian bar. Oysters at the
Colbert. The Conran Shop.
Darkroom in Lamb's Conduit
Street stocks Rockman &
Rockman's 'Cube 1' side table
and Christen Meindersma's
'Urchin' pouf. The terrace at
Sushisamba. Tony Bannister.



What took you back to London after years in Australia? I have a global trend forecast business so I was often travelling overseas, scouting for trade fairs, fashion shows and retail hot spots. Then my partner got the mega job to run one of the city's top hotels so the stars were aligned over London.

What do you like about living in London again? It feels like the centre of the world and so convenient to everywhere – the total opposite of Sydney!

Where are you based? W1, in the heart of the city and walking distance to everywhere. Fitzrovia is a happening suburb where all the cool creative agencies are based, with eclectic bars, restaurants and galleries on the fringe of the rag trade district where I cut my teeth and cloth in the 80s.

What's making London tick now? Post-Olympic fever and one of the best summers in years has given London a new sense of vigour.

How has the city changed since you lived there? It's all about the East End. Plus, chefs have discovered how to make English food a gastronomic experience, not a joke – it's about the best produce and keeping it simple.

The quintessential London experience? A walk from the Tate Modern, along the Thames, over Westminster Bridge to Trafalgar Square, and down to Buckingham and Kensington Palaces. Plus a pint at a pub at the end.

Your favourite haunt? Viewing London's changing skyline from above at Sushisamba on the 38th floor in the Heron Tower is pretty spectacular.

How would you spend just one day in London? Exploring the East End's up-and-coming areas. Start at Spitalfields and head to Shoreditch, Hoxton and Dalston for street art, boutiques, galleries, funky cafes and bars.

Favourite stores? Conran in Marylebone has just had a revamp – gorgeous products and visual merchandising. Lamb's Conduit Street in Bloomsbury is a fix of fashion, food and home – one of my favourite shopping streets.

Restaurants? From big-hitting, pricey Delaunay in Covent Garden to Colbert cafe in Sloane Square and a gem on the canals in Little Venice, The Summer House, with water views, passing barges and fresh, simple food.

Bar? The Langham's Artesian bar has not only been voted best bar in the world but its eclectic, intimate interiors by the late David Collins makes it a special place for yummy and inventive cocktails or a simple classic martini.

On your fashion radar? Pop-up shops and local entrepreneurs constantly challenge the retail landscape. London is all about the discovery of a new area, a new shop, which keeps everyone on their toes.

Describe London in one word It's the true definition of COOL.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY ELISABETH HOFF. PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL RUESIDE (CONRAN), DAVID LOFTUS (COLBERT)