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Art mart

Posters aren't just for teenagers' bedrooms. A new exhibition in conjunction with Christie's celebrates the poster as art. Focusing on Swiss and American works, it includes classic Toblerone posters plus work by American pop artist Roy Lichtenstein, among others. Works will be for sale, with prices from £300-£20,000. *Posters as Art: Swiss Design in Perspective*, 20 May-20 June, 1-5 Exhibition Road, London SW7 (07762 419 563; swissposter.com).



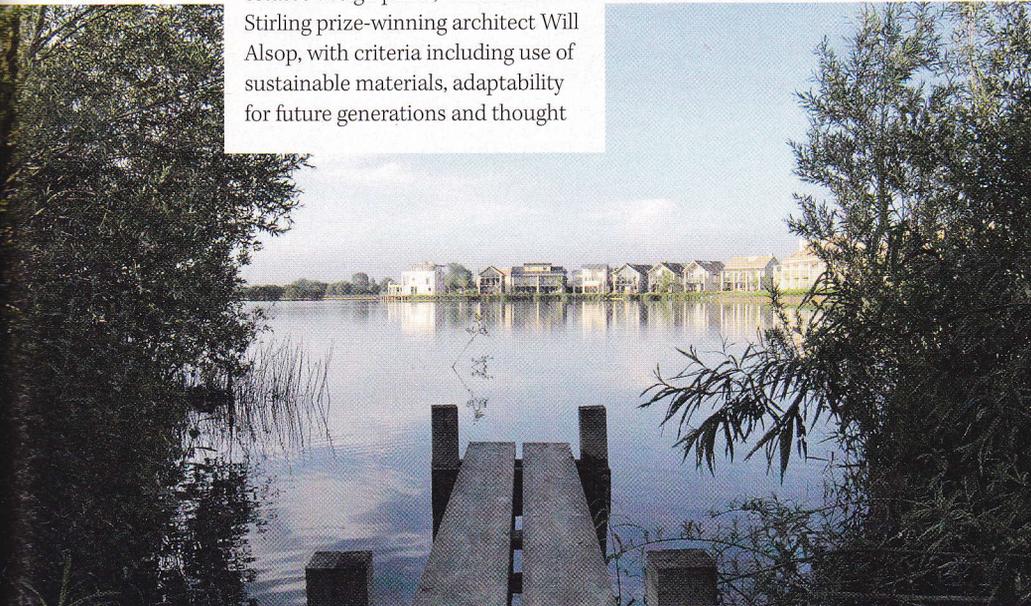
NEWS FLASH

Don't be a slave to dull shopping. Buy direct from designers at Cockpit Arts' open studios in London. 12-14 June in Holborn, then 19-21 June in Deptford, free entry (020 7419 1959; cockpitarts.com).

4 Sale of the century

One of Britain's largest private wildlife reserves is making plots available for people building holiday homes. Self-builders can bypass planning headaches at the 550-acre Cotswold estate, which has seven lakes and three rivers, by buying plots that come with considerable design freedom. Plans will be scrutinised by the estate's design panel, which includes Stirling prize-winning architect Will Alsop, with criteria including use of sustainable materials, adaptability for future generations and thought

for the natural environment. Alternatively, you can opt for a design and build package. All houses on the estate must be unoccupied for at least one month each year to give the wildlife breathing space. Plots range from £130,000 to £650,000. Design and build packages start at £295,000 including land (01285 869 489; lowermillestate.com).



3 Olive branch

Vitra's new chair is very much a spring affair. This nature-inspired stackable seat is formed from plant-like branches, as though the chair has sprouted from a seed. Launched at Grand Designs Live and designed by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, it comes in a range of earthy colours and can be used indoors or out. Vegetal chair, £278.30, by Vitra (020 7608 6200; vitra.com).

