

March 2015
ISSUE 19
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in+
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in[sight]

A profile of the influential individuals, companies and partnerships driving the interior design industry forward

ex[rated]

Inex showcases striking exterior installations and products that blend cutting-edge design with practicality

in[spire]

Helping professionals to keep abreast of trends, this focus highlights styles in texture, pattern and tone

ex[pose]

Inex unveils the greatest iconic furniture pieces still prevalent in today's contemporary design world with modern twists



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As the days start to get lighter, the outdoors once again presents itself as a welcoming environment. Hospitality projects make the most of this time of year to create appealing outdoor spaces for clients, especially those looking for a calming and luxurious break.

British landscape architect, Scape Design Associates has recently completed a high-end hospitality exterior for a new hotel in Turkey. The challenge for Mandarin Oriental Bodrum's landscape was to weave the landscape around the buildings, creating the sense that they both might have been there for years, naturally growing together over time like an ancient settlement on the shores of the sea. Read more about this project on page 22.

On the subject of outdoor spaces, this month's Public Space focus on page 30 presents alternative options for public space design that create genuine societal hubs for urban locations. Jennette Emery-Wallis, Landscape Architect at LUC, explains: "Play opportunities should be integral to the fabric of our cities, be they play streets, roof gardens, pocket parks or public open spaces. Places to play and be active will become ever more vital in addressing the health needs of our children and young adults."

Other issue highlights include an exclusive interview with high-end interior designer and television personality Celia Sawyer on page 18 and guidance from staircase expert Bisca's Design Director Richard McLane on choosing the right staircase and balustrade for your project on page 40.

Emily Smith

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Top left: The Mandarin Oriental Bodrum is a new, luxury hotel resort. Landscape architects Scape Design Associates reveal their approach to forming this high-end landscape on page 22.

Cover: Staircase expert Bisca presents an insight into specifying the right balustrade on page 40.

Top right: This season monochrome fabric continues to be on-trend.



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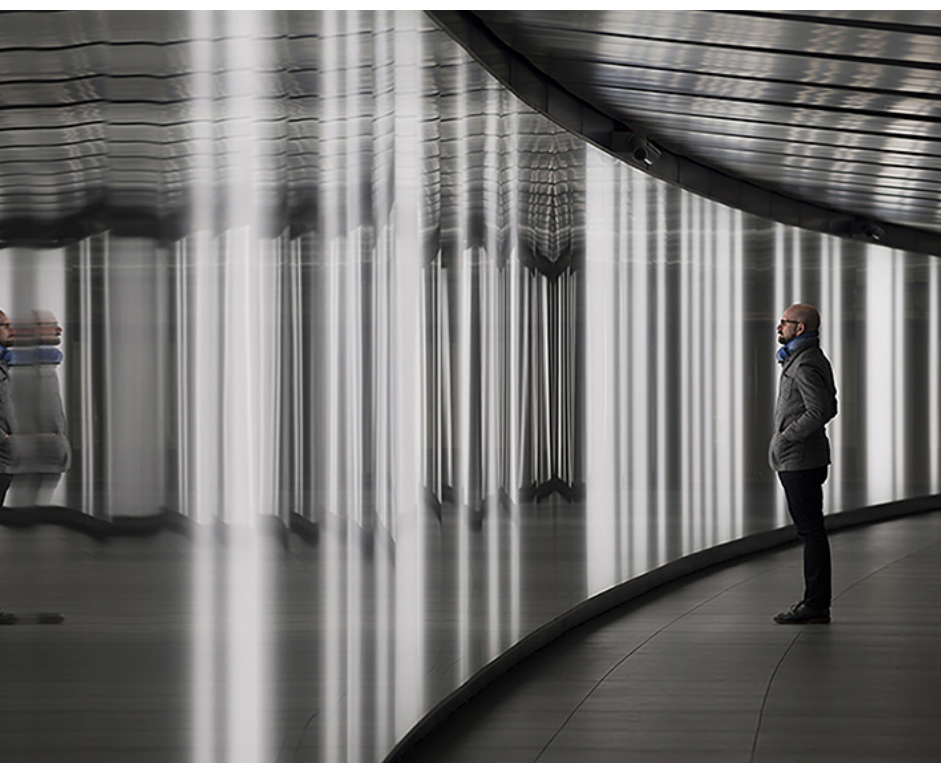
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Left: A new light installation opens for King's Cross commuters on 6th March

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London Design Week Design Centre Chelsea Harbour 8-13 March

Designers, architects and style-seekers descend on the capital for London Design Week 2015 – spring's ultimate design event. With its exceptional diversity of designer brands, it is the place to discover fresh ideas from the Who's Who of the international design scene. This show is a joyous celebration of the new season and much more. dcch.co.uk

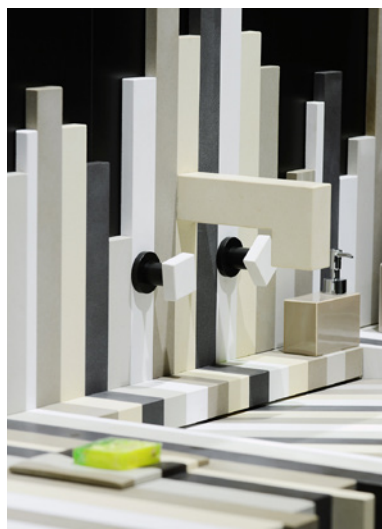


Retail Design Expo Olympia, London 10-11 March

This new event is for all those responsible for the success of a retail store – retail designers, marketers, visual merchandisers, property, formats and operations teams, architects, shop fitters and suppliers. The two days at Retail Design Expo is packed with market leading suppliers and thought-leading speakers from around the globe. retaildesignexpo.com

ISH Frankfurt 10-14 March

ISH is a world leading trade fair for the bathroom experience, building services, energy, air conditioning technology and renewable energies – a key event for all those working within water and energy technology. Over 2400 exhibitors will launch new products over the five days. ish.messefrankfurt.com



Designs of the Year Design Museum, London 25 March – 23 August

Now in its eighth year, Designs of the Year celebrates design that promotes or delivers change, enables access, extends design practice or captures the spirit of the year. There are 76 nominees over the six categories: architecture, digital, fashion, graphics, product and transport. designmuseum.org



Salone del Mobile Milan 14-19 April

The Salone del Mobile is a global benchmark for the Home Furnishing Sector, an invaluable tool for the industry as well as an ongoing, quite extraordinary promotional vehicle. The Salone made its first appearance in 1961, designed to promote Italian furniture and furnishing accessories on the export market. The event has continued on this quest, ensuring that the quality of Italian furniture is recognised globally. The event welcomes visitors from around the world. salonemilano.it/en-us



What is Luxury? V & A, London 25 April – 27 September

What is Luxury? will present examples of contemporary design and craftsmanship alongside conceptual projects which interrogate fundamental ideas of luxury, its production and future. From a diamond made from roadkill to a vending machine stocked with DNA, a golden crown for ecclesiastical use to traditional military tailoring, over 100 objects will address how luxury is made and understood in a physical, conceptual and cultural capacity. The exhibition will speculate about the future of luxury and aims to provoke both thinking and debate through fictional scenarios. vam.ac.uk



Above: The office refurbishment was completed by AHR

Right: There are meeting rooms as well as break out areas

Far right: Textured carpet adds interest to the flooring



Open plan train of thought

AHR has completed the refurbishment of Network Rail's new Glasgow headquarters. The £1.8 million project at 151-155 St Vincent Street involved the reconfiguration and fit-out of a 1980s office block in central Glasgow.

AHR's Glasgow team fitted out six floors of the eight-storey building, totalling 3960m² of high specification office accommodation. Large open plan offices, staff meeting rooms and break-out spaces deliver a high degree of workplace flexibility. A deli bar and meeting room suite on the sixth floor benefit from views across the city.

AHR took particular care to specify products with strong environmental credentials. Recycled timber is used

throughout the headquarters to striking effect and the carpet is made from 100% recycled solution dyed-nylon.

The refurbishment of the headquarters was a fast track project, completed in less than 12 months during 2014. The first phase was completed in November 2014, allowing phased occupation. It ran alongside Network Rail's refurbishment of their offices at George House and AHR collaborated with the in-house architect to agree a similar palette of materials across two unique designs.





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Above: Ceiling islands
create a subtle
lighting feature
Right: Zesty tones
stand out within the
colour scheme

Lynn Amabile, Architect at AHR who led the project, says: “The strong design concept created for the project, ‘Earth Strata’, has allowed for a unique yet harmonious design to each floor, aiding the orientation of users throughout the building, while creating a contemporary workplace with a number of feature breakout areas. These areas, along with the office as a whole, have been very well received by the staff at Network Rail, who settled into their new space effortlessly.”





The open plan office space allows for direct interaction with the office as a whole, while allowing unrestricted views across the city, and creating a more open and friendly working environment. By locating the majority of meeting spaces towards the core, the staff, as the main user of the building are able to interact more closely with the external environment.

Communal work spaces and break out zones have been created to allow for a range of different working environments, including touch down areas for those on the move. Be it for an informal chat or a briefing, a number of different spaces, as

well as the standard meeting room, have been created to suit a variety of different needs and uses. Creation of tea point and associated breakout facilities allows staff to move away from desks and refresh, in a relaxing environment.

Natural tones have been used throughout the design, where bright highlights interweave with neutral hues to bring both interest and diversity to the colour scheme. Natural greys and browns are broken up with fresh blues and zesty citrus greens and yellows. Shapes and textures found in nature are a rich source of inspiration to designers, with organic forms being a popular





choice for making an area feel 'natural'. Varying carpet textures add to this biophilic design scheme and directional pathways create colourful accents within what can be a bland aspect of office design. Big windows shower the office with natural sunlight and diverse lighting adds further interest to the design, from spotlights, long LED strips and ceiling islands.

Overall the open plan space, with communal work areas, worked to support the high level of agility required by the client in providing a number of different working environments within the open floor plate.

ahr-global.com «

Above: Pale blues create a calming environment

Above left: The on-trend office design has a number of meeting spaces

Left: There are a number of spaces where employees can take a rest from their desk



Oriental influence

Inspired by traditional Chinese designs, The Nine Schools' collection of handmade wooden furniture captures the true essence and history behind oriental styling and techniques.

For the last 20 years, The Nine Schools have specialised in creating interesting and unique oriental furniture, and pride themselves on paying the utmost respect to customary Chinese values, as well as careful attention to traditional details. From elegant cabinets and sideboards to console tables, bookshelves and vintage-

inspired trunks, each piece is hand-sprayed with paint and a lacquer finish, then hand decorated by one of the company's expert craftsmen in Northern China. Established oriental techniques are used to construct and paint the poplar wood and plywood furniture to ensure each piece is crafted in the true traditional manner.

The Nine Schools was established

Above: The Chinese cabinet has remained a popular interior element for many years

in 1995 and was the leading importer of Chinese Antique Furniture for over 10 years. In 2005 – when the furniture became harder to source, more expensive and increasingly rarer – the company diversified into manufacturing reproductions of the classic oriental furniture using traditional methods and finishes – whilst keeping workshops in China and using the same workers and skills. The Nine Schools aim to produce well-made products at competitive prices, while at the same time supporting the local community by employing local and skilled professionals.

Traditional oriental elements are portrayed in a simplicity of lines,

storytelling patterns and rich finishes and adornments that result in attractive and individual furnishings. For the discerning collector or style-conscious homeowner, the unique pieces connect with people and integrate with their lives, living rooms and spaces.

These designs take inspiration from the teachings of Feng Shui, one of the five arts of Chinese Metaphysics, looking at harmonising human existence with the surrounding environment. Historically, Feng Shui is used to orient buildings, something that The Nine Schools promote people to consider when positioning their pieces, especially if adorned with a certain image such as a goldfish. However, whether you follow The Nine Schools' philosophy or not there is no doubt that their Chinese inspired furniture makes a statement and tells a story.

The colourful Painted Butterfly collection features detailed Chinese designs and symbols that demonstrate a number of oriental philosophies including, happiness,



Above: Traditional symbols have been used here to symbolise oriental philosophies

Left: The Nine Schools manufacture Chinese furniture and Oriental accessories

wealth, fertility and strength. The soft creamy Oyster Grey and statement Black Gloss ranges combine Chinese teachings such as Feng Shui with current colour trends.

The company's name originates from a saying in a book that describes the nine tenets of Chinese thought. The Real Story, published 1921 by LE Xun, Ah Q, says: "And so in the end I've taken my title from a phrase that's popular among the storytellers, those lowly souls who have always been beyond the pale of the Three Doctrines and the Nine Schools."

Having previously supplied Selfridges, House of Fraser, Heals, Harrods, Fenwick and John Lewis, The Nine Schools have now decided to retail independently from their online store with four new white, yellow, maroon and blue colour lines launching this year.

thenineschools.co.uk «

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Enhancing flooring specification

One of the UK's market leaders in Luxury Vinyl Flooring, Karndean Designflooring, is unveiling its new Opus Enhance range.

Responding to calls from architects and designers for unprecedented slip resistance, Opus Enhance achieves a result of 40 plus in the Pendulum Wet Test – the highest currently available in the marketplace.

Ideal for use in a variety of commercial settings, the enhancement to the PU coating allows for added grip without compromising on aesthetics.

The collection features the most popular designs from Karndean's commercial Opus range. The six planks and two large format tiles ensure a wide spread of

different colour palettes.

From the striking black washed, wood grain effect of Carbo, to the weathered wood appearance of Magna, these on-trend designs will add a contemporary twist to any project.

The two inspirational tiles, Urbus with its stormy mix of light and mid grey tones and the warm earthy tone of Terra, make for a versatile backdrop to commercial interiors.

Fully HSE compliant, Opus Enhance offers the same intricate detail as the successful Opus range with all the planks achieving an R12 rating.

Bars, hair salons, hotels, retail environments and areas with direct access to the outdoors can all benefit from the increased underfoot safety.

"We are extremely proud of Opus Enhance," explains Paul Barratt,

Above: The new range has already been specified for the corporate box at this rugby ground

Managing Director of Karndean Designflooring.

He continues: "We wanted to offer architects, designers and contractors a market leader in slip resistance without compromising on the natural embosses and intriguing designs Karndean is known for.

"It has allowed us to reposition this collection as our most commercially versatile, and also offer the design community inspiring designs for future commercial projects."

www.karndean.com «
01386 820 100 «



International success and celebrity acclaim

Having been propelled into the celebrity spotlight through starring in popular television series *Four Rooms* and *Your Home in Their Hands*, Celia Sawyer has learnt to juggle the dynamic world of television with her own high-end interior design business. Here, Celia talks to Inex about her successful career.

Having left school at 15 with few qualifications, it is Celia Sawyer's drive and belief that has helped her seize every opportunity. She started her working life as a dental nurse, then as a model, going on to create her first business as a photographer's agent, representing photographers she had worked with in the modeling world and helping find them work on lucrative campaigns for advertising agencies, including Saatchi & Saatchi.

Celia's eye soon turned to interior design after entering the property game, buying, renovating then selling on for profit. It was from here that Celia's creative and savvy style for interiors came to life. After being asked to work on a plethora of houses she was then invited to work on a famous footballer's residence after a winning pitch. Since then, Celia has spent the last decade building up a successful luxury interior design company.

Founded in 2006, Knightsbridge interior design company Celia Sawyer Luxury Interiors boasts a portfolio across the globe. It is an influential, luxury interior design company based in Knightsbridge with clients ranging from private individuals and property developers, to high net worth business people and celebrities. The brand designs residential and commercial properties, hotels and private aviation worldwide.

Celia explains: "Becoming an interior designer was quite an organic process for me. I did up my own home and added an extra floor, not only increasing

its value but estate agents and acquaintances that saw my work kept asking me to design their homes. From this I took on the challenge and helped a friend, then the word spread and I realised I could make a living from interior design. I seemed to have a natural eye for it; the rest is history as they say!

"I would describe my signature style as contemporary, glamorous and uber-luxurious. I love the work of David Collins. His style and level of work is to be commended. He has created some fantastic hotels around the world; I have always been inspired by him."

As a dealer both on and off the big screen, Celia collects art and collectables and has an extensive client base for which she sources rare and beautiful objects, buying and selling for world renowned sporting personalities, celebrities and entrepreneurs, to some of the most influential development companies in the world.

Celia continues: "To create a luxury interior I believe an interior designer needs well made, bespoke furniture that combines a variety of textures and suits the property you are working on, as well as having an eye for fab accessories! In my view I believe the internet has been a great influence in the evolution of the design sector as we no longer have to travel to source unique items for clients. The thing I most value about the design industry is the way that it's constantly changing and evolving."

Although a tough question to answer, one of Celia's favourite projects from the last year has been the completion of a beautiful mansion



Top: Celia describes becoming an interior designer as an organic process
Left: Celia Sawyer
Luxury Interiors was founded in 2006
Above: Celia has learnt to balance directing an interior design company with her television success



off The Bishop's Avenue in London called Fairways. Known as 'Billionaire's Row' The Bishops Avenue is one of London's most illustrious addresses with some of the world's most high-profile individuals choosing to live here. Past and present property owners include Royalty, oil magnates, foreign ministers and celebrities. Fairways is a luxuriously finished, substantial residence just off the avenue, designed with style and elegance, beautifully hand-crafted bespoke finishes, furniture and furnishings internally to compliment a property of this level.

Celia explains: "Fairways is a 17,000ft² property across four floors, where I was asked to be involved from the very early stages, providing input on everything from flooring and materials. It is an eclectic mix of contemporary and traditional pieces, architecturally pleasing with exclusive furnishings fabrics and textures to compliment a house of exceptional quality, making it one of my favourite projects with the most satisfaction!"

"I suggested that the feel should be so that the interior and exterior integrate seamlessly – a modern twist on classical styles. Clever exterior lighting, a large amount of natural stone, rich wall textures and ambient lighting throughout to enhance mood and punctuate moments."

To give the feel of grandness, the house opens into a double atrium hallway with an impressive staircase and





chosen mapped marble slabs and beautiful gloss finished stone, and within each room, cleverly thought out ambient and practical lighting. All dressing rooms and storage are custom made joinery and masonry throughout, incorporating bespoke mirrors in the master dressing room for an exclusive yet glamorous look.

She continues: “A personal challenge was the double volume drawing room; it provides a perfect backdrop for entertaining with a windowed recess overlooking the rear garden, but due to its size and shape I decided to create a male and female end. I played to different fabrics for each and the end result was stunning – probably one of my favourite rooms!”

Away from the world of business Celia is a mother of two who enjoys family life and keeping fit – something incredibly important to Celia. Charity also plays a significant role in Celia’s life being an ambassador for the Prince’s Trust and the face of the British Heart Foundation furniture and electrical stores, where she is a committee member for the charity’s prestigious Tunnel of Love event.

“My favourite room in my own home is the living area. I always enjoy making the living room in any home very glamorous and in my own home I have collectables from all sorts of eras which makes each aspect of the room really interesting; there’s always something great to look at, including the sea view outside.

“The piece of advice I’ve benefitted most from was from a business man who said, “Get yourself on the map” – you need to have a presence in whatever business you’re in to be successful and I’ve never forgotten it.”

To celebrate Celia’s business acumen and charity work, Celia won the Inspiration Award for Women in 2013, which raises money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Four Rooms won a highly prestigious Royal Television Society award in 2014.

celiasawyer.com «



balustrade. Light coloured natural stone is used throughout much of the ground floor and staircase omitting the study, with a marble inlay in the entrance hall to add opulence. Contrast is added with strong architrave, skirting and doors, with skirting level lighting in the hallway inset into a deep walnut wood finish. Large double doors open into all principle rooms. The doors are oversized, 8ft 4 in height and 3ft 4 in width to add a stylish architectural contrast. In the principle rooms, there is a strong use of rich wall textures, using fabric wall coverings, to give an exceptional quality finish. Wall and ceiling lights are essential to accomplish mood throughout so I installed spectacular Estadio lights in the living room and elegant wall lights in the master bedroom suite.

All the bathrooms on the first and second floors are finished in hand

Above: Celia describes her signature style as contemporary, glamorous and uber-luxurious.

Above left: She has worked on a number of celebrity and high-end homes

Left: The design studio works on both commercial and residential projects



Interweaving individuality

Landscape architect, Scape Design Associates reveal its approach to creating a luxury hospitality landscape for the Mandarin Oriental Bodrum Hotel in Turkey.

As the Mandarin Oriental Bodrum opens for its first full season, Scape Design Associates – the practice responsible for the resort's landscape design – has revealed its vision for this high profile project. It was, they say, the creation of a seamless flow between indoors and out where little bits of discovery as well as the big views all make for stunning memory-making moments.

The Mandarin Oriental Bodrum is the hotel group's first resort in Europe and is located on a 60 hectare site on the northern side of a peninsula offering panoramic views of the Aegean Sea. Built over a series of levels nestled in the landscaped hillside, the resort comprises 109 luxurious guestrooms and suites, all with sun decks, terraces or balconies and many with a private garden and infinity edged pool. There are numerous restaurants and bars, an extensive spa and a wide range of leisure facilities, each located between the hotel at the summit and two beautifully crafted beaches on the shoreline.

Working with the topography of the site and the existing olive groves, pine forest and natural water courses, Scape Design Associates was responsible for creating and siting the main public landscape areas, from arrival court

Left: British landscape architects, Scape Design Associates was established in 2000



to stepped swimming pools and spa gardens as well as external terraces to the main restaurants. The firm also designed the landscape to each villa. The challenge was to weave the landscape around the buildings, creating the sense that they both might have been there for years, naturally growing together over time like an ancient settlement on the shores of the sea.

The journey along the entry road winds through a forest where carefully selected and located trees frame views of the Aegean Sea below. The main lobby building sits astride a hillside spur surrounded by terraces of olive trees. A frame of fig trees and bougainvillea herald arrival at the hotel. Stone paths lead guests through the stepped landscape to the many pockets of amenities and on down to the beaches while an abundance of natural

hillside planting and native grasses grow around and over local stone walls. Importantly, the landscape story cannot be seen in one view but rather is a series of interlocking spaces, some open, some intimate, that unfold along the journey. Although the overall site is quite compact, it feels large and offers much to discover thanks to its tiers and many secluded spaces.

Each built facility has its individually crafted location. The main pool deck, for example, benefits from tiered infinity edged

pools; private cabanas dot the landscape under old trees, each one perfectly placed to capture stunning views and the speciality restaurant and beach bar are sited in the best waterfront location creating a unique entertainment venue hidden from the main hotel. The tranquil spa garden is a very special destination with a dramatic water feature carved through it, spilling into pools and secluded areas such as the outdoor sauna. The garden also offers up a tranquil tea lounge surrounded by water,



Left: Places to relax
are spread across
different levels
Above: This is the first
European hotel for
the Mandarin Oriental
brand
Right: The hotel
offers many secluded
spaces

while groupings of sculptural cypress trees and jasmine creepers fill the air with scent around the entrance to the treatment rooms.

Planting was key in blending buildings and landform. The retention and additional planting of large pine and olive trees was combined with a ground layer palette offering seasonal colour and fragrance. More than 500 semi-mature trees were purchased from Turkey and Italy and thousands of plants, mainly from local nurseries, were introduced. As a result, the





gardens are full of Mediterranean colour and rich texture.

Phil Jaffa, Founder of Scape Design Associates, comments: "The beauty of the resort, created through the seamless link between landscape, building architecture and outdoor facilities, appears and feels to be entirely natural. In fact, every siting, material and plant has been carefully considered to ensure guests enjoy the greatest sense of luxury and well-being imaginable. This was an especially important project for everyone on the team, not least Mandarin Oriental, since it is the group's first European resort. So we were determined to set a new milestone and are delighted that it has been so well received."

Other members of the design team included: architecture and interior design studio Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel and Partners from Milan, lighting designers Metis Lighting, also from Milan, and local architects Metex Design from Istanbul.

Above: The hotel looks out onto the Aegean Sea
Right: The design includes plenty of places to sit back and enjoy the landscape



scapeda.co.uk «



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A growing phenomenon

Once the preserve of leading four star, five star, and boutique hotels around the globe, bespoke handcrafted seating is now a growing phenomenon across both small and large scale projects, not just in the hospitality sector but in the corporate sector too. Tim Armitt, Managing Director at Lyndon Design, explains why.

In our continuous quest for seating solutions that provide awesome design and decadence, we look for inspiration from all around us. Be it through colour, texture, shape or adding contemporary touches to a vintage design, the permutations are endless. Whether original in principle or conjured from existing designs, the bespoke approach brings fresh inspiration to seating solutions.

Customers are no longer looking for upholstery that combines just comfort, flexibility and practicality, they are looking for seating solutions that stand out from the crowd and exude a statement of luxury. Bespoke handcrafted seating promises just that – exclusivity,

Below: A display of curved banquette seating is a popular choice for many busy restaurants





individuality and craftsmanship all rolled into one.

In the world of seating, bespoke design constitutes a desired layout and appearance for the upholstery that is usually created by the client. This set of ideas is taken by the manufacturer and designer to develop a bespoke unit that can be produced along the lines of products that are already tried and tested.

Bespoke seating is generally loose furniture. It is not fixed to the wall, but is 'built to fit' within the wall layouts or joinery items that may exist already, or that may be created during a project. Individual style and detail may be created through the addition of vertical and horizontal fluting, button detailing, and specialist stitch and panelling facets.

Banquettes are one of the most popular forms of bespoke seating and are a popular choice throughout hotels and restaurants. They are the most prevalent requirement when accommodating large numbers of people and offer a flexible solution; from dining areas within a staff cafe or fine dining restaurant, to collaborative and breakout spaces. Skillfully designed to

fit almost any given environment and to meet specific ergonomic and spatial requirements, banquette seating offers endless design opportunities whilst cleverly maximizing the use of space.

Bespoke seating is also growing in demand for corporate reception areas and breakout spaces where designers are looking to create a softer environment within relaxed and flexible open-plan spaces. As soft seating becomes the norm in the corporate sector, modular furniture in particular continues its popularity as it offers unrivalled levels of flexibility and practicality.

Too often, bespoke seating is discounted by interior designers on the basis of cost. However, in the case of bespoke banquette seating, it can actually provide a greater return on investment, particularly in restaurants where cover space is sacred.

So when you're next looking to add a touch of decadence to your seating plans, for the ultimate in inspiration, consider creating a bespoke handcrafted design that sets you apart from the rest.

lyndon.co.uk «

Top: Lyndon Design's Orten collection offers various frame options
Above: Us may be specified in a wide variety of fabrics and comprises single, two and three seat sizes that are available with or without backs

© LUC



What's next for city centres?

As the high street continues to struggle, is it time to look to other urban features away from retail that provide a range of activities and create genuine societal hubs. Paul Collings, Managing Director at Timberplay, presents alternative options when approaching public space design.

Across the UK, councils are reviewing their urban plans to try and react to the change in community needs. One example is Sheffield City Council, who recently indefinitely shelved plans for a large modern retail centre and discussions are now underway about what should take its place.

Elizabeth Motley, Head of Architecture and Urbanism for Integreat Plus, who has been part of a parallel design summit with the Sheffield Society of Architects,

comments: "As people spend more time working from home there will be an increased need to provide places to meet socially and these will doubtless be in town centres. Therefore there is requirement to supply places and reasons for these people to come to the centre for activities aside from retail, for example, events and festivals."

The architecture of the city is critical in setting the tone for this, redefining the use of the space and slowing down the pace of city life.

An emerging community has been

Above: Providing places for children to play is key to addressing the growing problem of child obesity
Opposite: Wheeled sports such as skateboarding should be embraced rather than viewed as a public menace

created in the wake of the Olympics at Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park. This represents the challenge for planners and architects to develop an inspirational new community base, attracting residents and business. Retail is concentrated in the large Westfield shopping centre, but next to this, the Olympic Park itself has been transformed as a community base.

Jennette Emery-Wallis is Landscape Architect at LUC, who were successful in winning the competition to transform the former Olympic site, working with Erect Architecture. She explains: "We approach each site as a unique project which needs to be responded to individually, the character of the space is incredibly important. The history of the site is often a good starting point, as





Left: A new focus for public space design is emerging

Right: Play opportunities should be integral to the fabric of urban planning

Below right: Urban environments that lack gardens call out for communal outdoor spaces



consultation and work with stakeholders and informal design workshops.”

The result is a focus for new and emerging community life within North Park – a place to meet friends, hang out and play. The play space, together with the Timber Lodge cafe with its multi-use rentable space, act as a natural draw for existing and new residents to use as a base to explore the North Park and the wider community.

Now may be the time to embrace a similar approach to Urban Planning, with a stronger emphasis on non-retail than ever before. Could play be part of this? Jennette believes so: “Play opportunities should be integral to the fabric of our cities, be they play streets, roof gardens, pocket parks or public open spaces. Because we have seen obesity levels rise significantly in children in the past decade, places to play and be active will become ever more vital in addressing the health needs of our children and young adults.”

It is important to include teenagers and older children also, who often suffer from a much maligned public image, are rarely considered in urban design and often actively repelled, for example, skateboarders being thwarted by architectural choices selected to inhibit their use.

In the main, these steps would appear to be unwarranted. It is very easy to limit the damage the wheeled sports enthusiast inflicts on architectural features by making a better selection in the first



place. Iain Borden, Professor of Architecture and Urban Culture at the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, himself a committed skater for 35 years, has studied the use of architect-designed spaces beyond conception throughout his academic career.

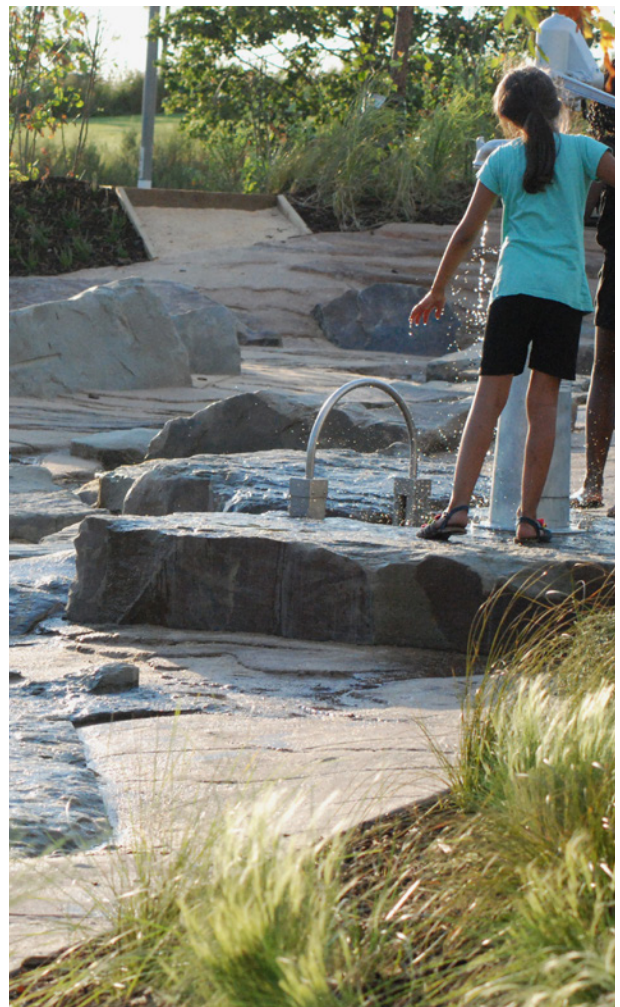
He says: “The perceived issues with skateboarders are often a fallacy, the architectural damage can easily and cheaply be avoided, and the notion that skateboarders will wildly career into old ladies, knocking them off their feet, is apocryphal. In 25 years of academic research I have never come across such an incident. Why is the perceived danger of skateboarders so much more than that of joggers, cyclists or children?”

So could skate be incorporated more into the fabric of urban planning and what affect would this have on the atmosphere of the City Centre? Iain continues: “When you think of a City, what makes it special is the combination of the

predictable and the unpredictable. You want the buses to run on time, transport to be good, etc, but you also want unpredictability. The best cities have an on-going element of surprise, what will be around the next corner? Skateboarding and wheeled sports are continually surprising and fun to watch; skate inherently adds vitality and dynamism to urban areas – just think of the South Bank.”

The next few years will be critical in establishing a new model for the City Centre, one that will reverse the pattern of high streets dominated by the same old chains to hopefully create unique community hubs more fitting for the rich heritage of the city and the needs for the residents. Urban planning holds several new challenges and the question will be how these are interpreted by pioneering architects seeking to bring about dynamic change.

timberplay.com «



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Pass with flying colours

Inject on-trend colour schemes into domestic design projects using statement fabrics and bold upholstery.

Above: Dark tones such as rich aubergines work well within the industrial look

Three key colour trends will take prevalence within this year's Spring/Summer home interiors: smoky industrial, statement colour splash and monochrome.

Industrial edge

The industrial trend started hitting the nation's bedrooms last year, but has rapidly grown in popularity and is set to continue well into 2015. Grace Moorhouse, Brand Marketing Manager for the bedroom expert Silentnight Group, explains: "This theme shows no

signs of slowing, with dark, smoky shades and warm metal accents selling well. Consumers are set to bring these indigo and charcoal hues and copper and brass tones into a bedroom subtly using furniture and bedding to showcase the main trend whilst having a neutrally decorated bedroom."

Shades that suit this theme include aubergine, malt, millstone, pear and taupe – work these into both walls and furnishings to create a warming, comfortable feel that is perfect for older houses, cottages and smaller bedrooms.



Refreshingly restful

Standing as a contrast the industrial trend, bright bold colours are also on the agenda for bedroom design in 2015. Grace explains: "These vibrant bedroom hues are there to make a statement and we expect this trend to be particularly popular in modern and new build houses that often use this 'splash of colour' approach throughout the whole house. Patterns dating back to the 1970s will be favoured, including the application of striking aztec type prints in bold colours but with a

modern twist."

Similar to the industrial trend, rooms will be neutrally decorated but modern, with white walls and a minimalist approach to furniture and belongings. This crisp, clinical look will then be injected with these vivid splashes of colour. Beds will be dressed in bright colours such as lemon yellow and

zesty orange, using accessories such as cushions, throws and artwork to continue with these bold and colourful statements. This trend is likely to be adopted predominantly by the younger generation and will be especially popular in apartments, as this modern, light style works well in smaller spaces.

Left: Dress beds in bright colours to create a fresh look for Spring

Right: Monochrome schemes will continue to be a key trend throughout 2015

Marketable monochrome

Another trend worthy of noting is the monochrome theme which reoccurs year on year. This can take a modern or traditional approach, which is the reason for its on-going popularity. Patterns remain popular as part of the trend, including houndstooth and monochrome tartan.

Inga Lukauskiene – Founder and Designer at home fabric expert LinenMe – explains why monochrome continues to be on-trend: “Monochrome has always been a perennial favourite for interior spaces. With its timeless appeal and iconic design status, the tonal palette offers both versatility and effortless style making it the ideal choice for both classic and contemporary spaces. The current trend for monochrome has steered away from the stark and somewhat clichéd contrast of brilliant white against jet-black, and the new focus is now on the softer, graduated hues in-between; from linen whites and dove greys, to steely charcoals and velvet blacks.”

Fabrics offer wonderful scope for adding texture and depth to a monochrome scheme, either through window dressings and soft furnishings to bed and table linen. With this in mind, there are two key ways to simply and creatively introduce texture to a monochrome design scheme, by either layering up solid colours in contrasting tones or alternatively using fabrics that exhibit a distinctive weave or pattern. If your interior space is dominated by neutral tones you can ‘lift up’ the look with cushions or curtains in dramatic shades, mixing solid colours with stripes or squares. Perfect for creating a modern interpretation of the monochrome look, couple the scheme with a pop of colour. Suggestions for Spring/Summer ‘15 would be coral with pistachio and french blue with citrine, for Autumn: slate with terra and graphite with orange.

Inga continues: “You can create the same effect in your bathroom by choosing different textures of towels and bath mats. That could easily be terry towels with jacquard weaving or washed linen waffle towels, where waffle weave would create a feeling of softness as well. Bed linen would be an obvious element to play with in the bedroom. Washed linen bed linen in solid colours would do the job. Colours for spring: rosa, ice blue and aloe green, for autumn: silver with blueberry. Wrinkles of washed linen bed linen would create the effect of naturalness and softness.”

silentnight.co.uk «
LinenMe.com «





Light at the end of the tunnel

Delivered in association with the King's Cross Central Partnership developer Argent, HALFLIFE is a site-specific work using the medium of light to synthesize a digital journey through light and colour. Creating an experiential and dynamic adjunct to the moving traffic that inhabits the space on a daily basis, this aims to create an evolutionary experience where no one moment is ever the same.

HALFLIFE is built upon a construct of digital, ordered cycles building from light to dark and beginning with bold, dramatic steps

gradually becoming calmer until they dissolve ghost like – leaving just a trace of the light that has been – before the sequence resets itself to reveal an altogether new cycle.

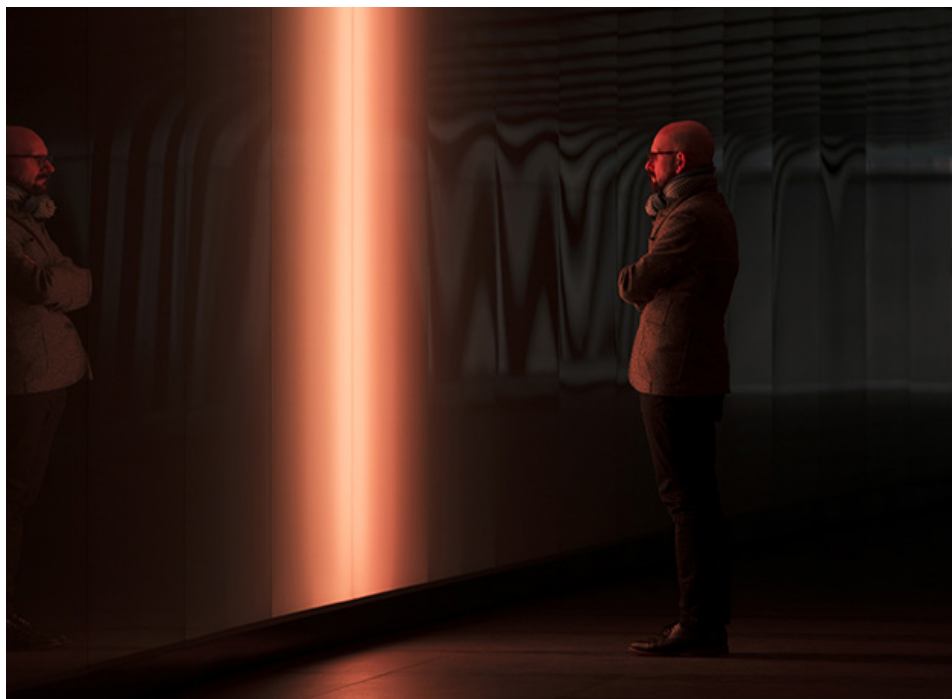
Clementine Fletcher-Smith, Associate Partner at Speirs + Major, explains: “The installation forms around British physicist Ernest Rutherford’s principal of decay, ‘Half-life ($t_{1/2}$)’: The amount of time required for a quantity to fall to half its value as measured at the beginning of the time period. The term ‘half-life’ can be used to describe any quantity which follows an exponential decay. The concept being that visitors may

From Friday 6th March commuters and pedestrians using the new King’s Cross foot tunnel will be greeted by HALFLIFE – an immersive, durational light installation created by award winning design practice Speirs + Major.

witness the changing cycles of growth and deterioration through light and colour.

“We wanted the rhythm of the piece to have mathematical rigour and to create a sense of calm through repetition. We were excited by the effect of using exponential decay on a linear canvas and the dramatic difference in the feeling of space in the early stages of the breakdown compared with its last few moments. It feels like the space slows as the halving steps become smaller. As the sequences rebuild, the light feels almost tangible as you become suddenly immersed in a newly illuminated space. We also wanted to use a really simple binary process for the decay so that the re-growth could be a chaotic contrast. It felt like a pleasing parallel to the constant movement of ‘commuters’ versus the individuality of people. The mathematical basis for the programming code also has resonance with the Unesco Year of Light in that it

Left: The installation opens on 6th March
Below: Commuters can experience many different patterns
Far below: Design practice Speirs + Major have created this experimental light experience



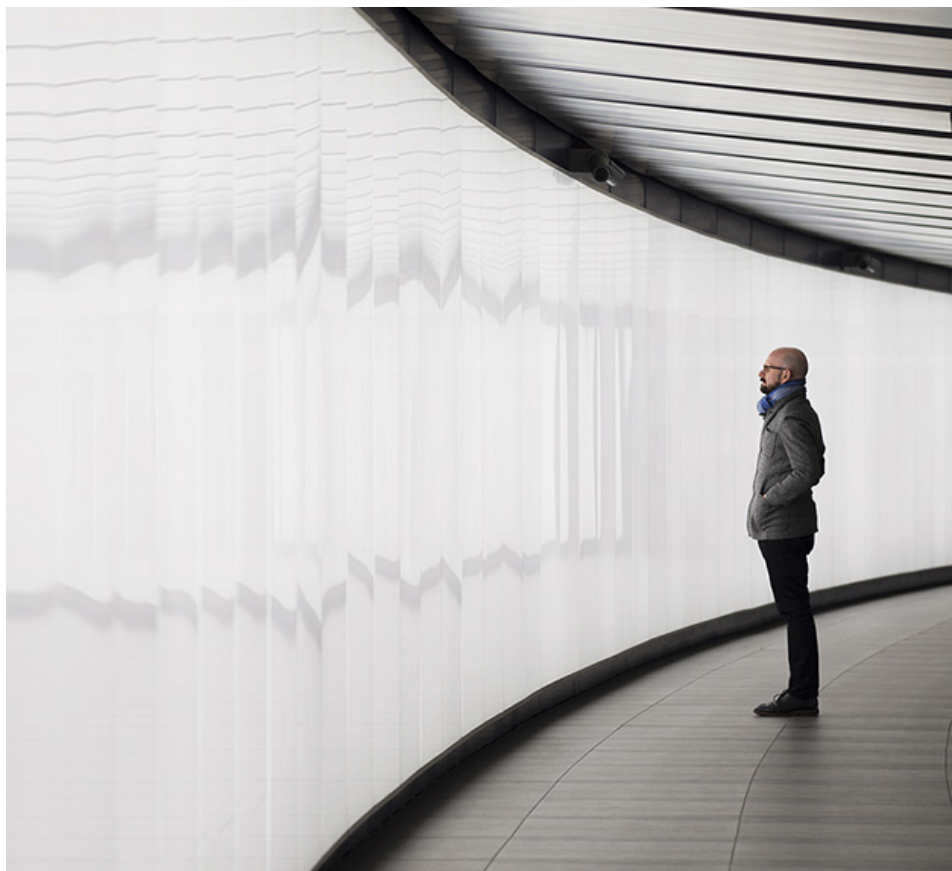
shows how design, science and technology can create something exciting and engaging.”

Within the tunnel’s 90m glazed wall are concealed 180 sources that work together to create a rich palette of animated colour. Through the intricate programming of each individual light source, sequences have been developed, from which the narrative of the piece grows organically. Each of the sources consists of five individual elements: red, green and blue light, complemented by warm and cool white. These then are carefully blended together to create a wide variety of hues, tones and saturations.

Whilst the juxtapositions of light and dark, order and chaos, past and present, peaceful and energetic are possible to observe in one viewing, the gradual evolution of hue and saturation are only recognisable across the piece’s entire duration, creating a new experience on each journey and even each footstep.

Keith Bradshaw, Principal at Speirs + Major, adds: “We have designed HALFLIFE so that no two moments in the tunnel will be experienced the same. Each visitor will have their own perception of time and distance, immersed in light, dark and colour.”

speirsandmajor.com «





Off the rails

The staircase is a fundamental aspect of any property with more than one floor, but the balustrade is an interior designer's opportunity to express design flair and decadence.

It is rare for a client to simply replace the handrail of a balustrade because they want the whole structure to create a focal feature. Where those commissioning a staircase will inevitably accompany it with a balustrade, 30% of staircase expert Bisca's commissions are purely for balustrades, furthermore supporting the idea that updating just the balustrade is a great way to completely change the look of a staircase.

Richard McLane, Design Director of bespoke staircase company Bisca, comments: "Replacing the balustrade is a really cost effective way of making a staircase a feature in a property. This applies to both old and new staircases. On old staircases, if the carcass is sound and the client is happy with the style and positioning, there is no good reason for ripping it out, but a replacement balustrade can make a dramatic transformation to the staircase, especially if in an entrance hall. For new properties we are often asked to replace a balustrade when the client wants something different to the existing joiner or builder-installed balustrade, which is often a traditional timber.

"Clients want high spec, a finish that can withstand the closest inspection and minimum awkward interfaces and fixings – these criteria will never go out of fashion. We are often asked for designs that incorporate elements of glass, satin polished and hand-forged stainless steel. Other popular elements are handrails made of stainless steel – whether satin polished, mirror polished or forge finished – as well as those clad with sumptuous hand stitched leather. Handrails made from natural timber are a traditional element always well received, especially when highly polished to bring out the grain."

Careful considerations

When looking to specify either a staircase, balustrade or both, it is always worth allocating a budget for this element rather than lumping it in with main project costs. Your budget will define what type of staircase you can include. Prices for a complete staircase and balustrade vary from as little as £400 for a DIY store MDF option to a fully bespoke design from a specialist staircase manufacturer starting around £20,000.

Richard continues: "Define your budget. Be realistic and prepared to discuss more than one option with your client. For example, individually blacksmith forged and formed spindles may give you the look you





desire, but cost more to produce than their production line counterparts.”

When replacing the staircase as a whole, consider the entire space you are working in, not just the hallway or immediate vicinity of the staircase. If you have an open-plan configuration, remember the staircase is on view from other areas of the property. Think about direction of traffic – what room(s) do you approach the staircase from most frequently? Would a curved staircase, eye-catching balustrade or directional bottom treads be an option?

Richard explains: “Take time to consider the style you want. Consider the stair space and its surroundings, not just the

immediate vicinity of the stairs. Look at examples of traditional and contemporary balustrades. The one you choose should integrate into the character of the building.”

Individual requirements

Open treads are a great way to let light into an area. Glass, timber, stone, marble or even Corian are all materials to be considered. It's worth noting that most bespoke staircase manufacturers will try to match existing timber in the property if this is important to your client.

When it comes to the balustrade, the core options are glass, timber, steel or plaster. Position, family requirements and budget are all important factors in making the

Above: When specifying a staircase, take into account the surrounding space
Above left: The balustrade is a great opportunity for design decadence
Opposite: Glass is a popular choice

right decision. It is important to consider any landing or galleries when obtaining quotations not just the staircase itself. Glass is not the best option for a young family – unless they relish the chore of regular cleaning to remove tiny hand prints! Timber spindles will give you a more traditional effect, whilst forged or machined steel balustrades can be as simple or as ornate as you desire.

It's always worth consulting a staircase specialist just as you would a bathroom or kitchen specialist. There are very important safety aspects to be taken into account and all Staircases and Balustrades must conform to Building Regulations and British Standards.

bisca.co.uk «



Product Spotlight

This month's selection of innovative new products not to be missed

1. Armourcoat, the decorative surface specialists, have introduced a new metal rust finish. The Rusteel finish offers an authentic rusted iron or patina effect, creating an aged, weather-beaten, metal surface. This time-worn finish similar to weathering steel is created from a water-based paint with metal particles which naturally tarnish when activated. A sealer coat is used once the desired effect is achieved and provides a further protective layer. Armourcoat's specialist designers and artisan plasterers can create integrated custom wall panel systems or design statement single artwork pieces. The prefinished panels offer a rapid installation with ease of handling and are ideal for projects under tight deadlines for completion. www.armourfx.com 01732 460668



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2. The Interiors Group have fitted out a new office space for Turner and Townsend on the 11th floor of the Boulevard Plaza in Dubai. The project was a shell, core and category B fit-out. The global independent programme management and construction consultancy briefed The Interiors Group to create a fresh, welcoming space to accommodate both new and existing clients. The Interiors Group delivered a bright and spacious design which has been achieved with a simple colour palette. This includes a reception, meeting rooms, a conference room and an open plan office area with informal breakout spaces.

www.interiorsgroup.co.uk 020 7495 1885

3. The Boss Design Group continues its ambitious overseas expansion strategy with the acquisition of respected 50 year old American upholstery manufacturer, Jack Cartwright Inc. This latest development follows the recent opening of the Boss Design showroom located in Dubai to service the expanding Middle Eastern markets. Jack Cartwright Inc. provides bespoke upholstery solutions for commercial interiors across the USA from its impressive 80,000ft² manufacturing facilities located on an 80 acre site in North Carolina. The acquisition will now enable British brand Boss Design Group to manufacture and distribute its own world-renowned brands and inspiring collections to the US market.

www.boss-design.com 01242 584897



4



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4. Polyflor safety flooring was used to help create beautiful, homely interiors for the award-winning Winchcombe Place care home in Newbury, Berkshire. Offering residential, dementia and nursing care, this state-of-the-art 80 bedroom care home was designed by The Drawing Room Interiors of Solihull, with specialist furniture and vintage displays supplied and fitted by YTM Furniture of Pontefract. Polysafe Wood fx PUR decorative safety vinyl flooring was installed in the reception area, dining room and hair salon of Winchcombe Place care home. The project team chose Polysafe Wood fx as a safe but attractive flooring option that would cater for the wide range of resident needs. www.polyflor.com 0161 767 1111

5. Osmo UK, the eco-friendly wood and finishes expert, is celebrating 25 years in business, providing architects, interior designers, flooring contractors and DIY enthusiasts with a range of innovative and sustainable products. Steve Grimwood, Managing Director of Osmo UK, comments: "We are delighted to reach this milestone. The company started very small and has since grown into a successful business. It is thanks to the dedication of the team and the reputation that we have built for providing high quality wood finishes and wooden flooring. We are proud of our history and look forward to another successful 25 years." www.osmouk.com 01296 481220



6. Polyflor is pleased to announce the launch of Expona Flow – an exciting collection of 50 heavy commercial sheet vinyl flooring designs launched under the renowned Expona brand. A unique addition to the family, Expona Flow is available in a 2m wide sheet format with a 2mm gauge and a 0.7mm wear layer. Authentically replicating natural wood planks from a diverse range of tree species and wood treatments, combined with innovative abstract and fantastical materials, the variety of colour and pattern combinations available is vast. Expona Flow is suitable for use in a range of heavy commercial environments including healthcare, education and retail. www.polyflor.com 0161 767 1111



7. For ISH 2015, Duravit is staying true to its concept “More individuality. More comfort. More you.” by presenting bathrooms that are as unique as their users. The focus on individuality and comfort makes it possible to address the need for originality and self-realisation, as well as sensuality and practicality. That was the idea behind this year’s new products. It has resulted in innovative products that offer added value, while at the same time satisfying the very highest standards in technology, quality and design. The company has also introduced two new materials that combine performance with aesthetics.

www.duravit.co.uk 0845 500 7787



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8. Whether it's for a complete kitchen update or a quick fix makeover, a new sink can transform the entire look of a kitchen. As one of the largest manufacturers of Silgranit, ceramic and stainless steel sinks, BLANCO Germany understands how functionality, practicality and aesthetic design are equally important. New for 2015 is the BLANCO SONA range of Silgranit sinks which are available in four sizes to suit every kitchen. The 45S, 5S, 6S and XL6S offer everything from compact solutions to super-sized designs for larger households. The BLANCO SONA portfolio is perfect for today's market with four attractive shades including new mid-grey tone pearl grey, which is pictured here.

www.blanco.co.uk 01923 635 200

9. Series A sinks are now available individually in a range of standard sizes and combinations. They are suitable for all installation types, including inset, undermount and flushmount fixing. Their distinctive 15mm corner radius and 20mm flat flange provide a neat and contemporary appearance whilst ensuring easy upkeep and maintenance. This makes Series A ideal for all situations where high quality and practical sinks are required. There are eight single sizes, ranging from 180mm to 700mm as well as nine double and combination sizes. As well as being available individually, Series A bowls can, of course, also be included within GEC Anderson stainless steel worktops.

www.gecanderson.co.uk 01442 826999



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11

10. The Sandberg Studio has looked to one of the world's most vibrant and architecturally-exciting cities as the inspiration for its latest collection, New York Stories. Comprising 11 diverse designs, the collection is new for 2015. Sandberg Designers Sissa Sundling and Karolina Kroon travelled to New York to wander the bustling streets, soak up the atmosphere and study the buildings surrounding them: New York Stories represents their interpretation of the 'City of Dreams'. A narrative unfolds through the wallpapers: each design has a strong presence in its own right, but sits comfortably side-by-side with the other patterns to create a unified, cohesive whole.
www.sandbergwallpaper.com +46 321 53 16 60

11. The Anthology brand is an exciting new addition to the Harlequin Group portfolio. Described as 'creative thinking for walls' the brand offers ground-breaking finishes, innovative textures and complex backgrounds. Designed to have an international appeal, Books 01 and 02 are already proving enormously successful at bringing style and definition to contemporary contract and domestic interiors. With the bar already set high, the Anthology studio has conceived Book 03 – a stunning collection of new glamorous papers. Encompassing elements of utilitarianism, distressed wood, deconstructed metals, rust and oxidised patinas, the collection has a raw urban feel married with subtly opulent undertones.
www.harlequin.uk.com 0845 126 5576



12. Visitors at this year's ISH Event will see the latest additions to Hansgrohe's innovative Select range which offers user-friendly push-button controls. Hansgrohe has set a new benchmark with its innovative Croma Select range. Now for the first time, the Croma collection features Select technology – making it easy to switch between spray modes at the intuitive touch of a button. Easy handling and its attractive design ensure a more comfortable and pleasurable experience in any bathroom. The Croma Select family consists of hand showers, overhead showers and showerpipes.

www.hansgrohe.co.uk 01372 465655



Left: The new cafe has an on-trend industrial look

Below: This is a new venture for the Olympic athlete



Concord and Dame Kelly Holmes join forces

Concord Lighting, one of Europe's most respected architectural lighting brands for retail, display, museum and commercial environments, has teamed up with Double Olympic Champion Dame Kelly Holmes to light a modern, fresh and fashionable refurbished cafe and retail space in Kelly's hometown of Hildenborough, Kent.

Dame Kelly Holmes has undertaken the enormous task of completely renovating an unloved shop and converting it into an inviting and comfortable shared space where the local community can come together to relax and chat with a coffee. The new venture is called Café 1809, a number close to Kelly's heart as it was her number at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games where she won two gold medals in the 800m and 1500m respectively. Kelly has chosen to partner with Concord to create a unique lighting scheme that highlights the stripped back and industrial design elements whilst also bringing warmth, flexibility and relaxation to the environment.

"Concord Lighting is a stunning addition to my new venture Café 1809," comments Dame Kelly Holmes. "It has been a pleasure working with the team to ensure we have a stunning lighting system fit for the time of day and night, especially with the mood lighting that transforms the Café from a buzzing daytime hub into a relaxing evening event space."

Adam Jolliffe, Sales Director at Concord Lighting comments: "Kelly has a clear vision for her cafe and a real passion for what she has achieved. We have

worked closely with her on the lighting scheme and the design of the products themselves. It is a fantastic opportunity to be involved in this project and we are delighted that Kelly selected Concord."

With a strong manufacturing base in the UK, Concord is renowned for its strong design ethos, high technical performance and aesthetic form. Concord focuses on bringing lighting solutions to meet the needs of architects and lighting designers.

Concord's innovative portfolio is one of the most comprehensive on the market, encompassing track and spot, downlights, ambient lighting, recessed and linear solutions for a variety of application segments. The company provides segment specific lighting application advice

and the entire product range is underpinned by in-house technical expertise, from optical system design through to photometric measurement and testing.

The Concord brand is part of the Havells Sylvania Group and is one of Europe's most respected Architectural lighting brands for retail and museum lighting. With a strong manufacturing base in the UK, Concord is renowned for its strong design ethos, high technical performance and aesthetic form. Concord focuses on bringing lighting solutions to meet the needs of architects and lighting designers.

Havells Sylvania is a leading, full-spectrum provider of professional and architectural lighting solutions. Built on over a century of expertise in lamps and luminaires, Havells Sylvania supplies state-of-the-art products and systems to the public, commercial and private sectors, worldwide. Havells Sylvania strives to deliver the finest products, service and consulting possible. All over the world, people rely on group companies, Concord, Lumiance and Sylvania, for top quality, energy-efficient solutions to suit their individual lighting needs.

www.concord-lighting.com «
0870 606 2030 «

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It's said people buy with their eyes. But we know you also buy with your head and heart. Our floorcoverings all come with a story. And provide the perfect stage on which to write yours.

Floorcovering shown: Wool Fabulous Diamond, one of many beautiful, tactile designs within our extensive Wool range. crucial-trading.com

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