

IN THE BALANCE

ALL THE RIGHT ANGLES

In the first of a new format, we bring you three variations on a theme every issue, at a range of budgets. First up, taking the new Hermès' Carré H as the sweet spot, we assess your options for style in a square case



...STRAPPED?

NOMOS GLASHÜTTE TETRA 39MM SILVERCUT, £3,140

Deceptively simple, Bauhaus modernity is Nomos's stock in trade. In square format, that should be harder – and perhaps it was for the designers, almost 30 years ago. But the fact the Tetra's crisp lines have been retained utterly faithfully just goes to show how spot-on they were. The brushed metallic dial from the new At Work range arguably works better in this watch than the round pieces.



SPOT ON

HERMÈS CARRÉ H £5,625

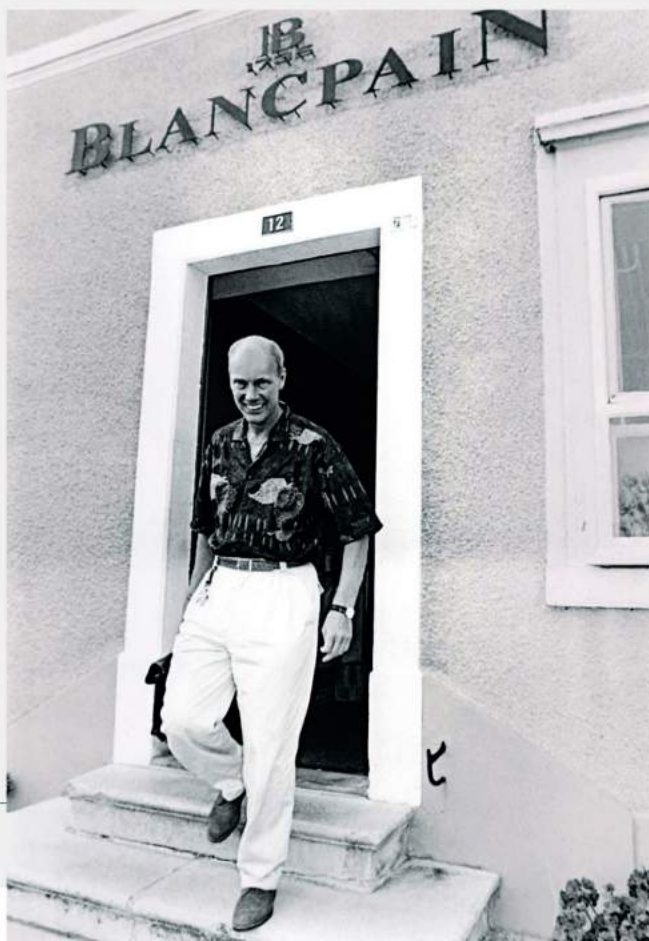
In 2010, Hermès introduced the Carré H, penned by French designer Marc Berthier. Eight years on, and he's brought it back with a dramatic new facelift. A few millimetres wider, the new Carré H adds colour pops, custom typography and geometric guilloché to real three-dimensional effect. It's driven by Hermès' proprietary Vaucher-engineered automatic.



...SPRING FOR!

H. MOSER & CIE SWISS ALP WATCH COSMIC GREEN, SFR.26,500

The controversial 'Swiss Icons' watch might have fallen flat, but Moser's gentle jibe at the Apple Watch continues to make its point beautifully. Indeed, it appears to have matured beyond mere novelty into the precisely the sort of watch Moser believes every proudly 'Swiss' brand should be making: something with integrity, heart and longevity. In Cosmic Green, it also achieves that other intangible: cool.



MOMENT IN TIME

STEPPING INTO HISTORY

He might be 30-or-so years younger, but the gleeful energy and laser-guided focus that came to define modern-day industry maven Jean-Claude Biver is in abundance here. Having learned his trade at Audemars Piguet and Omega during the moribund, quartz-addled Seventies, he and Jacques Piguet bought Blancpain in 1981 for just SFr.22,000. In questionable defiance of the era, under the much-mocked slogan, 'Since 1735 there has never been a quartz Blancpain watch. And there never will be,' they doublehandedly brought traditional Swiss watchmaking back onto the radar.