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June 2015
ISSUE 22
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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

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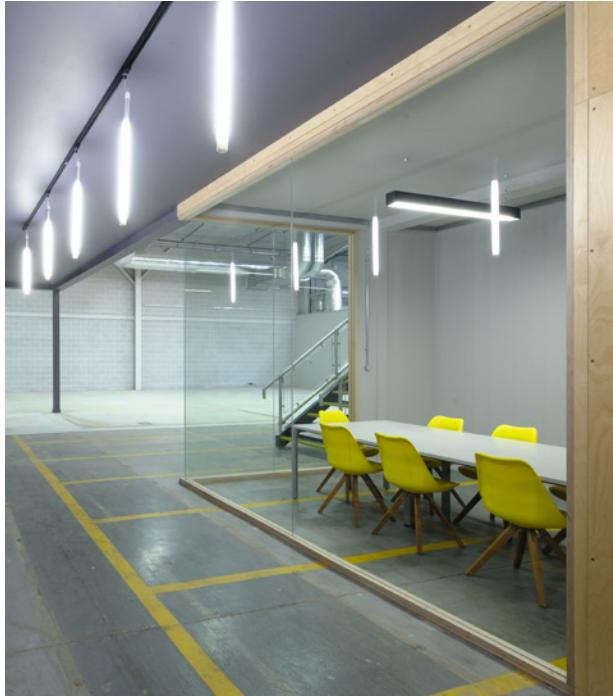
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As London's design community recovers from a busy month following Clerkenwell Design Week, May Design Series and RHS Chelsea Flower Show, visitors were able to absorb and establish the industry's trend developments.

Bathroom and kitchen specialist, Dornbracht is one company that has benefitted from intense trend research and development. In this month's Insight, the company's UK Sales and Marketing Director, Mark Booth discusses how a focus on health and wellbeing has resulted in a new ethos for bathroom products. Read how the company's designs have developed to respond to this on page 18.

An emphasis on encouraging wellbeing has been demonstrated across the design industry, demonstrated by two of the award-winning garden designs at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show supporting breast cancer charities. Sarah Eberle's Breast Cancer Haven Garden was a welcoming and reassuring space that symbolised the supportive nature of the charity that she was supporting. Ruth Willmott's Breakthrough Breast Cancer Garden drew inspiration from the genetic research and breakthroughs into breast cancer, with the design's water pools rippling every 10 minutes to represent the number of UK women diagnosed with breast cancer. Skip to this month's Extrated to read about these Chelsea garden designs.

Research has proven the health benefits of plants themselves, especially in the commercial environment. This month's Planting spotlight presents the advantages of incorporating biophilic design schemes and interior planting into interior design thanks to interior planting expert Indoor Garden Design.

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Top left: A new London store benefits with feature lighting, one of which is integrated into a focal wall – read about the project 38

Cover: NoChintz have delivered a unique concept for JD Sport Fashion's new office

Top right: Curiousa & Curiousa presented bespoke glass lighting designs at last month's CDW





SMART TECHNOLOGY MEETS SMOOTH FUNCTIONALITY

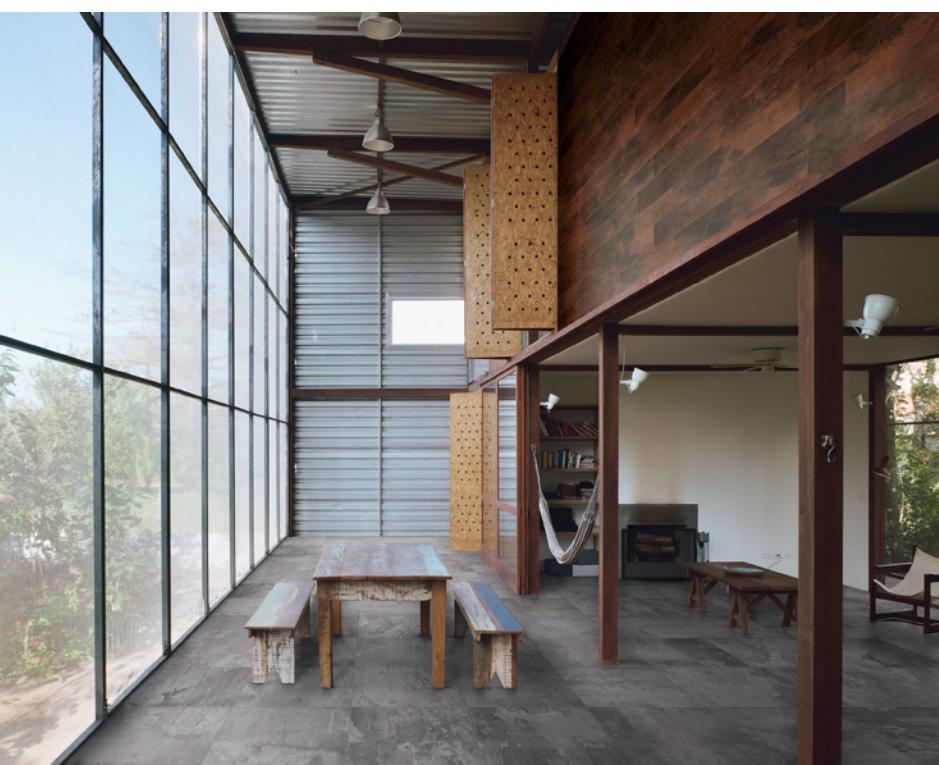
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Top left: Dornbracht recently launched its new CL.1 series bathroom fittings – read more about Dornbracht on page 18

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Left: Ceramiche Refin has a number of collections that emulate materials – read about how they achieve this in this month's Flooring spotlight

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DMY Berlin

Kraftwerk Mitte, Berlin

11-14 June

In its 13th edition the DMY International Design Festival Berlin will again connect companies, young and talented designers and the broad public. The festival gives insight into the practice of contemporary design production, presents new design objects and acts as a space for communication and critical reflection.

dmy2015.com

ARCHade LDN

1-30 June

ARCHade LDN is a live online exhibition which looks at how architecture has turned to social media as a place of inspiration, information and publication. Each day, the Twitter feed will be hosted by a new designer providing an opportunity to see what is stimulating the creative workforces behind the capital's future design.

@ARCHadeLDN



The Hospitality & Tourism Summit

Novotel London West

30 June

This is for those working within Hospitality and Tourism to address how the industry can provide a better service to customers, as well as reaching out to new clients. Presentations will identify the converging interests of the industry and how to influence change within an internationally competitive market.

bha.org.uk



Barbara Hepworth

Tate Britain

24 June - 25 October

This is the first retrospective for five decades of the work of great British artist Barbara Hepworth. The exhibition will emphasise Hepworth's often overlooked prominence in the international art world. It will highlight the different contexts and spaces in which Hepworth presented her work, from the studio to the landscape.

tate.org.uk



London Festival of Architecture

Various locations

1-30 June

The London Festival of Architecture is made up of public projects selected through an open call, alongside projects delivered by LFA partners, RIBA London Open Studios and events and activities in conjunction with leading cultural and academic institutions. It is an opportunity to present, discuss and challenge current issues within and connected to architecture. Each year the festival selects a central theme, this year LFA have chosen the very timely 'Work in Progress', which has generated a fantastic response from collaborators. londonfestivalofarchitecture.org



New Designers

Business Design Centre, London

24-27 June / 1-4 July

Every year over 3000 of the most promising graduate talents from Britain's leading design courses exhibit. The show features everything from textiles and jewellery to product design and illustration. Still young and talented, New Designers this year celebrates 30 years. Testament to the passion, commitment and resilience of art and design education in the UK, New Designers continues to deliver new generations of brilliant individuals year on year ready for businesses and the design savvy public to snap up and set on their creative paths.

newdesigners.com



Catering for the masses

Millfield, a prestigious Somerset independent school, has recently undergone a £1m refurbishment to transform the school's catering facilities thanks to restaurant and commercial kitchen design company Catering Design Group.

Contract caterers Chartwells were brought in to deliver an efficient and flexible catering facility for Millfield school. They commissioned Catering Design Group to design, install and completely refurbish the catering facilities for the senior school students, and to create a space appropriate for staff and parent social engagements and meetings. 1450 meals need to be catered for over a single lunchtime, so the space needed to be fully equipped to cope with the large volume of users.

Rohan Slabbert, General Manager at Chartwells, comments: "The brief for Millfield was sent to three separate designers and Catering Design Group secured the contract because they correctly interpreted our brief and gave us confidence that they would deliver on the design elements of the project, as well as its execution and the project management."

The space was 15 years old and needed completely modernising, especially the organisation of customer flow. A key design aim was to showcase the rich academic, cultural and sporting heritage that the school celebrates; it needed to promote a sense of pride and inspiration.

The team needed to create efficient queuing systems and customer flows within the server





Left: The end wall has become a focal feature with its bold pattern

Above: The redesign reflects the school's sporting heritage

Top right: 1450 customers need to be catered for over the average school lunch break

Right: An efficient queuing system and customer flow has been achieved



and dining area. The space has been cleverly redesigned, opening up to create open passes, where the kitchen can now see into the servery, which in turn, has hugely improved communication between the kitchen and front of house. Modern advancements such as a theatre station, a 'grab and go' area, bakery counter and counters to serve hot foods, salads and deli options have improved service speed. A bespoke dishwasher, that has the ability to process 19 trays a minute, has been installed to cater for the large volume of customers.

Celebrating heritage

The school's colours and achievements are echoed in the design. Large drum lights house the school's 'roll of honour', highlighting and celebrating former student achievements. Bold wallpaper that presents Olympic host cities echoes the school's sporting heritage as well as creating a focal point for the space.

Materials, such as ceramics and timber, have been blended to bring warmth to the space. A large glass screen adorned with the school crest separates the servery

and seating areas. Different floor finishes create zones and a pathway through the space. Grey granite and contrasting cream stone counter tops bring further diversity to the scheme, as does the textured counter fronts – created from recycled bottles and end grain oak.

Rohan adds: "CDG delivered exceptional customer service throughout this project and more importantly, everything they promised they delivered. The design has given us huge amounts of flexibility. Each counter can double up or triple up as something else »



and we are not limited with what we can do with the counters or the space. Innovation is at the very heart of CDG's design and the space now has the means to evolve, whilst being sustainably run. Because it is such an open space, food innovations and new concepts can be rolled out much easier and our food now takes centre stage, allowing us to really showcase our offering. It just feels very real and authentic – our kitchen teams are where they should be, which has allowed us to focus on our key values that are centered around interacting, engaging and catering for pupils.

"The pupils love the idea that we're more interactive with them and they enjoy using the space because it feels very new and fresh. We naturally took some influences from the High Street and it's especially rewarding that they've picked up on this.

"An important part of the brief was to encourage more female pupils to use the facility at supper time. Previously, they didn't really like the space as it lacked any kind of warmth and atmosphere. Since the refurbishment we have been delighted to see a 20% increase in female pupils coming in for supper. I wouldn't hesitate in recommending CDG."

cateringdesign.co.uk «

Above: CDG worked alongside contract caterers Chartwells to deliver a new catering facility

Above right: Past sporting achievements have been highlighted on bespoke drum lights
Right: A separate seating area has been created for the younger students
Far right: The design team opted for white and green seating to coordinate with the school colours







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Fly the flag for British craftsmanship

Tim Armitt, Managing Director at commercial seating expert Lyndon Design, explores why Britain's creativity and manufacturing skills are as valued as ever.

Why is it that the French prefer to buy French? Why do the Italians prefer to buy Italian, and why do the Spanish stick to all things Spanish? Why is it that very often, the British don't seem to care where their products come from?

This begs the question, what is it about the British psyche that makes us so apathetic to British values and ideals? It can't be because British manufacturing isn't good enough. Our engineers are world-renowned – some of the best quality audio equipment is British and, indeed, the best engines are British. It can't be because British design isn't good enough – our designers and design schools and institutions are in much demand. Equally, it can't be because our quality is sub-standard; we consistently set the benchmarks for quality and the craftsmanship of luxury goods made by the British continues to be revered around the world.

Perhaps it's the fact that many interior designers would be willing to buy British given the opportunity, but they simply feel that they can't afford to, or they are hoodwinked by the myth that British products are sub-



standard and unreliable?

In a globally connected era where products crisscross national boundaries at bewildering speed, quality and craftsmanship often become casualties of a bland, insipid and homogenised phenomenon. Perhaps in our throwaway society, where there is a constant fixation for acquiring the latest fashion must-haves, timeless designs and exacting standards of craftsmanship have become somewhat irrelevant.

Fortunately, the times are changing and despite the fact that foreign imports continue to

flourish in the UK commercial furniture market, there is increasing evidence that the customers are now willing to invest in a more classic and bespoke look. Customers are becoming increasingly savvy about furniture design and aesthetics, and they want the best. As they become more discerning and exacting, quality and craftsmanship are key concerns.

Today, there are a growing number of British companies in the furniture market who strive to meet this demand by manufacturing high-quality



products. These designs stand the sternest test of time and have been handcrafted in the UK to boast British quality and design.

This is a win-win situation. Manufacturers, specifiers, architects, interior designers and, ultimately, consumers will all stand to gain. By choosing British manufacturers that combine all the benefits of modern design and technology with timeless classical quality and design, such luxury pieces of furniture will not fall victim to the fads of short-lived fashion, but will grace commercial interiors for years to come.

The phenomenal growth experienced by the Lyndon Design brand is evidence of the resurgence in British craftsmanship. Our customers realise that being 'Made in Britain' is a sign of quality, and a sign of history and heritage that no other country can match. Every Lyndon Design product is precisely designed, developed and handcrafted in-house by a highly skilled workforce. All products are revered for their 'Lyndon' feel – whether that is in the detailing, the proportions or the way the wood is engineered – and all products are delivered from Cheltenham, not China.

Just as demand runs high for seating and furniture collections that combine classic, elegant designs with contemporary touches and high-end quality with timber craftsmanship, demand is also soaring for bespoke furniture that delivers comfort, flexibility

and practicality, combined with a statement of luxury. Bespoke British handcrafted seating delivers a tailored product that is unique and impeccably designed to suit specific requirements: exclusivity, individuality and craftsmanship all rolled into one.

Of course, judicious buying decisions are based on significantly more than simply the country of origin. But thankfully, the world is turning back towards local and individual, bespoke and artisanal, unusual and characterful. The UK is far from a manufacturing powerhouse, but it remains and thrives as a hub of innovation, invention and craft. In specialist product fields – furniture being one of them – being British still speaks of long-standing quality and robustness. Buying British means that we proudly fly the flag for our home-produced products and invest in our own futures.

lyndon.co.uk «

Above: Lyndon Design furniture was recently specified for the University of Reading library
Below: The Triad occasional table collection by Lyndon Design boasts British craftsmanship



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CLERKENWELL DESIGN WEEK

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CDW PRESENTS

RBM presents: Agora on the Green with Article 25

Designed by
Russ + Henshaw

The ambition of this striking, angular pavilion is to reanimate Clerkenwell Green, a public square at the epicenter of Clerkenwell that all three project partners feel is



Hub of creativity

Last month Clerkenwell Design Week 2015, now in its sixth year, showcased an array of innovative products, newly commissioned projects, street spectacles and pop-up workshops.

For three days in May Clerkenwell was packed with design-savvy visitors, all keen to see the fantastic range of products and projects Clerkenwell Design Week had to offer. Four main exhibitions – Design Factory, Platform, Detail and Additions – presented everything from contemporary furniture and lighting to cutting-edge materials and luxury accessories.

Design Factory at the Farmiloe Building was the largest hub of the event, extending across four floors. Many established contemporary brands from the UK and abroad presented product innovation. The Lighting Factory returned to Design Factory with an entire floor of the building dedicated to all things lighting.

Platform at the atmospheric House of Detention – one of the original elements of the festival – continued to be the place to spot design superstars of the future. A dedicated space at the Crypt on the Green at St. James Church offered accessories and small, design-led pieces under the title of Additions. Detail was presented at the majestic Priory Church at the Order of St John, specialising in high-end decorative interior products.

The global businesses that have made Clerkenwell their home have shaped the area into the UK's most important generator of creativity and innovation. The area is home to a plethora of new media agencies, graphic and interactive design studios and more than

200 architectural practices – more per square mile than anywhere else on the planet.

Over 80 of the local showrooms joined the event, becoming key destinations for visitors. The array of leading UK and international companies presented designs, from contemporary contract furniture to material innovation and high-end kitchen and bathrooms.

Another highlight at the annual festival was its star-studded talks programme, Conversations at Clerkenwell. The thought-provoking seminars raised issues that matter to architects and designers today, as well as in the future. Each day delivered inspirational discussions, offering an arena to introduce and discuss new innovations whilst networking with A&D professionals.

Outstanding showcase

The CDW Presents and Fringe series continued to remain a grand success for the three-day event. Exclusive to the festival, these special features were stationed around Clerkenwell, created by a range of established and emerging names from the design community.

CDW Presents, renowned for its specially commissioned public installations, were presented by influential names in the industry, such as Swiss design studio GRUPPE, furniture designer

Sebastian Cox and tile specialist Johnson Tiles.

Many local practices threw open their doors to the festival's visitors to host workshops, displays and installations as part of the Fringe programme. This encouraged interaction with participants' peers and the public, providing a peek behind the curtain of creativity.

clerkewelldesignweek.com »



Top: Clerkenwell Design Week is a highlight of the UK's design calendar
Above: Visitors enjoyed the vast selection of products on display
Both images © Sophie Mutevelian

Cultural importance

More than sixty years ago, Aloys F. Dornbracht and his son Helmut worked all day for other firms so that they could spend their wages on setting up their own business in a shack in Iserlohn. Today, their vision has become Dornbracht – a global manufacturer of high-quality fittings and accessories for bathrooms and kitchens.

It is still that entrepreneurial spirit of risk-taking and embracing change that determines the success of this family company. With the first fittings in his suitcase, Aloys F. Dornbracht took the train to the merchants in Cologne, literally selling door to door. A few years later, the firm was producing 40,000 pieces a month. Now Helmut Dornbracht's sons, Andreas and Matthias, are at the helm of this medium-sized company which in six decades has become the global market leader in premium fitting production and has exerted considerable influence over the cultural importance of design, architecture and technology in the bathroom.

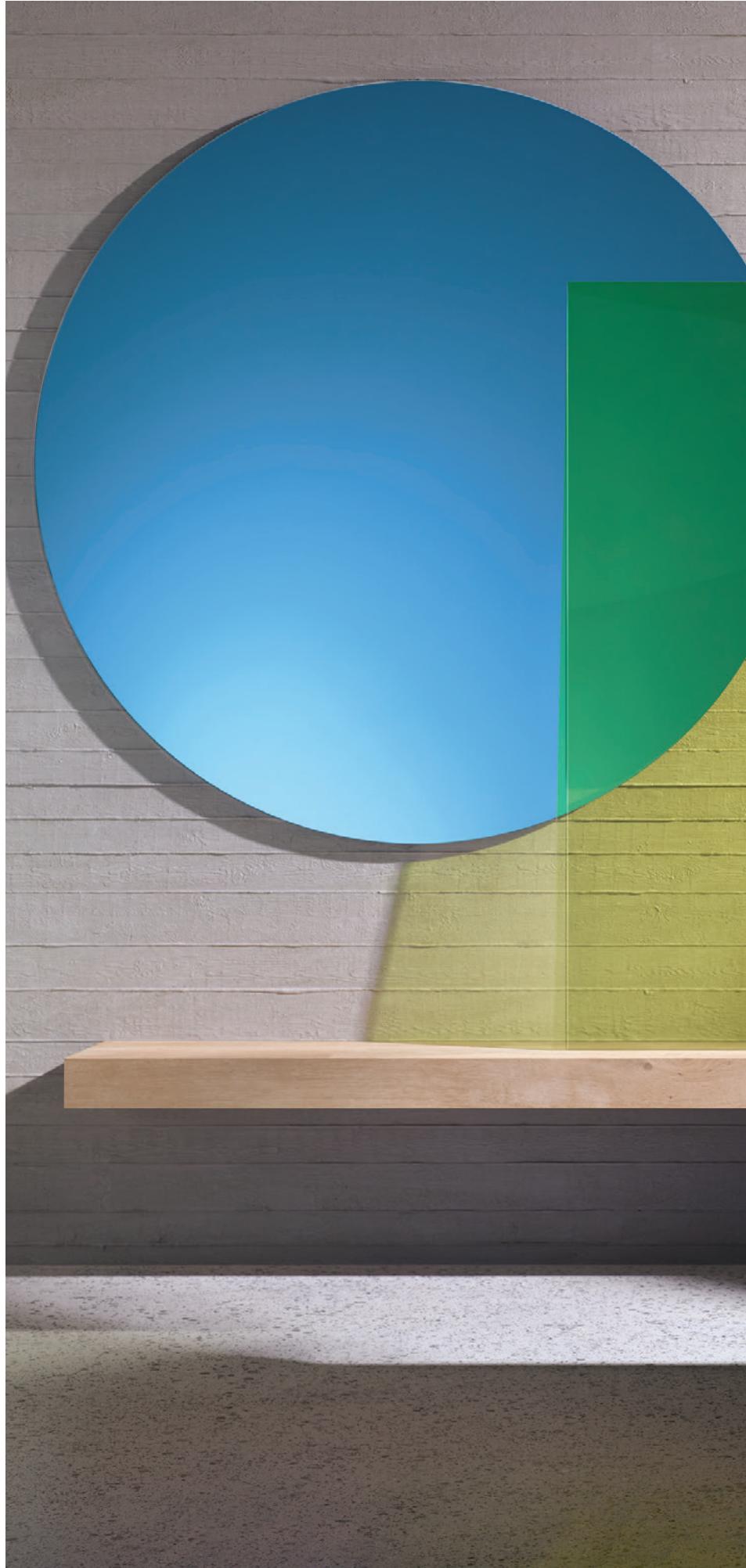
With 'Culturing Life' as its brand claim, the company foundations of competence lie in the areas of design and water: technological progress in terms of inter-connectivity, and a focus on health and well-being, increasingly characterise the brand orientation and its product developments.

Trend development

Mark Booth, UK Sales and Marketing Director at Dornbracht, discusses current and upcoming trends for the bathroom market: "In the luxury sector, we can see a clear trend towards the growing spa industry. The focus on health and wellbeing is considerably sharper and has resulted in a new ethos for products in the bathroom.

"There is this growing desire to integrate spa facilities into the domestic environment. With Dornbracht's Horizontal Shower and invigorating Sensory Sky, one push of a button starts around a five-minute-long pre-programmed choreography. This replaces the need to control water volume and temperature settings manually and enables full attention to be directed towards water experience and body cleansing – transforming it into a ritual for body and mind. Dornbracht refer to this unique technological innovation that sculpts water into the source of one's wellbeing as the Ambiance Tuning Technology. >>

Right: Dornbracht recently launched its new CL.1 series bathroom fittings





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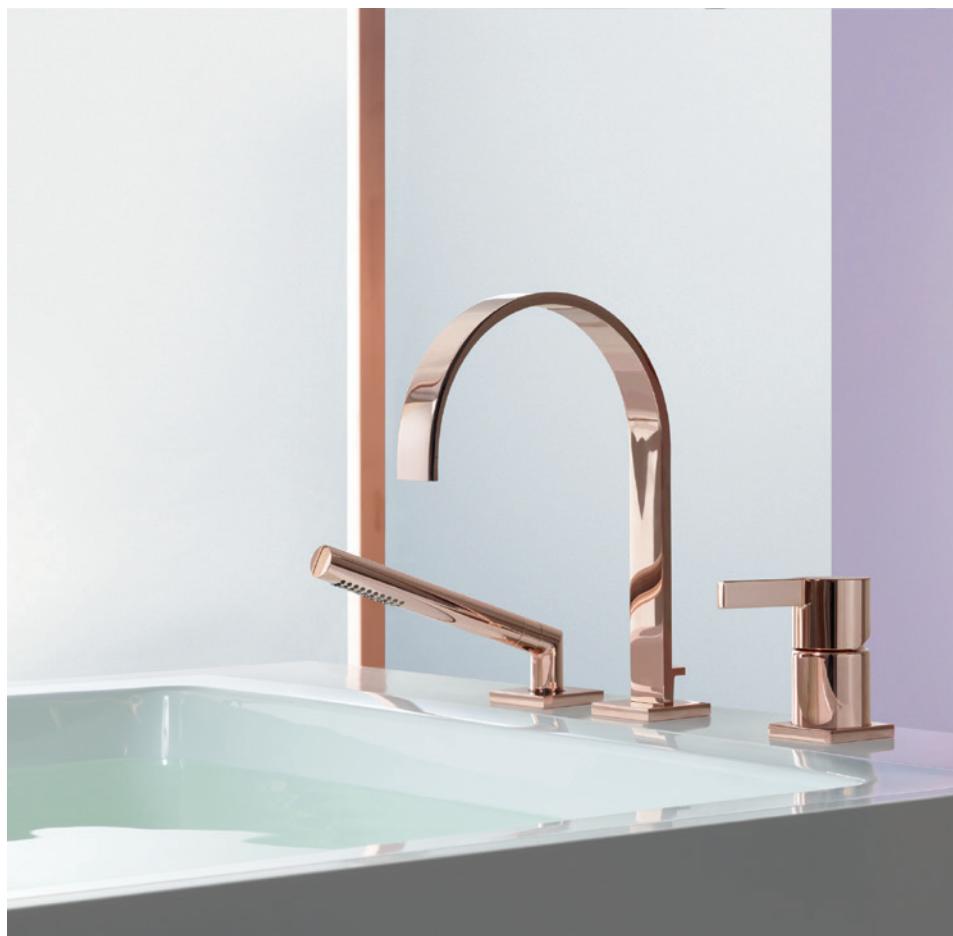


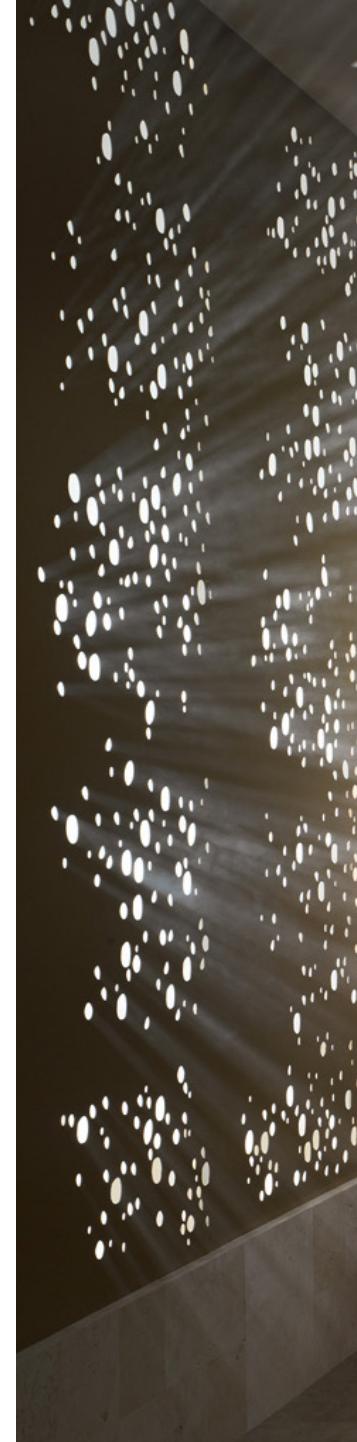
Above: The CL. 1 is both dynamic and elegant creating a new flow pattern with 40 soft, individual jets of water
Right: The MEM refinement finish brings hues of pink gold to the bathroom

“Monochrome is big this year. Black and white is a timeless combination and a great choice for a space like the bathroom as it suits a multitude of different styles. In terms of finishes, copper has become increasingly popular. Dornbracht’s new cyprum finish – produced from 18 carat fine gold and genuine copper – introduces a warmth to the bathroom and accentuates the elegant and refined profiles of the manufacturer’s iconic MEM range.

“Customisation is becoming increasingly popular – bathroom retailers and manufacturers are now realising that sometimes an off-the-shelf solution just won’t do. With Dornbracht’s sampling approach the manufacturer can combine functions and finishes from different series with one another to create unique bathroom and kitchen environments”

»





Digital revolution

In the 1980s, Dornbracht was one of the first brands to introduce designer fittings in the bathroom. After 30 years, the company is still pushing the boundaries and has now introduced another key future focus to the bathroom: digitalisation.

Mark continues: “Digitally networked home technology is an increasingly significant market of the future, and one that we expect to become widely available in the coming decades. We see megatrends happening every 15/20 years, and digital is definitely a future trend. This will be accompanied by two pillars: design savvy consumers in search of more individual products and general demand for a more comfortable and personal environment.

“Digitalisation in the presence of water will open up entirely new forms of comfort and water experience – this is a phenomenon Dornbracht is already



Above: Horizontal Shower provides a reclining shower experience

Above left: Tara design in black

Left: Dornbracht's Smart Water system echoes the brand's commitment to innovation



demonstrating today with its 'Smart Water' technology. Adding technology to everyday appliances/outlets brings a different dimension and enables the attention to be focused purely on the experience of using these. Home automation in the kitchen and bathroom will open up new and exciting prospects and we should expect to see more of this.

"Advances in technology, together with connectivity and comfort, are key to Dornbracht's developments. Convenience and customisation are also key trends. Home automation is a significant market of the future. Digital technology enhances the user experience and adds further comfort and convenience to the user's overall water experience. Similar to the features of a smart phone, Dornbracht's innovative digital Smart Tools, offer an intelligent system that networks the components in a bathroom with one another in order to control water volume and temperature, as well as

bring up pre-programmed and choreographed settings at the touch of a button."

Brand evolution

With its top-quality production facilities, Dornbracht continues to meet the challenges of the international market with an evolution of the 'fractal factory': switching the hierarchical, rigid corporate structure to structurally and operationally independent modules – such as the training or the engineering module – in which employees of different disciplines work together closely. Ongoing investment in its Iserlohn facility in

Germany underlines Dornbracht's loyalty to its production location.

Mark comments on what he values about the design industry: "Demands for individual and bespoke products continue to grow, adapting more and more to an individualised approach to life, and thus, to consumer goods. Dornbracht has responded, and continues to, by developing products that can be personalised/tailored to the user's needs. The different elements that make up Dornbracht can also be paired and edited without restriction, offering the client a vast selection to accommodate every taste and every need."

dornbracht.com »



Gold rush

Last month the RHS Chelsea Flower Show presented visitors with cutting-edge garden design, new plants and plenty of design inspiration.

The prestigious Chelsea Flower Show has been held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea every year since 1913, apart from gaps during the two World Wars. This year's event was a huge success as 77 coveted RHS Gold medals were awarded to exhibitors. Alongside the Gold medals, seven Show Gardens were awarded Silver-Gilt medals and one a Silver medal, with no Bronze medal in sight.

Winning designs

The Laurent-Perrier Chatsworth Garden scooped Best Show Garden, welcoming back designer Dan Pearson to RHS Chelsea after an 11 year absence. For the 2015 show, Laurent-Perrier and Chatsworth came together for the first time to create a unique show garden, marking Chatsworth's debut at Chelsea. Taking the prominent triangle position, Dan Pearson's passion for naturalism and the

Above: The Sentebale – Hope in Vulnerability Garden designed by Matt Keightley won People's Choice Best Show Garden
Above right: Sculptors Picnic – image © Tim Sandall



wilder side of gardening is evident throughout this design, which represented a small, less trodden, part of the 105-acre Chatsworth Garden.

RHS Judge, James Alexander Sinclair, comments: "It is extraordinary that while in a garden in central London, one could almost feel you are on a Derbyshire hillside surrounded by wild plants and towering Paxtonian rocks."

Best Fresh Garden went to The



Dark Matter Garden for National Schools' Observatory by Howard Miller Design. Inspired by the Dark Matter which fills the universe, the garden aimed to help explain an aspect of the fundamental workings of the universe not generally understood.

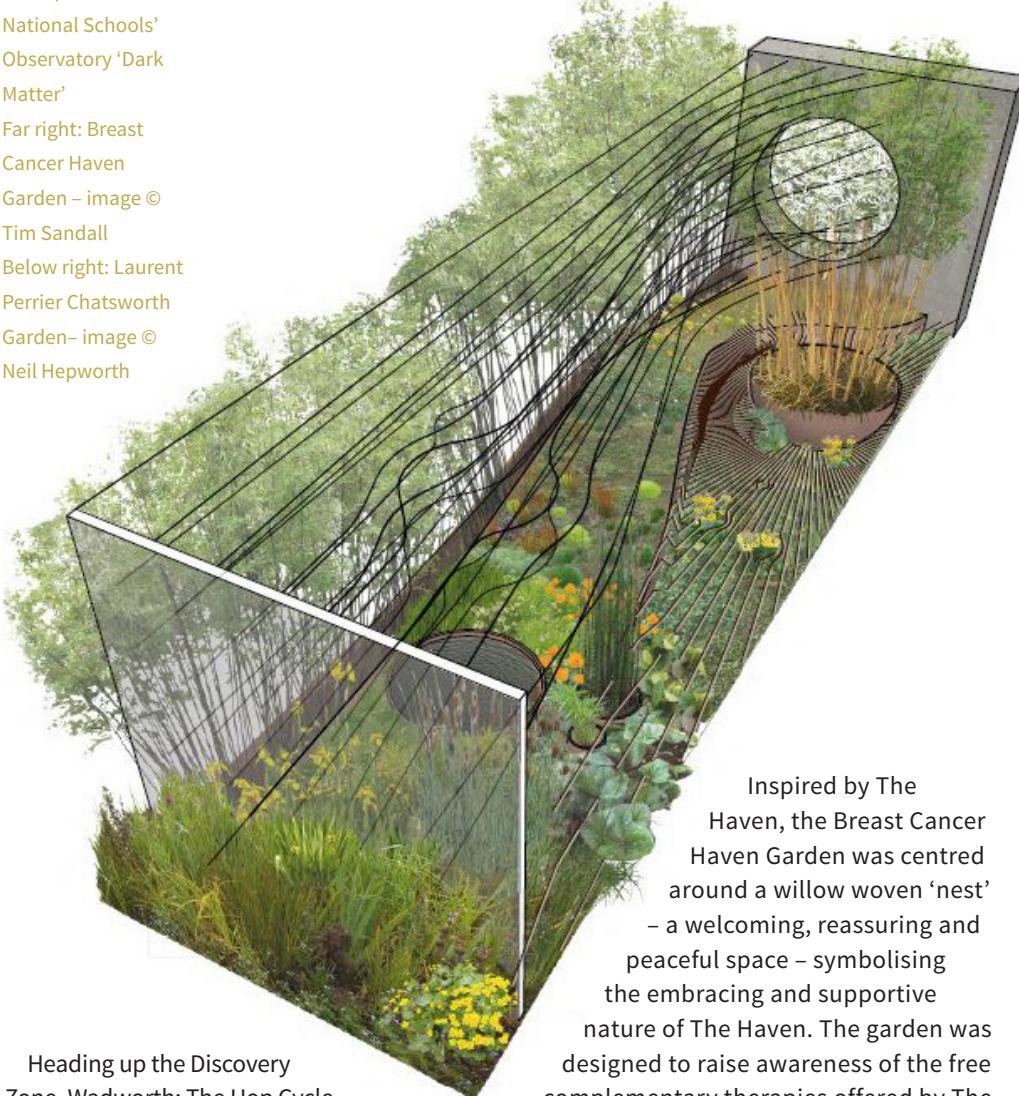
Best Artisan Garden was awarded to The Sculptor's Picnic Garden by Walker's Nurseries, which represented the garden of a sculptor as a place to rest and eat.

Fungi inspired sculptural seats and a tree stump table were created by artist Hilary Walker.

68 nurseries and growers within the Great Pavilion, the floral heart of the show, achieved RHS Gold medals for their displays. The Diamond Jubilee Award for the best display in the Great Pavilion – which was introduced in celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 – was awarded to Birmingham City Council with their floral celebration of 300 years of Birmingham City Cathedral.

Hillier Nurseries and Garden Centres also clinched a record 70th consecutive Gold medal, securing the nursery's status as the most successful exhibitor in the show's 102-year-old show history. »

Below: Design concept for the National Schools' Observatory 'Dark Matter'
 Far right: Breast Cancer Haven Garden – image © Tim Sandall
 Below right: Laurent Perrier Chatsworth Garden – image © Neil Hepworth



Heading up the Discovery Zone, Wadsworth: The Hop Cycle Introduction also won Gold in the Great Pavilion. The exhibit told the historic story of the uses and properties of the hop, which has been used for centuries to provide one of the main flavourings for beer.

Making horticultural history

RHS multi-award-winning garden designer, Sarah Eberle, took on a new challenge at this year's show – to design her first charity and artisan garden at Chelsea Flower Show for national breast cancer support charity, The Haven.

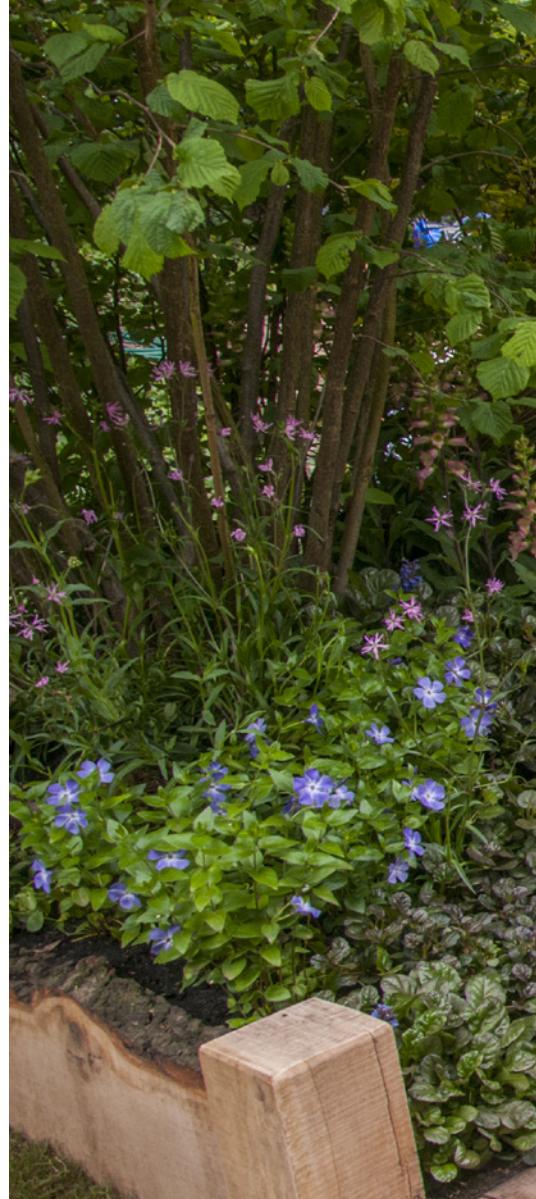
The challenge paid off, with Sarah successfully scooping a Gold medal for the Breast Cancer Haven Garden. Sarah also achieved Gold for her fresh garden – Beyond our Borders – making her the first garden designer in the Show's 102 year history to take two Gold awards for two separate gardens at the same show.

Inspired by The Haven, the Breast Cancer Haven Garden was centred around a willow woven 'nest' – a welcoming, reassuring and peaceful space – symbolising the embracing and supportive nature of The Haven. The garden was designed to raise awareness of the free complementary therapies offered by The Haven, all of which are clinically proven to benefit women and their families experiencing the physical and emotional side-effects of breast cancer.

Pamela Healy OBE, The Haven CEO, comments: "Having a garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show is a fantastic awareness-raiser for the services we provide at The Haven. With Sarah winning gold, it couldn't get any better. The Breast Cancer Haven Garden will be recreated after Chelsea at our new Haven in Wessex so our service users can enjoy it for many years to come."

Sarah adds: "I'm truly delighted. The Haven is such a good cause, benefitting so many people that I'm thrilled my first charity and artisan garden has won gold."

Sarah's design was just one of two award-winning gardens dedicated to raising awareness of Breast Cancer, as Ruth Willmott's Breakthrough Breast Cancer Garden was awarded a Silver Gilt. Appearing for the first time at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Breakthrough Breast Cancer drew inspiration in the garden from the genetic research and breakthroughs into breast cancer being funded by the charity. The designer lost her late sister-in-law to breast cancer in March 2014 and sought to help the charity raise funds for its research and help reach its £100 million target.







Based on a DNA helix shape, a hard stone pathway was crossed by a ribbon of soft pink planting including *Iris sibirica* and *Myosotis sylvatica*. Water pools in the garden rippled every 10 minutes to represent the shocking statistics of women diagnosed with breast cancer in the UK. White stemmed trees and a green and white planting scheme created an ethereal feel with a sculpture by Rick Kirby symbolising the courage and dignity of all those fighting the disease.

Plant of the year

The RHS Chelsea Plant of the Year was created to recognise the most inspiring new plant at the show. A shortlist of 20 plants were selected by a panel including Plant Committee Chairs, RHS Garden Curators and the RHS President, Sir Nicholas Bacon, from over 40 plants entered by Floral

and Garden exhibitors.

Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum 'KILIMANJARO SUNRISE' – a striking, easy Japanese snowball exhibited at the show by Burncoose Nurseries – was crowned winner. It was selected for its white flowers which flush with pink as the season progresses, followed by red berries and then



colourful autumn foliage, giving it year-round appeal. It was also an exemplary specimen beautifully presented for the competition. Taking second place was *Streptocarpus 'Polka-Dot Purple'* from Dibleys Nurseries, while *Salvia 'Love and Wishes'* from Dysons Nurseries, came in at third place. The votes were cast by members of the RHS specialist plant committees and voting was chaired by RHS Council member Dougal Phillips.

rhs.org.uk «



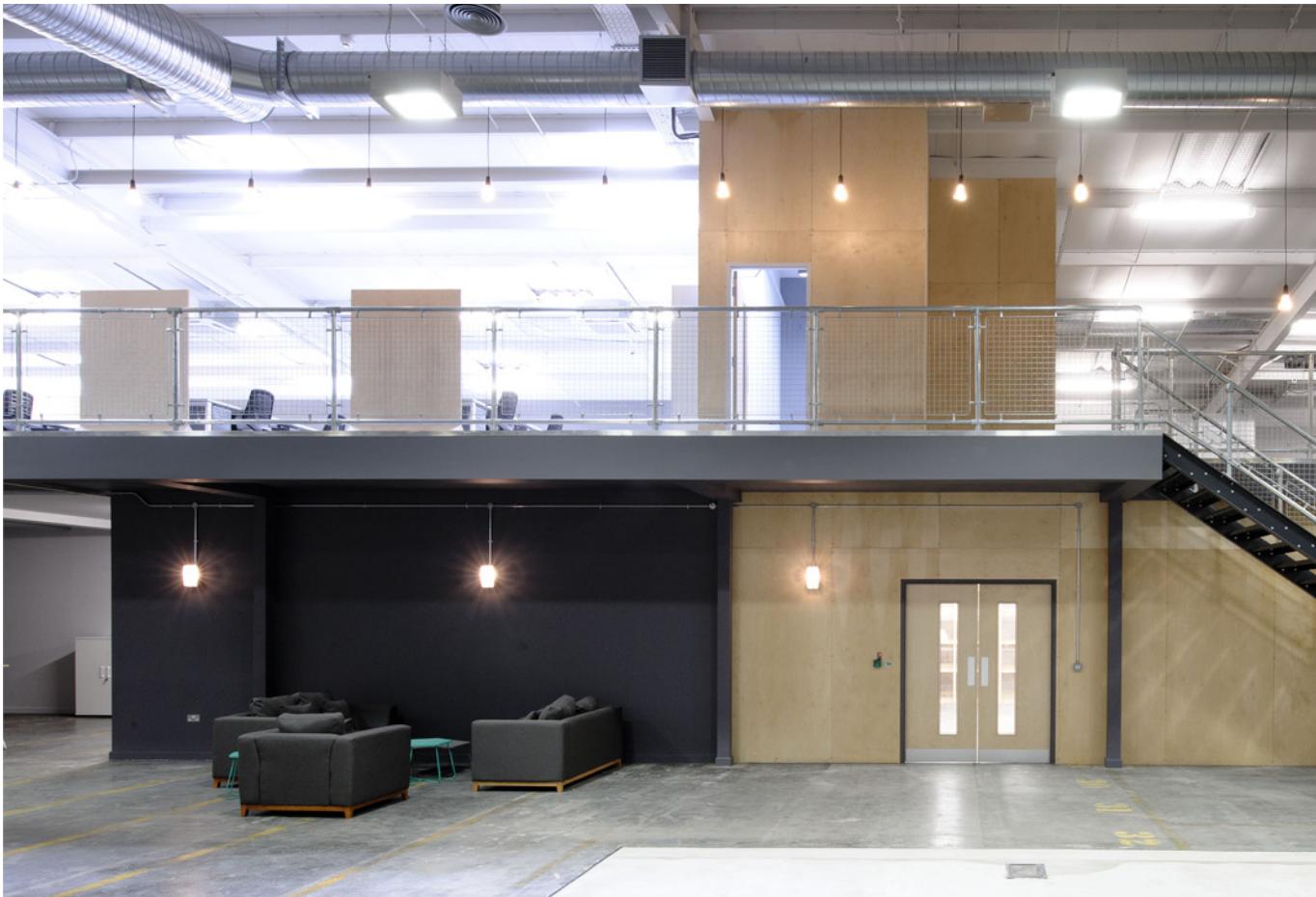
Far left: Homebase garden – image © Neil Hepworth
 Left: Tulips from the Marks & Spencers display – image © Hannah McKay
 Below: Visitors filled the Great Pavilion – image © Hannah McKay



Above: The new office design is open plan

Right: It's based in a converted warehouse

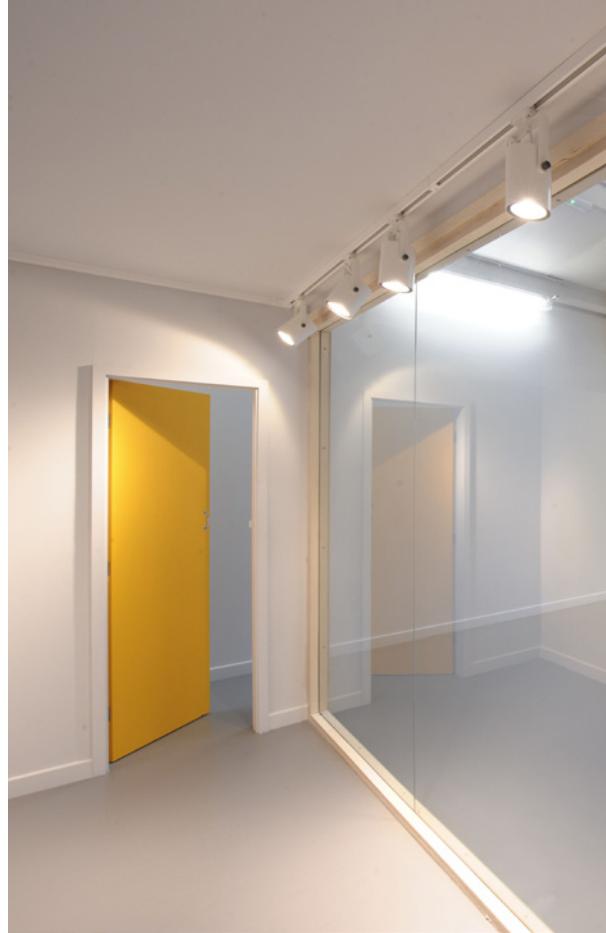
Far right: There are several private spaces perfect for meetings



Warehouse returns

Interior design and branding studio, NoChintz has delivered a unique commercial concept for JD Sport Fashion plc's relocation to Manchester's The Sharp Project.

JD Sport Fashion has relocated its marketing and multi-channel design, production and photography team from its Bury headquarters to the digital content production complex in North Manchester – The Sharp Project. The Sharp Project is home to over 60 digital entrepreneurs and production companies specialising in digital content production, digital media and TV and film production. It's based in a 200,000ft² refurbished warehouse previously occupied by electronics company Sharp. The location offers flexible office, production and event space. [»](#)







Industrial edge

NoChintz was appointed to create a new commercial workspace to accommodate 60 staff including photographers and designers. The team created an industrial inspired design to provide the market-leading retailer with a unique office and studio environment.

The brief dictated the need for a space which could suit the many varied requirements of the team that delivers multi-channel content across a dozen of the group's brands. NoChintz, which is based in Manchester's Northern Quarter, developed the brief to provide a creative solution that included a designated studio area, whilst keeping the space largely open plan. This space configuration was created to



integrate the team and maximise communications across the many areas of the business. NoChintz's concept also included the installation of a new mezzanine level as well as consultation on the overall interior design including all finishes, lighting, furniture and layout for the 1500m² space.

Natalie Gray, Director of NoChintz, comments: "We decided to keep the finishes and fixtures very simple and in keeping with the industrial nature of the building. Key features included exposed concrete floors, birch wood ply partitioning, stripped back lighting and steel stair details.

"The furniture has been kept simple and contemporary with splashes of colour to create breakout spaces for staff at various points within the area. Industrial details have been highlighted with large feature lights for the meeting rooms."

Providing an original concept to accommodate a variety of uses, the NoChintz team designed and commissioned some bespoke mobile styling pods and created a multifunctional workspace with integrated iMac and desk space. The design also includes moveable changing rooms and make-up areas for models being shot for campaigns.

NoChintz works on a variety of projects, from bars and hotels to exhibition structures and private homes. The company's interior design division operates in the residential and commercial property industries as well as offering bespoke product design and bespoke furniture packs for consumer audiences and developers. 16 full time designers operate from the company's Northern Quarter HQ and have completed more than 1000 projects for clients in the UK, Europe and the USA.

Above: A grey and yellow colour scheme appeals to recent palette trends

Above left: The converted space provides an on-trend industrial feel to the office

Below left: Glass walls allow privacy at the same time as integrating the room with the entire space

nochintz.co.uk »

The power of plants

Ian Drummond, Creative Director at interior planting expert Indoor Garden Design, chats to Inex about bringing the outdoors in.

This year Indoor Garden Design is celebrating 40 years of industry. The company was founded in 1975 by Ed Wolf, who noticed a gap in the market and pioneered bringing plants into the workplace. The company has literally grown from there, expanding from corporate interior planting to working on a range of planting solutions – both inside and out.

Ian Drummond began his horticulture career with an apprenticeship at Ken Hayford florist, where he spent four years learning all about interior landscaping and floristry. In 1993, after a year working as a florist in Primrose Hill, he joined Interior Garden Design as a Plant Technician. He worked his way up the ranks, becoming a Director in 2000 and then company co-owner in 2013.

Ian explains: “An interior landscape designer is the only thing I’ve ever wanted to be! My earliest memory is planting a window box with my Dad, and by the age of eight I was tending my disabled Aunt’s garden. I couldn’t wait to learn the ‘trade’”

With the benefits of biophilic design becoming increasingly recognised, Ian discusses why this is such an important concept for commercial design to embrace: “Biophilic design works because the presence of plants improves wellbeing, creativity and productivity in all spaces. This doesn’t simply apply to offices, but also to leisure, healthcare and education environments – all of these places are enhanced with plants for the benefit of both workers and visitors alike.



Left: Terrarium display at the St Pancras Hotel
Above: Bamboo wall planting
Above right: Hanging planters create a quirky statement



“There is an increasing body of research proving the benefits of plants, and we’re passionate supporters of research in this area. We worked alongside Dr Craig Knight of University of Exeter on his workspace research with the ‘Eco Office Experiment’ stand at RHS Chelsea 2013. The research found that plants can boost wellbeing by 47%, increase creativity by 45% and productivity by 38%.

“The greatest influence in the evolution of interior planting has been in recognising the benefits of plants and the increase of



research to prove it. With so many of us living within a predominantly urban environment, such as working long hours in offices, it is crucial that the importance of plants is acknowledged and that planting is integrated into the man-made environment, both inside and outside.”

Many workspaces are recognising the importance of plants and moving towards a more relaxed style both in decor and planting. Recent trends have experienced an increase in comfortable breakout spaces and feature planting.

Hanging plants, particularly the Boskke sky planter, the use of Terrariums and glass Mason jar planters are just a few examples of contemporary planting designs that help to create an eclectic and interesting planting scheme.

Practical solutions

Living walls are another popular design choice, but how practical are they in terms of upkeep and maintenance? “Very practical!” explains Ian. “They offer a solution of bringing planting volume to all kinds of spaces! However it is important to ensure that both the type of living wall unit and selected plants work in the space in which the living wall is situated, to help it thrive along with regular maintenance.”

The last few years has seen Ian and the Indoor Garden »



Left: Indoor Garden Design's collaboration with Vitra

Below: The studio's project 'Afternoon Tea at St Pancras Hotel' won two awards at this year's RHS Chelsea

Below left: They won Bronze for the Living Workstation design in 2011

Design team earn a number of prestigious achievements, including winning a Gold medal for Best Hotel Floristry Exhibit at last month's Chelsea Flower Show. Ian continues: "We have been involved in creating award-winning gardens at RHS Chelsea since 2009, and winning Awards for garden designs - the Silver gilt in 2010 for our Living Office design with Vitra, and the Bronze for the Living Workstation design in 2011 were both great achievements! I'm also hugely proud of our efif Award wins as we won Gold across all categories and a Judge's Commendation for our work at The Connaught Hotel."

It was the 'Living with Nature' exhibition at St. Pancras Renaissance Hotel that won the team a Gold medal at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. The project involved six planted installations at the Hotel and in the St Pancras International station, including a giant field of sunflowers outside the hotel, and a mirrored planted shed on the station concourse. These works were autobiographical concepts designed to engage the visitor and to demonstrate the creative scope of



plants to a wide audience.

Ian continues: "Looking ahead, I hope we will see more plants everywhere! I would like to see planting higher on the build agenda, for example, plants to be part of the full BREEAM accreditation. At Indoor Garden Design, we're committed to bringing the best interior planting to projects everywhere and will continue to do so. In addition, we're looking to expand our exterior planting business further."

indoorgardendesign.com «



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Reinforcing heritage and innovation

The new Patek Philippe Salons recently opened in New Bond Street, London, thanks to a design by international architectural and interior design office AW².

Having worked together on previous projects, Patek Philippe appointed AW² for the luxury brand's London store design. During the design process, the new watch and jewellery specialist shop was extended the premises from 80m² to 420m². The architecture was developed as a contemporary interpretation of Art Deco. Each element of the design brings the values of Art Deco style to the 21st Century. By doing this the design studio aimed to express the original values of the brand within the new space, from heritage to innovation.

All materials were carefully chosen to create a subtle range of natural colours, from light beige to dark bronze. The result is a warm, delicate feel with a subdued sense of luxury. The furniture and decorative elements have been specially developed for the brand.



Left: Alabaster has been used within the lighting and in a feature wall behind the staircase
 Below: Cream and gold tones work well alongside the vibrant orange carpet
 Right: A 2.6m² chandelier creates a statement in the central room



The cream and coffee tones of the stone flooring is echoed within the alabaster and bronze chandeliers on the ceilings, as well as the lamps on the sales tables. These lights were designed by Reda Amalou especially for Patek Philippe. The main piece, a 2.6m² chandelier, sits at the centre of the store, over the square display table. It is a composition of alabaster cubes in various sizes, suspended from a bronze frame. The design diffuses light through the translucent alabaster, producing a soft, warm light whilst showing off the stone's delicate pattern.

Alabaster has been used again within an assembly of panels behind the circular staircase that leads you to the service centre. The design is a myriad of bronze frames forming a 6m tall, patterned wall of soft stone and light. It sits in front of the

sweeping staircase, where curved glass is accompanied by handrails inlaid in fabric. The same glass is used around the stairwell.

In order to reinforce the idea of heritage and innovation, AW² developed a special embossed leather wall covering, used around the arches of the main floor. The idea is taken directly from the Geneva Salons where walls are adorned with Andalusian Cordoba leather. To reinvent this concept for the London space the team developed their own design based on a stylized Calatrava cross, which intertwines to form a subtle pattern. Moulds were created to emboss the off white leather panels and create a unique wall covering for the shop.

Great care has been taken in choosing artwork and decoration pieces. Contemporary pieces have

been acquired, such as the wood carved painting in the VIP sales area, and bespoke items made, such as the bespoke glass bas-relief which was commissioned for the space and placed above the reception desk. The team also developed some of their own items, such as a freestanding bronze screen engraved in gold leaf that now works as a privacy screen. Every detail, including Persian rugs, leather and brass tables, the display cabinets and the mirrors, were carefully designed and chosen to form this bespoke environment.

AW² is run by Réda Amalou and Stephanie Ledoux. Both partners take active roles in the design process and are personally involved in all the projects that the firm works on.

aw2.com »





Imitation game

The ability to emulate materials has become increasingly effective thanks to innovative technological advancements, with surface replication especially prevalent in the ceramic market.

The toughness and strength of porcelain has a number of advantages, especially when it comes to creating replicas. From prestigious antique wood to trendy rusted metal, a variety of material lookalikes are available. But what are the advantages to specifying ceramic tiles instead of the real thing?

Paolo Cesana, Marketing Director of Ceramiche Refin, explains: "Ceramic tiles are incredibly durable. They have a very high impact strength and stress resistance, plus they are stain, scratch, chemical and

frost resistant. Wood-effect tiles are easier to look after than real wooden floors as they do not require sanding or sealing. They are also more efficient than wooden floors at radiating heat if you have underfloor heating."

The aesthetic appeal of wood combined with the functionality and resistance of porcelain stoneware makes a perfect match. Not only do these replicas look like the real thing, they also carefully imitate the texture. Surface texture adds to the overall realism of the design, and, if used on floors, provide additional slip resistance. Ceramiche Refin has many collections reproducing

Above: The Mansion collection by Ceramiche Refin
Left: Design Industry in Raw Grey

different kinds of woods and natural stones, mainly to meet the market needs that call for a specific type of product.

On the limitations of what ceramic tiles can replicate, Paolo adds: "In general, there is no limit to the range of graphics new technologies allow us to reproduce on porcelain stoneware tiles. That's why we constantly work on research to utilise the full potential of new digital technology to create fresh, original products with unique and innovative design content." These products are the result of intensive research on the features of natural materials reinterpreted on ceramics. The allure of the »



Right: The District collection offers a range of materials
 Below right: Deck by Ceramiche Refin in Blaze
 Opposite: Prestigio imitates stone materials

natural materials are not only matched, but also encourage fresh, new creations, such as the Barrique collection – inspired by the wooden slats from barrels used for aging wines and spirits.

“The amount of time needed to create a replica depends heavily on the variety of research material available and the complexity of the design,” continues Paolo. “In general, the research development process takes almost one year. We usually launch the new collections during the Cersaie trade fair in Bologna at the end of September. Then, after that, we start researching for next year’s collections.

“The research activity starts with an analysis of the market and the competitors, through sector studies, market surveys, and direct research at trade fairs and design exhibitions. We also cooperate with agencies, universities and professional studios to look carefully into creative and technological trends. Then our in-house laboratory begins the development of the product and the production of the first prototypes, until the definitive final product sample – one which satisfies our research aims – is achieved. This product sample is then industrialised.”

Perfect match

Deck is one of the latest wood-effect collections from the ceramics brand. The collection emulates an oak wood with a subtly classic appearance, available in six shades. From the lighter tones of a North European air, through the intermediate shades and on to the darker hues,



the patterns follow the gradual shift in colour to enrich the variety and create a more natural appeal.

In contrast to Deck, Prestigio emulates top-class natural marble from renowned quarries. Typical nuances of colour and original veining patterns – some delicate, others more marked – are enhanced by this lapping to produce a polished finish.

Whether viewed as a material replica or merely a reinterpretation, the benefits in both wear resistance and maintenance of porcelain tiles cannot be denied. With so many options available, there is a style to suit any application, whether commercial or residential.

refin-ceramic-tiles.com «





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Glass act

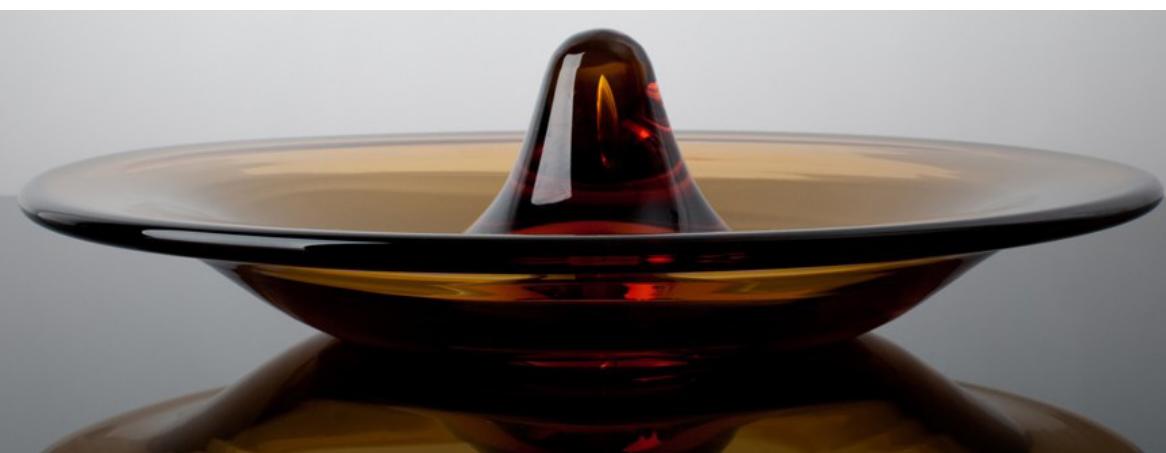
London's May design showcase presented many examples of the innovative use of glass, from entire structures to delicate details.

In the last issue, Inex interviewed architectural studio Cousins & Cousins about their jewel-like glass pavilion that was displayed at last month's Clerkenwell Design Week. The architects worked alongside Gx Glass to demonstrate the versatility of glass. The brightly coloured pavilion was a vibrant centerpiece for the design festival, but it was just one example of innovative glass application at London's May design showcase.

Handle with Care is a unique glass design collection that presents 12 conceptual objects inspired by Slovak folk legends and fairy tales. The collection is a result of one year of educational process. During two workshops students went through both concept building under professional design consultancy and prototyping in Ajeto Glassworks. 12 talented design students, who were chosen on the

ground of portfolio submission, were awarded not only worthy practical experience but a chance to showcase their design thinking. The collection was exhibited at Clerkenwell's The House of Detention.

Curiousa & Curiousa displayed bespoke glass lighting, suitable from domestic to large scale commercial commissions. Based in Derbyshire, the company works with local carpenters, fabricators and glass blowers to create the lighting. The glass lighting range offers a wide choice of colour, shape and size, complemented with a selected range of finishes, fittings, flexes and bulbs. Each shade is traditionally hand-blown without moulds, allowing virtually any shape, size and colour to be achieved. »



Above: Bespoke glass lighting by Curiousa & Curiousa
Left: The Handle with Care collection is inspired by Slovak folk legends



Left: Roman's digital glass printing technology
Right: Alicja Patanowska's plant holders
Below: Glaze by Cousins & Cousins at Clerkenwell Design Week 2015



Inspired by the debris of London's streets, Ceramics and Glass graduate Alicja Patanowska investigated the recycled function of abandoned drinking glasses.

The many shapes of these discarded items have led to an assortment of handmade parts that can be inserted into a variety of glass vessels. The porcelain components act as plant holder rests that expose a plant's growing process. They are suitable for growing plants and, when turned upside down, can be used as a mini greenhouse – ideal during seed germination. The duality of function and sculptural qualities in her work illustrates the inherent

link between art and design. Alicja presented these designs at Clerkenwell's Additions at the Cryst on the Green, St. James Church.

May Design Series was home to an innovative new launch from shower designer and manufacturer, Roman. The company presented four design examples of the new digital glass printing technology. The digital prints included a tropical jungle scene, industrial red bricks and glass blocks, which will be added to their Decem Collection. This new technology allows the images to be printed directly on to the glass, whilst all other areas of the glass remain transparent and crystal clear. The colours can be

directly printed on glass thanks to the specific thermos-procedure, where prints get adhesive. Importantly, this digital glass printing is both water resistant and protected against abrasion, which makes it ideal to use in the bathroom. Previously, water resistant digital print on glass could only be achieved by using an unacceptable adhesion process.

Ben Cousins, when discussing the use of glass within his Clerkenwell Pavilion design, adds: "Glass as a material is so versatile in its use and is fascinating in itself, but once you add colour to it, it reaches a different level. We believe our installation will spark the imagination of the visitor, of how they could use glass and make them aware of the variety on offer."

cousinsandcousins.com «
f4sk.com «
curiousaandcuriousa.co.uk «
patanowska.pl «
roman-showers.com «





Product Spotlight

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

1. Clean lines and luxurious sweeping curves converge to form Svelte – the new bathroom furniture collection from Bauhaus. Featuring innovative new high performance materials and finishes, Svelte adds a designer look to any bathroom scheme. Manufactured using the highest quality materials throughout, the stunning furniture is available in three elegant finishes and four size options. Choose from the warm wood detail of the new exotic Eucalyptus finish or the ever-popular American Walnut option or opt for a crisp and timeless White Gloss shine.

www.bauhaus-bathrooms.co.uk 0845 873 8840



2



3

2. The BLANCO SELECT waste system provides the perfect way to organise a busy kitchen. The versatile drawers and bins are designed to make the most of the space under the sink. Perfect for storing anything from kitchen waste to cleaning products to keep worktops clear and tidy, the SELECT range is now being expanded to include four new models. These all include a smaller bucket for even greater flexibility, ideal for separating recycling and food waste. Available for cabinet widths 45, 50 and 60cm, the units can be easily installed behind hinged or pull-out doors and can be manually or automatically controlled for maximum convenience.
www.blanco.co.uk 01923 635 200

3. Designed by British furniture designer and manufacturer Morgan Studio, the Kyoto Collection was launched at last month's CDW – a linear bench system inspired by Japanese gardens and bridges. The Kyoto benches intersect at 90 and 110 degree angles to create asymmetric, dual height reception area seating compositions that, like the bridges they're inspired by, encourage you to take a less direct route from A to B. The 10 Kyoto compositions available can be specified in contrasting fabrics, with tables available in finishes from Timber and Formica to Glass and Carrara marble.
www.morganfurniture.co.uk 01243 371 111



4



5

4. Lyndon Design has collaborated with award-winning furniture designer, Mark Gabbertas, to unveil Frank – a striking contemporary seating collection. Featuring an armchair and two-seater sofa, Frank expresses a combination of structured and semi-structured upholstery appropriate for a wide variety of interiors in both hospitality and corporate spaces. The new design consists of an external timber frame with inset side and back panels to inject comfort and style. Providing both emphasis and definition along with comfortable and generous sized upholstered panels, the frame is available in natural oak, walnut or a stained finish to deliver the ideal complement to modern and traditional interiors.

www.lyndon.co.uk 01242 584897

5. The newly launched Formica® Collection introduces 113 new decors. With a total of over 600 decorative laminate solutions, this versatile collection is ideal for all environments, including office and retail. The collection includes nine new Plain Colors to present a comprehensive palette of 120 colours and Plus Color – a unique toolbox – features 30 colours in eight exclusive surface finishes with 240 combinations. New patterns have been added based on capturing the authenticity of fabrics, natural and man-made materials, including the introduction of Twill pattern in four colours, eight True Scale marble decors, and four metal and engineered stone patterns.

www.formica.com 0191 259 3100



6. Over 300m² of nora's noraplan uni floor covering has been installed in SAP's UK office. SAP and architects HLW International wanted a plain rubber tile with a good colour choice that was durable and easy to maintain. Rubber flooring from nora systems was the ideal choice and therefore was installed in various areas, including the striking design feature behind the reception desk on the ground floor, the technology suite and the meeting room's reception and foyer areas. With its plain colours, smooth surface and excellent environmental properties, noraplan uni fits the criteria easily.

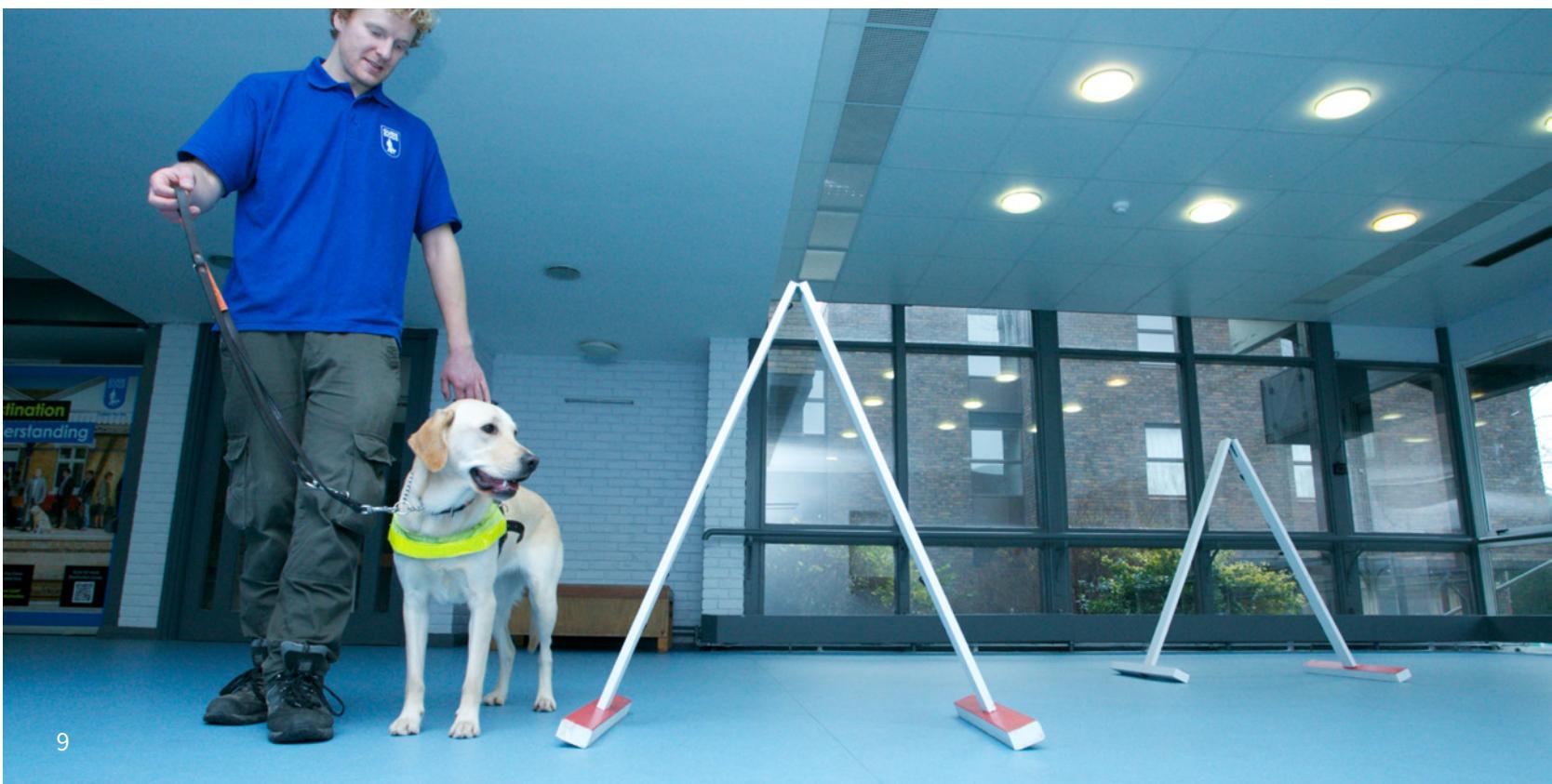
www.nora.com/uk 01788 513 160



7. Designed specifically for the home, the Designatex collection of textile backed luxury sheet vinyl flooring is stylish yet practical. Boasting 12 wood effect and six stone effect designs, the collection complements both traditional and modern interiors. The wood effect designs feature a variety of species and layouts, including three classic parquet designs. Recreating the tones, textures and natural rock formations of real stone tiles, the stone collection includes limestone, slate and paving effect designs in three layouts: slim tiles, random tile placement and varied tile widths. Available in two, three and four metre widths to accommodate larger living spaces, UK manufactured Designatex has a 3.0mm gauge and 0.3mm wear layer with SureTread R10 slip resistance to help prevent slips in the home. www.polyflor.com 0161 767 1111



8



9

8. Gavin Kirkbride, owner of Lily handmade furniture, has dedicated his life to creating stunning hand-carved furniture. Based in North Yorkshire, Gavin's pieces are bespoke and made in 100% solid oak. In order to ensure maximum wood protection, Gavin uses Osmo's Polyx-Oil and Wood Wax Finish products. Many woodwork professionals across the UK enjoy using Osmo UK's wood finishing products. Osmo's Polyx-Oil is suitable for the protection of all wooden flooring and furniture, providing hardwearing and durable protection. Renowned for enhancing the wood's true beauty, Polyx-Oil is available in a collection of seven products offering a range of specialised effects and qualities. Polyx-oil is suitable for humans, animals and plants when dry due to its natural and environmentally friendly composite.

www.osmouk.com 01296 481220

9. Polyflor's Polysafe Verona PUR safety flooring was installed to create a new training area with sustainable wet slip resistance for dogs and their handlers at the recently refurbished Guide Dogs for the Blind Training School in Woodford Green, Essex. Around 450m² of Polysafe Verona PUR sheet vinyl flooring in the vibrant Blue Lagoon 5206 shade was installed in the school's training and demonstration area to create a safe working area for handlers and dogs when going through their regular training routines. The Verona range's virtually invisible slip resistant particles and complementary tonal chips offer the high clarity look of a smooth vinyl floor with the performance of a safety floor.

www.polyflor.com 0161 767 1111



10



11

10. Defender is the non-combustible single phase consumer unit range from Contactum, built to meet the requirements of Amendment 3. Its aesthetic appearance sets it apart from the average consumer unit and it packs a punch with its versatility. The modern, sleek design offers a comprehensive range comprising 12 different enclosure sizes. IP2X rated and compliant with BS7671 and 17th Edition Wiring Regulations, the Defender allows up to a 22 module board as standard and installers can combine boards to increase the number of outgoing ways. This flexible board configuration enables optimal combinations of RCD, MCB and RCBO use – there are even pre-populated configurations available. www.connectnprotect.co.uk 0208 208 7419

11. Polyflor's SimpLay loose lay vinyl floor tiles helped add the finishing touches to a refurbished Vodafone store in Birmingham city centre recently. Suitable for retail and commercial environments, SimpLay tiles and planks have been developed for loose lay installation without the use of adhesive, so they can be fitted quickly with minimal downtime required. The collection features eight authentic wood plank designs, six natural stone tile effects and two weave pattern tiles. The Rich Walnut 2504 shade chosen for this Vodafone store perfectly complements the brand's signature red and white colour scheme. www.polyflor.com 0161 767 1111



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