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# in+ ex



## in[sight]

Fritz Hansen's Sofie Lindahl Jessen discusses the brand's unique heritage and dedication to innovation

## ex[rated]

An interactive timber design has put new life into the historic defensive wall of Vestvolden in Copenhagen

## in[spire]

With businesses adapting to new working processes, perhaps now is the time to rethink traditional workplace design concepts

## ex[pose]

Independent furniture makers, The Barnsley Workshop has continued to keep business thriving since 1923



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#### Editor:

Emily Smith

[emily@mixedmediainfo.com](mailto:emily@mixedmediainfo.com)

#### Digital Advertising:

Sam Ball

[sam@mixedmediainfo.com](mailto:sam@mixedmediainfo.com)

Michael Abrahams

[michael@mixedmediainfo.com](mailto:michael@mixedmediainfo.com)

#### Studio Manager:

Chris Lilly

[chris@mixedmediainfo.com](mailto:chris@mixedmediainfo.com)

#### Production:

Jack Witcomb

[jack@mixedmediainfo.com](mailto:jack@mixedmediainfo.com)

#### Artworker/Sub-editor:

David Perry

[david@mixedmediainfo.com](mailto:david@mixedmediainfo.com)

#### Senior Editor:

Hannah Frackiewicz

[hannah@mixedmediainfo.com](mailto:hannah@mixedmediainfo.com)

#### Accounts:

Simone Jones

[simone@mixedmediainfo.com](mailto:simone@mixedmediainfo.com)

#### Managing Director:

Sam Ball

[sam@mixedmediainfo.com](mailto:sam@mixedmediainfo.com)

#### Publisher:

Mixed Media Information

Pear Platt, Woodfalls Farm, Gravelly  
Way, Laddingford, Kent. ME18 6DA

Tel: 01622 873229 Fax: 01622 320020

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Where some furniture designs aim to reflect tradition and others provide a contemporary re-interpretation, design heritage is undeniably prevalent within the furniture industry. Renowned for their craftsmanship, this issue profiles two unique companies that have maintained a long and established presence within furniture production.

Danish Cabinet-maker Fritz Hansen started a furniture production company in 1885. 120 years later, the company is recognised within both Danish and international design history for its long list of iconic furniture items and design collaborations. In this month's Insight, the company's Executive Vice President Sales and Brands Management, Sofie Lindahl Jessen, discusses the brand's heritage and long dedication to design innovation.

Meanwhile, The Barnsley Workshop is a British independent furniture workshop that has stood the test of time. The workshop was established in 1923 and still thrives regardless of competing against popular companies that mass produce – something that dominates 21st Century furniture production. Read the interview with James Ryan, Head Designer of The Barnsley Workshop, on page 13.

Elsewhere in this issue a focus on lighting presents a prestigious Milan apartment designed by a celebrity interior designer, this month's Inspire discusses how office design can tackle the problems associated with an aging workforce and Tom Dixon's new restaurant design demonstrates design prowess on page 32.

Emily Smith

[emily@mixedmediainfo.com](mailto:emily@mixedmediainfo.com)

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Top left: The new  
Tempo wallpaper  
collection by Galerie  
features vibrant  
patterns

Cover: Little Greene  
has released a new  
compendium of blue  
toned wallpapers

Top right: There are so  
many options when  
it comes to bathroom  
surfacing – read about  
the current trends on  
page 26





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Top left: A playful timber design has put new life into the historic defensive wall of Vestvolden in Copenhagen – read about the design on page 22

Middle: Innovative lighting solutions have transformed a Milan apartment

Left: Fritz Hansen is famous for its innovative furniture and designer collaborations – read more about the brand in this month's Insight

## 07 JULY DIARY

## 08 INSPIRE

It has never been more important to ensure the working environment meets the needs of every employee.

## 13 EXPOSE

Many independent furniture workshops have suffered within our contemporary society of mass production, but not The Barnsley Workshop.

## 17 INSIGHT

Sofie Lindahl-Jessen – Fritz Hansen's Executive Vice President of Sales and Brand Management – discusses the brand's unique heritage.

## 22 EXRATED

VEGA Architects and Kebony have created an innovative interactive design for the historical landscape of Vestvolden in Copenhagen.

## 26 BATHROOM

Marketing Project Manager at TheSize, Mar Esteve Cores explores bathroom surface trends.

## 32 RESTAURANT

Tom Dixon's Design Research Studio have created Craft London for restaurateur Stevie Parle.

## 36 WALLPAPER

Inex profiles the latest wallpaper collections along with advice from wallpaper expert Anne Fulford.

## 40 RENEWABLES

A remote holiday home can now guarantee comfortable temperatures year-round thanks to a ground source heat pump.

## 43 LIGHTING

Celebrity interior designer Andrea Castrignano has transformed a luxury Milan apartment.



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### Designs of the year 2015

**Design Museum**

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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. Don't miss the Design of the Year Winner as well as the 76 nominees over the six categories: architecture, digital, fashion, graphics, products and transport. [designmuseum.org](http://designmuseum.org)



### Virtual control – security and the urban imagination

**RIBA, London**

**9 July – 25 August**

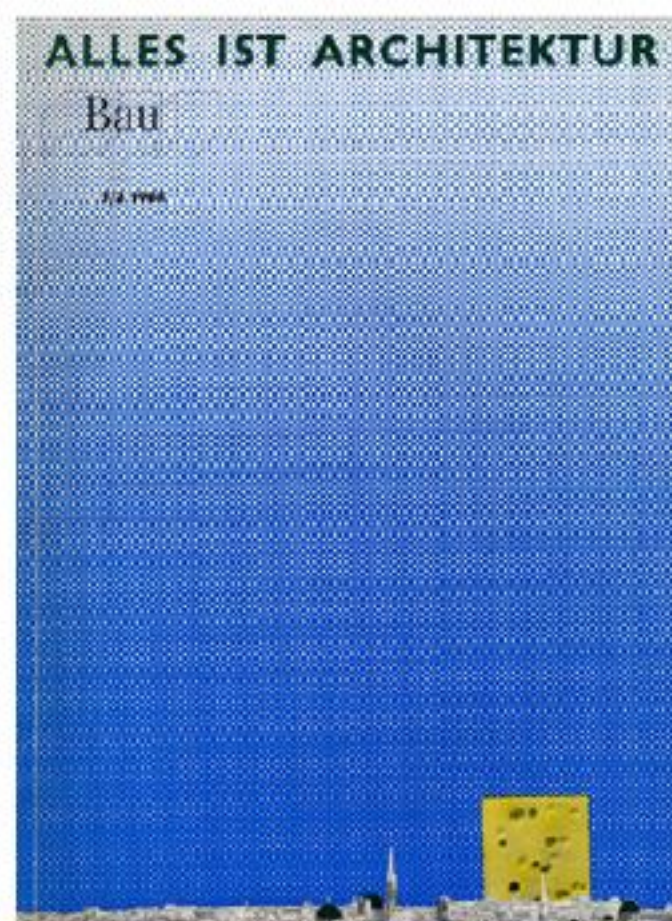
Playfully walking between urban facts and fictions, this exhibition by artist/photographer Max Colson presents a series of investigations on controlled urban areas. The focus is privatised public space – urban environments which are nominally public, but owned and managed by commercial entities. [architecture.com](http://architecture.com)

### Everything is architecture

**Institute of Contemporary Arts**

**29 July - 27 September**

This display of Bau Magazine includes original issues of the magazine published between 1965 and 1970 – a period when a group of influential Austrian architects and artists took over its editorship. The magazine became a platform to explore new experimental ideas and considered art and politics. [ica.org.uk](http://ica.org.uk)



### Turbine Festival

**Tate Modern**

**25 July**

For one day, the Turbine Hall will become an alternative city for the day in a celebration of culture. Visitors will be able to enjoy an alternative hair salon, make their own drinks at a pop up juice bar and much more. A variety of performances and music will be live on stage throughout the day from artists, poets and more. [tate.org.uk](http://tate.org.uk)



### Alexander McQueen: savage beauty

**V&A**

**Until 2 August**

Last chance to see the first and largest retrospective of the late designer's work to be presented in Europe. Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty showcases McQueen's visionary body of work. Spanning his 1992 MA graduate collection to his unfinished A/W 2010 collection, McQueen's designs are presented with the dramatic staging and sense of spectacle synonymous with his runway shows. He combined a profound grasp of tailoring and eclectic range of influences with a relentless pursuit to challenge the boundaries of art and fashion. [vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk)



### Tendence

**Frankfurt am Main**

**28 August – 1 September**

Tendence presents bespoke offers and solutions for the contract business and is a must for interior-furnishing specialists, interior architects and decision makers from the hotel and restaurant industry in the second half of the year. Over 80 specialised exhibitors will present an attractive spectrum for furnishing hotels and restaurants. Renowned companies such as Casablanca, Eurofashion homeconcepts, Haans Lifestyle BV, Light & Living and Wohnmanufaktur Grünberger will present their experience and expertise within the fields of furniture, home and decorative accessories for furnishing commercial premises. [tendence.messefrankfurt.com](http://tendence.messefrankfurt.com)





# Redefining the office

With contemporary society and business constantly adapting and engaging with new working processes, perhaps now is the time to rethink traditional workplace concepts.

**A**s life expectancy in the UK increases, people will face lengthy periods of retirement with proportionally less pension provision, unless they stay economically active for longer. However, older people who wish to remain in employment often face practical, cultural, organisational and psychological barriers within the workplace. Office layout and facilities have a substantial impact on employee wellness and staff retention, therefore one way that employers can respond to this demographic shift is to ensure the working environment meets the needs of every employee, especially those older people who would like to continue working.

Oliver Baxter, Programme Manager Insight Group at office furniture specialist Herman Miller, comments: "If an office space is designed for the

individuals in a workforce, then the debate around an ageing work population becomes less important. The main focus of a work setting should be the types of activities that are undertaken there, giving people the chance to choose where the work gets done.

"Regardless of age, the many needs of people doing different work can be accommodated by adopting a diverse landscape of purposeful settings, rather than standardised workstations and generic meeting rooms – at Herman Miller we call this a Living Office."

## Encouraging productivity

To accommodate the many needs of people doing different work, Herman Miller's Living Office concept proposes a shift from standardised workstations and generic meetings rooms, to a

Above: This space allows people to transition easily between focused and collaborative work

Right: These scenarios demonstrate how different workplace areas need different designs – these are examples of places to converse, concentrate and contemplate









diverse landscape of purposeful settings. The aim is to create a more natural and desirable workplace that fosters greater connection, creativity, productivity and, ultimately, greater prosperity for all.

The Living Office concept suggests that: “Tomorrow’s offices need to attract, nurture, enable and retain the talent that will drive innovation and execution, and bring an organisation’s strategy to life. Through an optimised variety of settings, a Living Office will give individuals something that cannot be had in any other place: a spiritual connection to work and colleagues; a platform for increased productivity and effectiveness and a more naturally human experience of interaction and creation.”

The office should be a place where employees want to go to work, rather than feeling like they have to. This can be achieved by creating an office landscape that achieves results for individuals as well as the organisation. Where many workplaces offer a standardised, generic solution that could just as well suit the next set of tenants, this concept recognises that each

business is different and offers a methodology to create an office environment where employees will want to be, and where everyone is encouraged to do their best work.

#### Meeting each employee’s requirements

Just as every business is different, each person within a business is unique and therefore has different needs. Herman Miller has categorised the different ways that people engage within an office and have recommended different workplace settings that support these.

The 10 modes of working range from moments of unplanned working process – such as when someone needs space to process and respond to something and what occurs in the time leading up to and immediately following a formally scheduled meeting – to more recognised working modes – such as planned information sharing sessions or individual working spaces.

Herman Miller suggests these 10 workplace settings offer a spatial recipe that consider the optimal arrangement of surroundings, tools and furnishings to best support the

activities of individuals and groups in ways that are fundamental to all employees. By understanding the various spaces required for different modes of working, it is easier to piece together an office landscape design that appeals to the spectrum of individual employee needs. The landscape should enable and empower its inhabitants by providing choice and fostering community, not unlike a vibrant city. Thoughtful engagement with office design, such as placing individual work stations close to windows, will encourage a more harmonious working environment.

Organisations and management could be viewed as tools designed by mankind – a form of technology that must stay up to date and remain relevant. It could be argued that the maximising, profit-driven business model has served well, but now requires updating. Aligning the fundamentals of human life to enterprise would prioritise individual passion and shared purpose; work has changed, therefore office design must adapt.

[hermanmiller.co.uk](http://hermanmiller.co.uk) «

Above: The workplace needs to offer the right setting for a variety of creative activities



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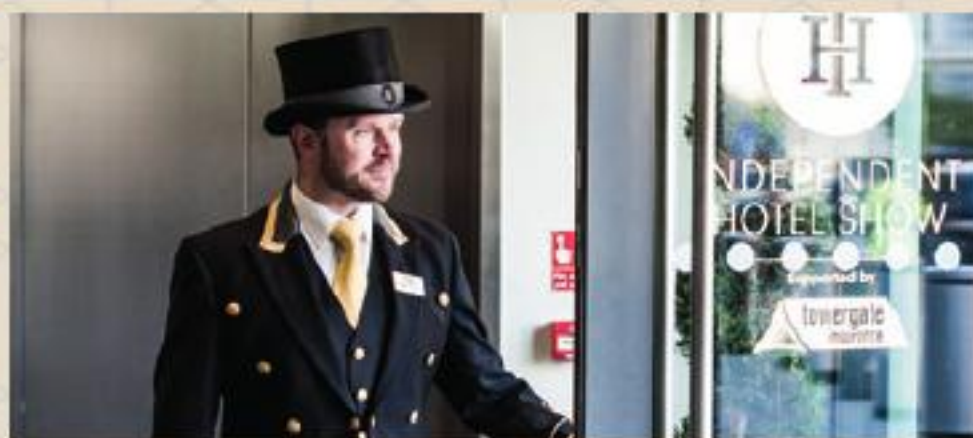
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## Preserving craftsmanship

Independent furniture workshops have suffered within our society of mass production, but one company that has kept business thriving is The Barnsley Workshop. James Ryan, Head Designer of The Barnsley Workshop, explains how the company has continued to make bespoke furniture since 1923.

**I**n the Barnsley Workshop we work to commission. Every one of our pieces is unique – made to meet the exact requirements of our clients. The five variations of library steps that we have produced in recent years have been much admired. I would hesitate to describe them as iconic – it is a strong word – but they are popular and a good representation of what we produce. They combine carefully considered design, fine craftsmanship and practicality. How many pieces of furniture are designed so that you can stand on them?

Larger manufacturers of furniture can mass-produce iconic pieces of furniture. However, how long such pieces will last is open to question. If a piece of furniture is to pass the test of time it helps if it is made with good quality materials. Compared to our work, the materials used to create mass-produced furniture

account for a higher proportion of the manufacturing cost. At The Barnsley Workshop, a great deal of effort is taken to make materials go further so, for example, instead of using full grain leather on a sofa, split hide is often used, which is less durable. Customers are often surprised to discover their sofa is upholstered with a leather composite.

The same is true in our field of wooden furniture. For example, veneers are used on the table tops of both mass-produced and bespoke furniture. However, a »

Above: James Ryan is Head Designer of The Barnsley Workshop

Right: The workshop has created five variations of library steps in recent years







piece of mass-produced furniture is much more likely to have thin edge-banding instead of the thicker, solid-wood lippings we use on our furniture. When furniture is knocked, edge bandings break off easily. Mass produced furniture is constructed using techniques that will tolerate both the small dimensional changes that occur in wood and small manufacturing errors. In mass production the gaps around the doors and drawers are bigger and rails are often set back from a table leg. At the Barnsley Workshop, we can fit doors and drawers accurately and make all our joints flush because we have the hand skills that allow us to work to higher tolerances.

I believe we offer an important and valuable alternative to mass-produced furniture. We are able to give our clients something they may not be able to find on the high street. Whether its a cabinet to display a collection of special porcelain or a table made to fit a particular room, our clients buy furniture from us knowing that we have taken extra care in selecting the timber and that we construct with attention to detail using skills developed over many years. The workshop has been producing furniture since it was established in 1923, and today there is still a demand for contemporary, high quality, one-off pieces of furniture. I hope our furniture is treasured and admired, and if that's the case then I am happy.

[barnsley-furniture.co.uk](http://barnsley-furniture.co.uk) «



Above: The workshop is set in idyllic surroundings in rural Hampshire  
Left: The company creates one-off pieces for private homes and public spaces





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# The people's brand

The history of the Republic of Fritz Hansen is characterised by stupendous craftsmanship, unique design and an inherent sense of premium quality. Here Sofie Lindahl Jessen – Fritz Hansen's Executive Vice President Sales and Brands Management – discusses the brand's heritage and innovation dedication.

Leading architects and furniture designers from all over the world have regularly contributed to Fritz Hansen's furniture collection. The Danish company produces beautifully shaped and functional furniture that seamlessly meet through the use of innovative techniques and new materials. Arne Jacobsen, Poul Kjærholm, Piet Hein, Vico Magistretti, Burkhard Vogtherr, Piero Lissoni, Kasper Salto and Morten Voss are just some of the stellar string of designers who have contributed to this brand's list of classic and iconic furniture designs.

"Our design philosophy reflects our history and inspires the creation of new, simple, sculptural and original furniture that is timeless and relevant in time," explains Sofie Lindahl Jessen – Fritz Hansen's Executive Vice President Sales and Brands Management.

"Fritz Hansen design is visionary and makes the most out of noble materials. Every detail is carefully thought out, the process is thorough and the high finish is a part of the look, which is unique yet instantly recognisable. Each piece of furniture is sophisticated in its own way, has a strong identity and the ability to discreetly light up any type of space. Whether it's a chair, a table or a lamp, it should evoke an emotional attachment that takes it beyond any temporary trend, with an aesthetic appeal that transcends time."



## Timeless design

The history of Fritz Hansen began in 1872, when the enterprising cabinet-maker Fritz Hansen from Nakskov obtained a trade license in Copenhagen. In 1885 he started a furniture production company of his own and two years later he managed to establish a flourishing workshop in Christianshavn – a central part of Copenhagen. Fritz and his son Christian initiated the company's high-quality standard, which has been the trademark of Fritz Hansen's products ever since.

Sofie describes the brand's signature style as: "Timeless design that is ageing with beauty; a pure design language that is transformed into sculptural

Top: The brand is famous for its innovative furniture design and designer collaborations  
Above: Sofie Lindahl-Jessen is Fritz Hansen's Executive Vice President Sales & Brand Management







forms that exudes understated exclusivity.

“Excellent furniture is created when craftsmanship, timeless design and high quality is transformed into a product. From a Fritz Hansen point of view, the greatest evolution in furniture design has been the evolution of steam bending wood. This is a woodworking technique where strips of wood are steam heated using a steam box. The applied heat and moisture make the wood pliable enough to easily bend around a mould to create a specific shape. The wood is then dried in a hot oven. When the wood dries, it will follow the curve of the mould. This was the technique that made it possible for Fritz Hansen to create our most sold chair ever – The Series 7 – and therefore a great evolution for the design history.”

The first fifty years of Fritz Hansen saw a long list of prestigious orders, demonstrating how established Fritz Hansen had become in the early twentieth century. The first Danish steel furniture was created by the brand in the 1930s, as well as the famous Church chair by Kaare Klint – a design that remained in the Fritz Hansen collection until 2004.

Above: Series 7 comes in ten different veneers  
Left: The Egg is available in a wide range of fabric and leather upholstery  
Right: Ro is an easy chair and foot stool that comes in nine unique designer selections





The company has a long history of working alongside established designers, from partnering with Arne Jacobsen in the fifties to create classic style icons such as the Egg and the Swan, to collaborating with the hugely influential avante-garde designer Verner Panton in the seventies.

Having established a primary focus in five utility areas during the 1990s – canteen, conference room, resting/waiting areas, office chairs and finally private spaces – in 2000 the introduction of the concept Republic of Fritz Hansen marked a change in strategy for the brand. This presented the message that furniture from the Republic of Fritz Hansen is an important part of the image of companies and private customers, who want to express their individuality and make unique statements.

### Keeping one step ahead

As well as working alongside independent designers, the brand has a design department that are constantly conducting research on future trends.

Sofie continues: “It’s all about expertise, an uncompromising commitment to quality and a passion for the materials that make

each piece so unique and that set us apart from our competitors. In the process of producing our laminated veneer chairs, everything is carefully scrutinised, with as many as 22 hands checking the quality of our chairs before they leave our factory. Including the highly trained expert who hand

picks the veneer from the batch. And the specialist who chooses which piece will form a coherent sheet of veneer – or not. The result is incomparable perfection seen in the natural flow in the grains of the wood. Likewise, the hides for our leather chairs undergo a thorough selection process that’s just as stringent. Where each piece is closely examined for any scratches or flaws via a special, high intensity microscope so that only the best of the best are chosen.”





As well as an emphasis on trend research development, Fritz Hansen has also demonstrated a commitment to sustainability – increasingly important for the furniture industry. The brand works to four sustainable focus areas that prove its commitment to improving Fritz Hansen's eco-credentials: to create long lasting products; to reduce toxic chemicals; to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to secure responsible sourcing.

### Trend setters

When asked what she values most about the design industry, Sofie comments: "The joy of being surrounded by aesthetics all day and the passionate people I meet all around the world."

"In terms of trends, I think pastel colours are quite popular this year. For example, the Anniversary edition of the Series 7 chair in pale pink is really popular. In the contract market, I believe that the tendency of hominess will continue and the boundaries between home and job environment will be less clear."

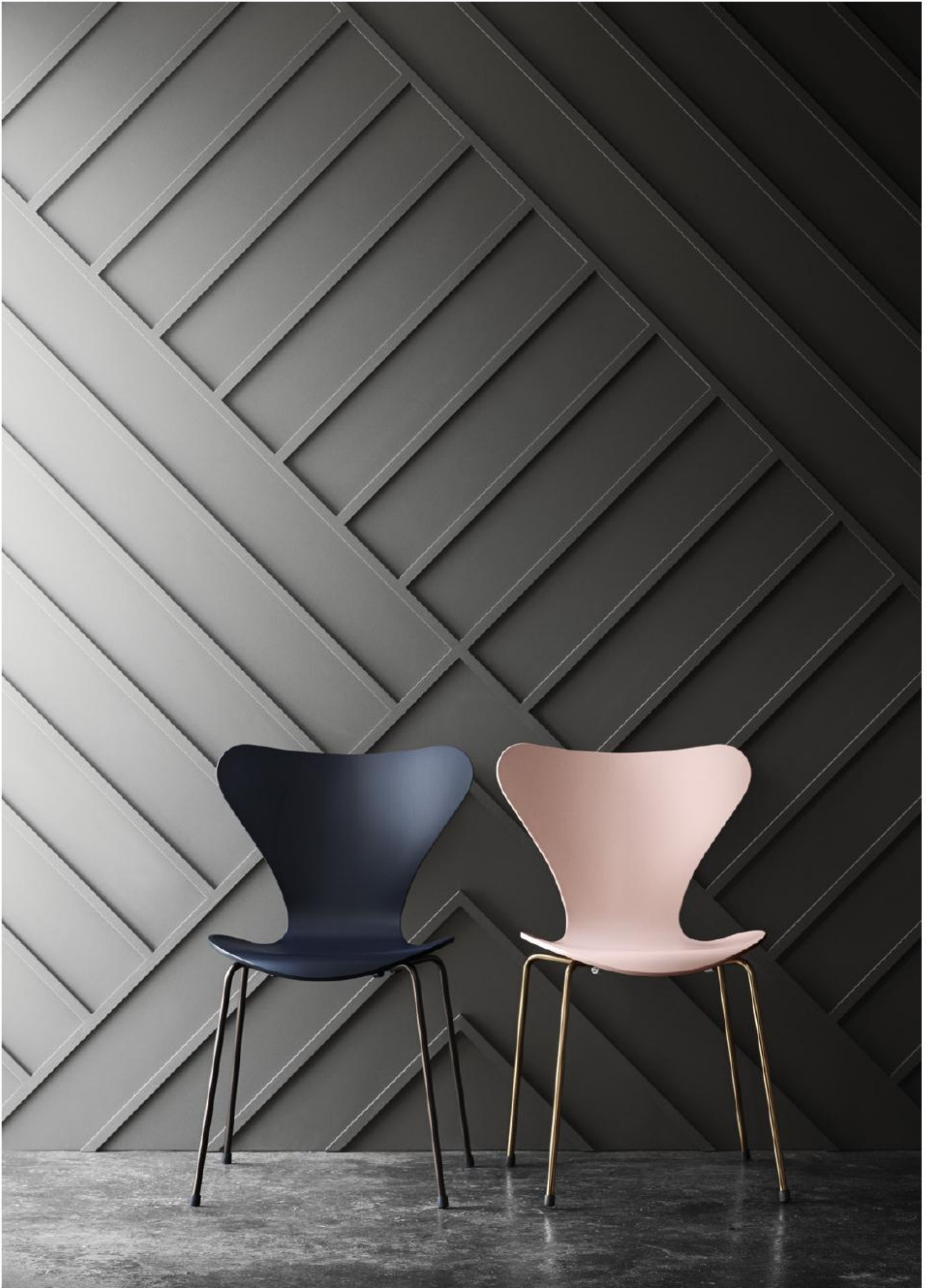
As for what we can expect to see from Fritz Hansen in the coming years, Sofie dropped hints of some big news on the horizon: "We will launch several new products next year from different designers and then we have some big news that I can't reveal yet... but stay tuned!"

[fritzhenzen.com](http://fritzhenzen.com) «



Above: Sammen is available with or without armrests  
Left: Fri is an easy chair designed for Fritz Hansen by Jaime Hayon  
Right: To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Series 7, two special editions of the 3107 chair have been made









# Holding the fort

An innovative, interactive timber design has put new life into the historic defensive wall of Vestvolden in Copenhagen.

V EGA Architects have introduced play and movement to this historical landscape at the same time as bringing the story of the region's history to life. Three education stations allow visitors to "Play on the ramparts" in an area of this undulating park, situated in one corner of the 10km outdoor space in Denmark's capital.

The thematic stations have been installed in and amongst the physical remnants of a bygone era using traditional materials with a modern, sustainable twist. Kebony's sustainable alternative to tropical wood was one such material, specified because of

its impressive environmental credentials. The Kebony technology is a patented process which enhances the properties of non-durable wood species to give them similar characteristics to the best performing woods. Through a sustainable process wood species such as pines and some non-durable hardwoods are impregnated with a bio-based liquid derived from agricultural crop waste.

Carsten Løppenthin Møller, Country Manager at Kebony, Denmark, comments: "The challenge here was to create something new, modern and exciting without detracting from the antiquity of this site. The landscaping architects therefore

Above: Vestvolden was used as fortification until 1920, but today it is a recreational area  
Left: Kebony is a sustainable alternative to tropical hardwood  
Top right: Each element has been specifically designed so as not to damage the historic site  
Right: The park is a rampart complex, west of Copenhagen

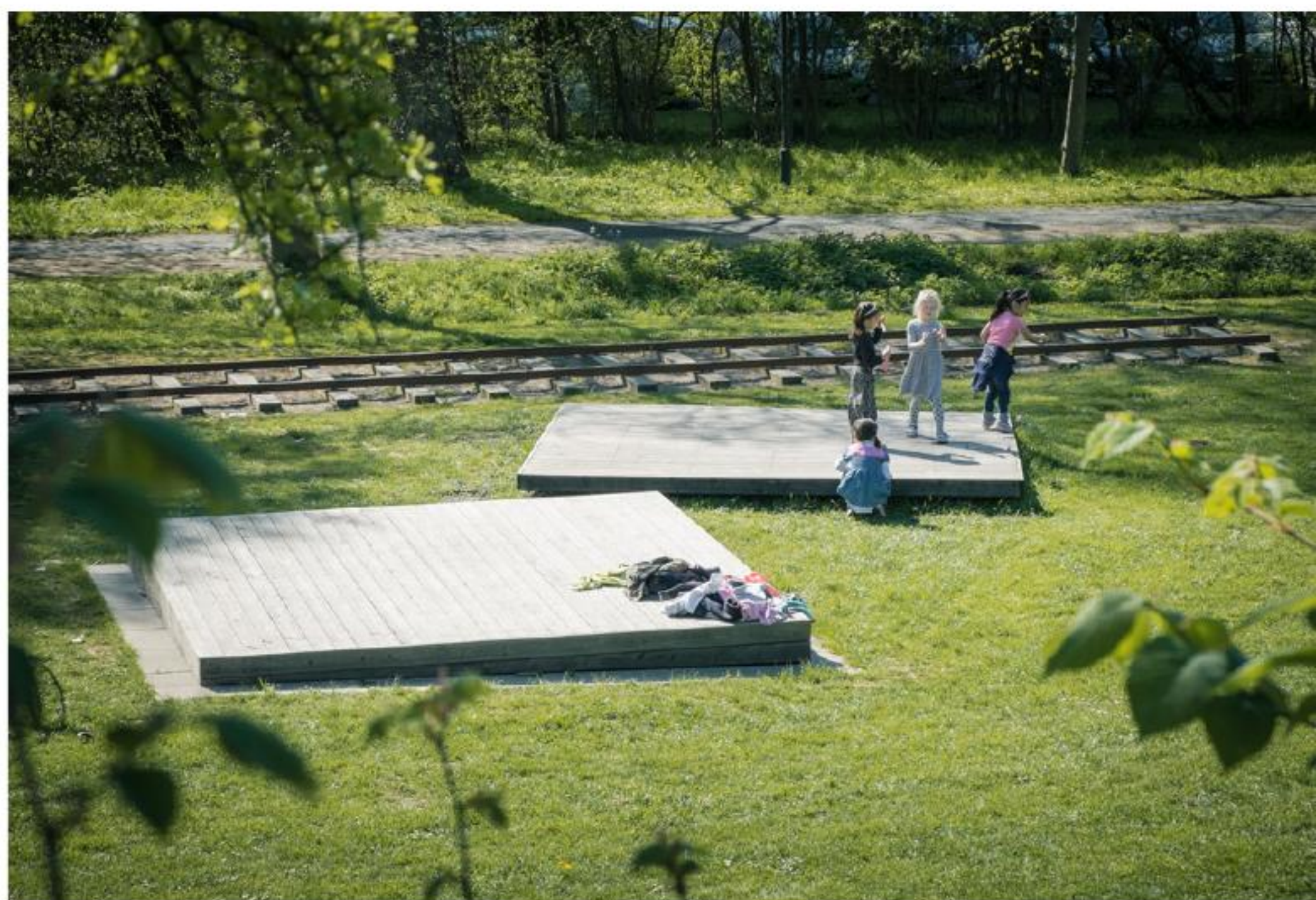




designed interactive structures to bring the history of this area to life in a tangible way. The simple, clean and minimal designs are inspired by the cultural heritage and the decision to use Kebony, which has an organic appearance and a natural quality that enables neutrality and is integral to the historical restoration. The use of timber in this way also celebrates and continues the long-standing Scandinavian tradition of incorporating timber into construction.”

#### **Accurately portraying heritage**

The Heritage Agency gave authorisation for the project under the proviso that the new park



additions effectively conveyed the location’s heritage. Not only do these structures accurately tell a story, but also all elements have been specifically designed and built so that, if needed, they can be removed without damaging the historic ramparts.

Visitors can imagine and experience first hand how life was

for nineteenth century soldiers – from the tribulations of daily life to the manually and physically challenging chores they had to complete to main the integrity of the armouries. Design elements include features specific to the region, such as the light pavilions that represent former tent structures used for camping on the ramparts during training sessions. An original and important military vantage and look-out point has been restored so that visitors can scale the steep slope and properly explore the expansive park.







Carsten continues: “Kebony’s selection as the material for the basis of the structures is also one of pragmatism and foresight. As children play on the equipment, running, jumping and sliding, a certain amount of wear is inevitable over the years – something that is not helped by its exposed position, open to weathering and the elements. But Kebony’s complex, environmentally benign composition means that it is resistant to decay; its lifespan is increased nine fold and it will not rot but instead will acquire a silver-gray patina as it weathers. This robustness is integral to the longevity of the structure which complements the strength of the other materials, the geometry and details used in this project, all of which reflect the original elements of the site as it was in 1890.”

#### Sustainable core

Sustainability and cultural recognition were at the core of this project’s aim. The landscape architectural practice behind the design, VEGA Architects, is a young firm – founded by Anne Dorthe Vestergaard and Anne Galmar – that creates meaningful framework for living people. Its vision is that the landscapes and spaces it creates must also be to the benefit of future generations. Therefore, sustainability is the starting point in every project. The team draw everything from experience-based playgrounds for multi-use urban space and maintenance-free nature reserves. The team especially enjoy projects that create surprising and meaningful environment for many people,







Above: Vestvolden was used as fortification until 1920, but today it is a recreational area  
Left: Kebony is a sustainable alternative to tropical hardwood  
Top right: Each element has been specifically designed so as not to damage the historic site  
Right: The park is a rampart complex, west of Copenhagen

helping to improve the existing framework by creating the space and proportions that complement each other.

Anne Dorthe Vestergaard explains: "The task here was to create a narrative space for physical activity and play, operating as both a social meeting place and an outdoor learning space. Playing and movement become tools to bring history alive: jumping between

the boxes from the artillery stock, swinging in the hammocks from the tent camp or fly down the cannon ramp in the cable swing. Historically inspired materials were chosen for the project, for example Kebony's sustainable wood, steel details and rope are contemporary interpretations of elements from 1890."

Kebony is suitable for both internal and external applications

that demand high performance and great aesthetics. Over time this material acquires a silver-grey patina, but it's the durability and dimensional stability that encourages architects and designers to specify this alternative to tropical hardwood. Other high profile applications include The Mary Rose museum in Portsmouth and Hunter's Point in New York.

[kebony.com](http://kebony.com) «





# Scratching the surface of bathroom specification

Mar Esteve Cortes, Marketing Project Manager at TheSize, advises on bathroom surfacing and explores current trends.



According to a recent Lloyds Bank survey, almost 2 million homeowners are choosing to improve their home rather than move, with bathrooms being the main priority for 30% of respondents. Research by HSBC has found that a new bathroom, on average, results in a 48% return on investment.

With house prices continuing to rise, many homeowners consider their home as a long-term investment and continue to add value to their property through refurbishment, rather than moving house. As a result, consumers demand bathroom products that offer longevity and luxury. This is especially true when investing in surfacing which, due to its versatility of application, essentially shapes the design of a bathroom. To reduce refurbishment costs further, surfacing that can be just as easily applied to an existing surface as it can be removed, has also seen a rise in popularity, with lightweight options that can be cut to bespoke measurements particularly favoured.

## A departure from the traditional

Traditionally, lacquered surfaces were the default choice for the average bathroom, but now we see manufacturers offering more interesting solutions such as wood, granite and sintered surfaces. The increase in choice is partly due to manufacturers wanting to remain competitive through creating greater product differential and is also a result of greater customer demand for eco-friendly, natural materials.

Similarly, where tiling was routinely favoured for bathroom walls and flooring, we now find sintered surfaces increasingly specified for projects. Aside from offering further aesthetic and design options to its tile counterpart, sintered surfaces have the additional advantage of eliminating the need for grouting; this makes a surface easier to clean and maintain, and limits potential hygiene concerns associated with grouting.

## Design

Consumer desire for a 'natural' bathroom environment goes beyond materials, as it is also reflected in current design trends. We have recently noticed a move away from geometric designs, and in its place more organic and »

Top left: Lacquered surfacing is no longer the only option for bathroom design  
Above: Mar Esteve Cortes is Marketing Project Manager at surfacing expert TheSize



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Left: Bathroom humidity is no longer a concern for wood effects thanks to digital printing  
Above: Here, a marbled print makes a glamorous statement  
Top right: Textured choices are popular for bathroom surfacing  
Right: Modern alternatives to wood mean that the timber aesthetic can be enjoyed

natural forms are increasingly popular. Colour-wise, having made its stamp in 2014, grey continues to be the on-trend tone for 2015. Concerns that a grey palette may create a lifeless environment are often offset by introducing whites – for a sophisticated appearance – or through including eye-catching colours and striking metal aesthetics.

Metal surfaces were a growing trend in 2014 and this has continued into 2015, with copper and bronze tones at the forefront of design trends. Aged and distressed metallic finishes bring warmth to a bathroom, where the richness of the metals are often accentuated alongside a dark backdrop; again, we see why greys are featuring more predominantly in such environments. Today, we see manufacturers offer state of the art decoration technology to obtain authentic metal-like features. This provides an alternative option for consumers who are deterred by the cost or practicality of having real metal in the bathroom.

Texture remains a key trend, in particular timber and stone effects. Although favoured for its aesthetic, timber as a material is often perceived to be unsuitable for application in wet and humid environments, which is why replication through digital printing, as with metals, is a common solution. Similarly, other 'textured' choices such as textile and stone effects are available via digital print – providing the visual illusion of the real deal yet with the properties of easier to maintain surfaces. »







#### Space and energy saving

Walk-in showers have become increasingly popular in 2015. This has been attributed to a number of factors such as the growing 'green' trend, since bath water consumption greatly exceeds that of a shower. However, there is also an element of practicality at work; when it comes to fitting a bathroom into a small space or a home conversion, walk-in showers provide a versatile option without compromising on style or quality – as well as ease of access for those with limited mobility.

Small shower trays and simple shower enclosures no longer dominate the market. Instead now we see a demand for larger enclosures and sophisticated walk-in showers. Consumers are better informed and therefore there is a rising desire for luxurious bathroom and shower sanctuaries as statement pieces. To get that true walk-in feeling we find the application of floor-to-ceiling tiling is favoured over the presence of shower trays. In order to accommodate this we see manufacturers offering surface solutions that come in huge slabs.

#### Sustainability

There continues to be a growing awareness surrounding sustainable living, with upcycled products and recyclable materials featuring more prominently across the spectrum of interior elements. In fact, this trend for sustainability has been identified within construction on a global scale. Consumers expect design-led options to be balanced alongside sustainable alternatives. This results in surface production with minimal impact on the environment and end products that are fully recyclable.

Above: Sophisticated walk-in showers are popular thanks to demands for a home spa experience  
Right: Grey continues to be an on-trend tone throughout domestic application





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# Crafting a hospitality masterpiece

Tom Dixon's Design Research Studio is behind the design of three floors of culinary surprise and luxury dining at new restaurant Craft London.

**C**raft London is three floors of culinary excellence situated in the Greenwich Peninsula. The Craft cafe and roaster were available for use last October, but the restaurant and rooftop bar have only just opened to the public.

Located in the new pavilion by Marks Barfield Architects, which is at the entrance to the Peninsula, the team at Tom Dixon's Design Research Studio sought to contrast the hardness of the building's glazed facade with soft elements and the clean modern lines with organic patterns and natural materials.

## Adventurous concept

The new restaurant has been designed by Design Research Studio for 30-year-old chef, restaurateur, food writer and television presenter Stevie Parle. Over the last few years Stevie has developed a reputation as a culinary adventurer, discovering new ways to use everyday ingredients to create exciting recipes by adapting ideas. This culinary surprise has created a delicious menu for the new British restaurant.



Left: Statement lighting echoes the lights of the city seen through the expansive glazing  
Above: The ceiling pattern has been inspired by watercolour paintings  
Right: The top floor features a large curved pewter bar





Design Research Studio also wanted to use the interior to reflect and complement Stevie Parle's cooking. Where possible, materials have been installed by specialist crafts people and manufacturers to mirror Stevie's use of British produce, unique combinations and strong ingredients.

The restaurant describes itself as a New British restaurant: "At Craft, we focus on quality in production by collaborating with modern experts, fanatics and obsessives to craft world class products through the roasting of coffee, smoking of fish, bee keeping, meat curing, fermentation of vegetables and the creation of a contemporary kitchen garden. Both the restaurant dishes







Left: A vibrant blue palette has been used in the restaurant

Top left: The bar on the top floor benefits from incredible views of Canary Wharf

Above: Velvet seating brings added luxury to the design

Top right: Copper accessories are a popular design choice for the studio





and the products created using almost exclusively British products bought from farmers we know well and always handled with a light, modern touch.”

#### Luxury appeal

On the ground floor is the cafe, featuring a grey brick-clad wood-burning bread oven surrounded by a hand-made glazed brick countertop and tables with handmade glazed enamel tops. The design is industrial chic, emphasised with exposed ducting and grey brick flooring and walls. Vibrant blue tables and chairs connect with the glass countertop – beautifully representing the design studio’s bold palette preference.

The first floor restaurant uses the blue and grey palette of the cafe as a foundation for turning the high-end appeal up a notch – emphasised especially in added deep blue tones, greater variation

in texture and gold pendant lighting. The space offers expansive views of the kitchen and features a pewter bar with a steel and aluminium bottle display. Seating areas include over-sized and sumptuous velvet banquettes for larger groups and a double height blue wall in traditional Moroccan plaster is a key design highlight within the space.

The rooftop bar has 360 degrees of uninterrupted views of the Peninsula, Canary Wharf and the O2 thanks to floor to ceiling glazing. The palette is transformed once more, this time opting for warm red, purple and yellow hues. The large curved pewter bar with suspended copper storage contrasts with the upholstered leather walls and seating wrapped around the elliptical core. A carpeted ceiling is tinged with a watercolour inspired motif of



swirling patterns in warm tones. The menu boasts a selection of simple and modern cocktails.

#### Tom Dixon take-over

Craft London is situated at the entrance to a new public garden, also designed by Design Research Studio. This is London’s first new park for one hundred years and draws inspiration from the varied history of Greenwich Peninsula from wilderness to the centre of heavy industry.

Working alongside landscape gardeners Alys Fowler and Thomas Hoblyn, the team have created a space that celebrates the varied and colourful history of the site through the different layers of the design. The land forms take inspiration from the rivulets from the London flood plain, the trees from the alders that later recovered the marshes and the blackened wood and stone echoing the industrial revolution.

[designresearchstudio.net](http://designresearchstudio.net) «





## Wall-to-wall trend statements

The right feature wall can make or break an interior scheme. Here, to help you get it right, Inex profiles the latest domestic wallpaper trends and collections.



Whether you are looking for a subtle pattern or bold focal feature, with so many wallpaper options available, specification decisions can become a stressful exercise. Anne Fulford, Managing Director at fabric and wallcovering expert Kingdom Interiors, offers some advice: “Statement walls are such a great way to add individuality and character to any home with minimal effort. The best way to start is to decide what impact you would like the feature wall to have in the room you are decorating. For instance, are you hoping to create a focal point in the living room, a fun addition to a child’s bedroom, or perhaps a quirky statement wall for the kitchen? Ensure you take into consideration the colour and design of the surrounding interior decor – we have a great mood board function on our website that’s perfect for comparing different colourways.

“The next step is to get some inspiration! There is a fabulous selection of wallpapers available on the market at the moment that are sure to make an eye-catching statement in any home. Some personal favourites are the bold and beautiful Abracazoo wallpaper as well as the unique Azuli collection, but I also love the beautifully patterned Samana wallpaper selection and the striking Oxymore range.”





Far left: Zingara,  
Cerulean Sea with  
Jack Black by Little  
Greene

Above: Treasure  
Map by Sanderson,  
available from  
Kingdom Interiors

Right: Camelia,  
Smalt with Smalt by  
Little Greene

### Visual Impact

Wallpaper specialist Galerie Wallcoverings have launched a new collection that aims to create an instant impact wherever placed. Invigorating, uplifting and colourful, the new Tempo wallpaper collection uses bright colour palettes amidst vivid and bold patterns.

Featuring fresh greens, citrus yellows, tangy oranges, punchy pinks and purples, choose from decorative floral patterns and abstract geometric prints to enhance single feature walls with a fun and playful aesthetic. The contemporary designs are also presented in a choice of simple stripes and plains, perfect for evoking an on-trend subtle style within interiors and taking the look from season to season. For a bold impact, complete the look







with bright and modern accessories or combine with natural wooden furnishings for a sophisticated and minimalist style.

#### Colour trend

Little Greene is well-known for its paints, but its vast collection of wallpapers are equally beautiful. A new compendium of 20th Century Papers are part of the fashion-inspired 'Blue' collection – tailored to channel the coolest looks on this year's catwalk.

These wallpaper patterns comprise the most popular designs from three previous collections: Retrospective Papers, Oriental Papers and 50s Line Papers. Existing designs have been re-mastered to harmonise with the 'Blue' paint range. A 'brand new' 1950s design, 'Zingara', has been added: a striking line drawing of boats resting at anchor, derived from a John Line collection in the Whitworth archive.

David Mottershead, MD of Little Greene, is delighted with the company's new colours: "Blue is the richest of colours, and historically the most expensive to produce. In art, blue paint was reserved for depicting royalty, dignitaries and religious figures and still, to this day, holds the same luxurious appeal and hypnotic allure. Many people fear to use blue because of its reputation as being cold and masculine – we can show a new way with this carefully edited collection and make blue more useable than ever."

[kingdominteriors.co.uk](http://kingdominteriors.co.uk) «

[galeriehome.co.uk](http://galeriehome.co.uk) «

[littlegreene.com](http://littlegreene.com) «

Above and left: The Tempo collection by Galerie features bright colours and vibrant motifs, priced at £29.95 per roll





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## Getting renewable solutions off the ground

An off-grid holiday home can now guarantee a comfortable temperature year-round thanks to ground source and exhaust air heat pumps.

A remote holiday home on the Isle of Skye has overcome heating challenges by incorporating renewable technology. The property – called Skye Window House – boasts floor-to-ceiling windows and impressive coastal views with three bedrooms and two

bathrooms. However, its location off the west coast of mainland Scotland experiences extreme weather conditions throughout the year, so the owner struggled to guarantee a consistent and comfortable temperature for guests.

The owner, Torsten Mansson, faced the challenge of finding a solution

that would ensure a comfortable indoor environment and reliable hot water, regardless of the severe climate outside. Torsten researched renewable heating options and was keen to specify a heat pump system. He approached local specialist Lochaber Renewables for further advice.

Director of Lochaber Renewables, Graham Moss and Torsten discussed the difficulties that the off-grid property faced and the solutions available. Together, they decided to install a NIBE F1245 ground source heat pump and exhaust air package. The 8kW ground source heat pump comes as an indoor unit complete with integrated 180L hot water storage cylinder and built-in controls, a 100L buffer tank and a NIBE FLM exhaust air module. The unit is able to harness reliable heating and hot water for the property throughout the year from a 150m external borehole. The luxury holiday home also benefits from temperature-controlled ventilation thanks to the NIBE FLM module system that uses a heat recovery and air recycling system.

Torsten comments: “Before the installation, I’d done a lot of research into renewable heating technologies and providers – and it was NIBE’s expertise and track record in the industry that really stood out. I’m half Swedish, so I knew the company has a long heritage of products that stand up to





extreme conditions, and that's exactly what we need in a place where the outside temperature can fluctuate between bitterly cold and very warm."

Graham adds: "The Skye Window House has been built to a very high efficiency spec: with huge double-glazed windows downstairs and upstairs, extensive insulation and underfloor heating throughout. I've got a lot of experience working with the NIBE range, and as a VIP installer I've built up an in-depth knowledge of the products – so I knew its fabric made the house ideal for a NIBE F1245 ground source heat pump. However, with such a high level of heat-loss protection and glazing, proper ventilation was also a key concern. The addition of the NIBE FLM exhaust air module means guests benefit from a consistent supply of fresh air, while the house stays warm and comfortable in all weather conditions."

Skye Window House has now had the system fully fitted and has been able to reap the rewards of this renewable technology. The installation is also eligible for the government's Renewable Heat Incentive scheme, which means Torsten will benefit from ongoing payments thanks to the amount of heat that the ground source heat pump produces.



The system operates using the landscape as a heat source – whether ground, rock or lake – and is designed for use in smaller domestic properties, or alongside other NIBE ground source heat pumps for larger applications. This F1245 unit is available in four outputs and can come with a seven-year warranty if fitted by a NIBE VIP installer.

Guests now benefit from readily available hot water and heating. Torsten is able to monitor and control the system online by accessing the system via NIBE Uplink's secure login – an ideal

solution for any property owner.

Torsten concludes: "Overall, we are finding the system very responsive and easy to use. I simply set the desired temperature and leave it to its own devices, and it helps create a cosy, luxury feel in the house. I have no worries about guests using it either, as the controls are so intuitive – as straightforward as using an iPhone. From a logistical point of view, the system is far lower maintenance and cost-effective to run than other off-grid alternatives, like oil."

[nibe.co.uk](http://nibe.co.uk) «

Above: The property has three bedrooms and two bathrooms  
Above right: The holiday home benefits from stunning views  
Right: The system has been supplied by Lochaber Renewables, who are a NIBE VIP installer





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## A leading light

Italian interior designer and television personality, Andrea Castrignano and lighting brand Buzzi & Buzzi have transformed a prestigious Milan apartment by mixing materials, colours and technology.

Situated in the famous downtown Milan district, Atelier Durini 15 is 200m<sup>2</sup> of urban luxury. Celebrity interior designer Andrea Castrignano was at the forefront of the project and has created a new dimension of living by using refined details,

complementing materials and colours, furniture and the latest technologies, which all together create a relaxing refuge from city life.

Along with living, dining and kitchen rooms, the apartment benefits from two bedrooms, three bathrooms and two walk-in wardrobes. The great visual and emotional impact of this space is accompanied by the use of home automation solutions. »

Above: Modern and attractive lighting solutions have brought further luxury to the design





Right: Orb-like lighting makes a dramatic statement

Below: Recessed strip lighting illuminates the kitchen

Below right: The apartment is in Milan

The project's aim was to create a space of extensive comfort, to be established in every detail of the property. Buzzi & Buzzi was the selected lighting partner for the project, whose contribution helped to achieve this ambitious result.

The largely open plan living/dining space combines a soft palette of duckegg blue and dusky pink alongside statement artwork, luxurious fabrics and hexagonal floor tiles. Bold lighting, such as suspended orb-like chandeliers and flush wall strips contribute to the overall sense of luxury throughout the property. The bedroom is home to a more

natural palette of earthy creams and browns, where luxury is accentuated via patterned wallpaper applied to the ceiling.

#### Lighting solutions

From uplights in the wardrobe and markers in the corridor to recessed wall and ceiling lighting designs, it was lighting contractors Canonica

d'Adda – in collaboration with the planner – that studied the space and determined which lighting solutions would be best. They chose to specify Buzzi & Buzzi lighting which is made from a material called AirCoral. The prestigious collaboration confirms Buzzi & Buzzi's ability to produce valid solutions that combine both technology and design.







Above: A duckegg blue palette dominates the living space

Right: The bathroom includes feature lighting

Buzzi & Buzzi's AirCoral has high performance capacities. It is characterised by its eco-active, anti-polluting, anti-bacterial and photocatalytic properties, effectively improving the quality of life for those inhabiting the areas where it has been installed. It also has the capacity to break down pollutants encountered in the urban environment, such as Hexane – a toxic gas produced by the use of hydrocarbons for fuel and heating. The revolutionary new feature of this material lies in its capacity to purify the air, making the areas where it is installed significantly cleaner, healthier and more hygienic, and reducing the harmful effects of the main polluting agents.

Andrea Buzzi, owner of Buzzi & Buzzi, comments: "This collaborative project has made us really proud. Andrea Castrignano has been able to create a way of living that enhances the Made in Italy profile and promotes it around the world. The beginning of the project – planned to coincide with the week of Design in Milan – enables this project to act as a prototype, as the center of a system of excellence for which we are appreciated worldwide. Buzzi & Buzzi lighting was chosen because they are the perfect synthesis of the high-end requirements."

The lighting design has emphasised every room in the property to create a balance between traditional style and the desire to define a smart, functional and technologically advanced place.

[buzzi-buzzi.it/en](http://buzzi-buzzi.it/en) «







## Product Spotlight

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

1. Hansgrohe's new Rainmaker Select is an impressive new range of overhead showers that make showering a sensual experience, transforming the bathroom into a place of refuge and relaxation. Additionally, the assortment is especially appealing thanks to a new surface made from white glass – a refined material that turns the products into eye-catchers and upgrades the bathroom ambience to a decisive degree. Shown for the first time at ISH in Frankfurt, the selection of materials emphasises the clear design language of the products. The design's rimless surface, framed by a narrow chrome casing, gives the overhead showers an exclusive look and makes them suitable for use in any bathroom environment.

[www.hansgrohe.co.uk](http://www.hansgrohe.co.uk) 01372 472001





2



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2. With his new Cape Cod bathroom range, French designer Philippe Starck has reinvented the bathroom, removing the barriers between nature and the indoors. Ceramic wash bowls with distinctively thin edges and perfectly coordinated bathtubs and furniture can be combined or used individually within the room and positioned as desired. Gently curved shapes form the foundation of the Cape Cod range. The exclusive basins are produced from a specially developed high strength ceramic mass with an elegant finish. The consoles with shelves boast a timelessly modern design and meet the very highest demands and the no-nonsense bathtubs have been designed with relaxation in mind.

[www.duravit.co.uk](http://www.duravit.co.uk) 0845 500 7787

3. Kaldewei launched a new product segment at ISH 2015: washbasins made of Kaldewei steel enamel represent the logical expansion of the existing product portfolio. Now, alongside new design lines, washbasins are also available to match with the most successful Kaldewei model lines. In this way Kaldewei customers have the opportunity to fit-out their bathrooms in a single material, with a coherent design vocabulary and coordinated colours – from shower area to bathtub and washbasin. With Kaldewei Silenio, Anke Salomon has created a completely new design vocabulary for the Kaldewei Ambiente segment: bathtubs and washbasins in this series are coordinated with each other. From the sides, the interior contours of the Silenio washbasin slope gently inwards, forming a soft, organic hollow.

[www.kaldewei.com](http://www.kaldewei.com) 01480 498053





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4. Polyflor's high design luxury vinyl tiles and high performance safety flooring have been used to help create a bright and welcoming atmosphere throughout Anya Court care home in Rugby, Warwickshire. Part of the Hallmark Care Homes Group, Anya Court was opened at the end of 2014 and provides nursing, residential and dementia care for up to 70 residents at their state of the art facilities. 1300m<sup>2</sup> of Polyflor flooring was installed by Galaxy Flooring to provide a homely, stimulating and safe environment for residents. The flooring has been used in a number of cafes, relaxing therapy rooms, hair salons and a cinema room within the care home.

[www.polyflor.com](http://www.polyflor.com) 0161 767 1111

5. A combination of Polyflor's Polysafe Verona PUR vinyl safety flooring in two complementary and stylish shades has been used to help create an eye-catching dining hall for pupils at The Sutton Academy in St Helens. As part of a major refurbishment project at the school, over 400m<sup>2</sup> of Polysafe Verona PUR flooring was installed throughout the dining and seating areas where pupils relax and have fun during break times. Verona flooring in Biscotti 5212 and Dolphin Grey 5203 shades have been used to create a neutral backdrop for the dining hall's vibrant purple and green benches, which tie in with the Academy's branding colours.

[www.polyflor.com](http://www.polyflor.com) 0161 767 1111





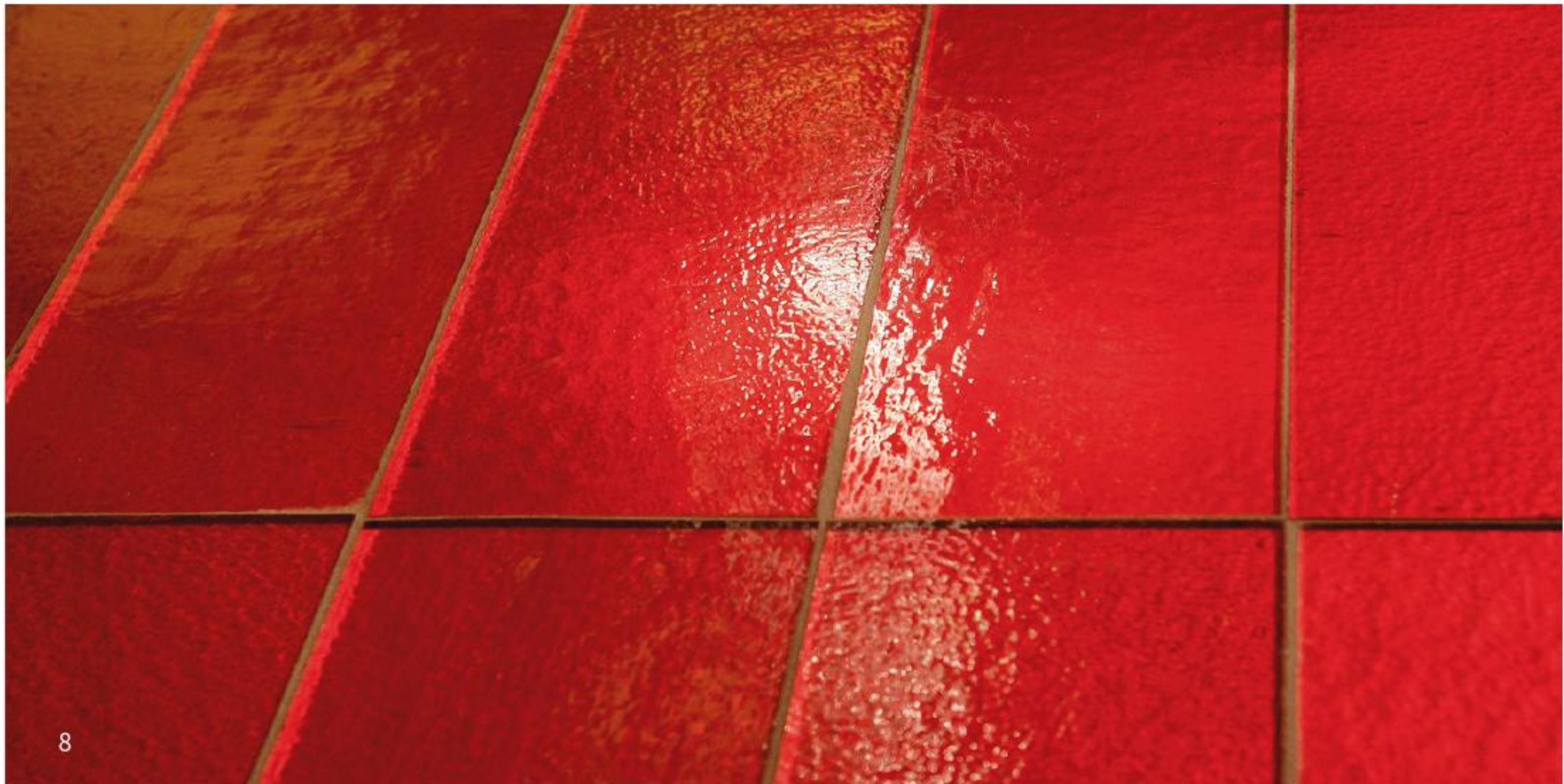
6. A range of Polyflor's high design and high performance vinyl flooring was recently installed at Rhondda Housing Association's brand new Llys Graig Y Wion social housing development in Pontypridd, Wales. Formerly a primary school, the stone built Victorian property has been converted by Rhondda Housing Association into much needed affordable yet high quality accommodation for the area. Polyflor's Acoustix Forest fx, Colonia and Polysafe Verona flooring was installed by Artisan Flooring of Swansea in approximately 29 apartments within Llys Graig Y Wion's three main blocks and three bungalows. The flooring contains recycled materials and is 100% recyclable via the Recofloor vinyl take back scheme.

[www.polyflor.com](http://www.polyflor.com) 0161 767 1111





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7. Expona Flow PUR sheet vinyl flooring from Polyflor was chosen by Broad Oak Primary School in Didsbury, Manchester as a hard wearing flooring option that would smarten up the school dining area and give years of performance in this high traffic space. The eye catching Reclaimed Chevron 9830 design from the Expona Flow PUR range was installed by Manchester based Barratt & Hughes flooring contractors in the school's canteen area. Launched earlier this year, the Expona Flow collection of heavy commercial sheet vinyl flooring features 50 wood, stone and abstract designs in a 2m wide sheet format with a 2mm gauge and a 0.7mm wear layer.  
[www.polyflor.com](http://www.polyflor.com) 0161 767 1111

8. Karma from Trend GB is a drawn glass, hand-cut transparent mosaic, with natural veining and deep internal fold lines. Architects and interior designers prize Karma for its unique choice of tile formats up to 4 x 8cm, even 48 x 96cm, and its deeply saturated colours with distinctive radiant reflections. This product was inspired by the windows of Gothic cathedrals, recreating the elegant colours and an illuminating effect of remarkable intensity. The unevenness of colour is a peculiarity of the product, which helps to create a pleasantly irregular and flamed finished effect. This can enhance walls, floors, swimming pool and fire surrounds, even exterior facades. Available in over 40 colours, Karma is priced from £206 per square metre.  
[www.trend-group.com](http://www.trend-group.com) 0800 044 5395





9. Crosswater is excited to announce the launch of four new tap ranges: Dune, Wedge, Silk and Pier. The latest innovative collections have been carefully designed to suit any bathroom scheme from the highly contemporary angles of Wedge to the more traditional curves of Dune. Beautifully manufactured from chrome-plated brass in both high-shine and matte silk finishes, each design has its own distinctive characteristics that are guaranteed to make a striking statement, enhancing any basin unit. Blending form, function and quality, Crosswater's brassware ranges offer exceptional value and superior design to create the perfect finishing touch for any bathroom.

[www.crosswater.co.uk](http://www.crosswater.co.uk) 0845 873 8840





10



11

10. Pendants are a fresh take on bathroom lighting, and Astro's splashproof Kyoto enhances the basin area with its clean lines and even, powerful illumination. The Kyoto Pendant is part of a family that also includes two sizes of wall light, which makes it ideal to create design cohesion throughout a hotel. Kyoto comes in polished chrome and has been specified by numerous European hotels seeking contemporary, alternative and memorable bathrooms to inspire their guests. Design is the lifeblood of the Astro brand. A team of eight creative design engineers bring to life the Astro ethos of pure, clean and contemporary.

[www.astrolighting.co.uk](http://www.astrolighting.co.uk) 01279 427001

11. CD UK has supplied DuPont Corian at Southampton Football Club's new training facilities in Marchwood. Named after the club's former owner, Marcus Liebherr, the £40m football development and support centre is a top class training facility built by Bouygues UK and designed by AFL architects. In keeping with the football theme, fabricator Ridon Joinery created centrepiece tables and desks in the training area, the first team dining room and the auditorium. The installation included a 6m long high level table with a goal post design finished in Corian Glacier White in the dining room. The club is now following the finishes through into the stadium using DuPont Corian to update the bar areas, dining rooms and the main reception desk.

[www.cdukltd.co.uk](http://www.cdukltd.co.uk) 0113 201 2240





12. Titan is the new giant grey colour from Lustrolite – an expert in acrylic wall panelling. With accessories, paints, linens, cookware and a whole host of other home decor products simply oozing colour these days, it is worth considering neutral shades for the kitchen and bathroom. Pantone is looking forward to 2016 by foreseeing more splashes of colour around the house. These splashes need a neutral base and Lustrolite is a perfect canvas. Lustrolite acrylic panels can be used for shower walls, bath panels and splashbacks – anywhere you lust after a stunning surface. Other fashionable colours in the range are Glacier, Blue Atoll, Rouge, Mocha, Safari, Forest, Arctic and Carbon; they come in seven sizes.  
[www.abacusdirect.co.uk](http://www.abacusdirect.co.uk) 0845 850 5040





13. The refurbishment of 10 Bloomsbury Way for London & Regional Properties by architects BuckleyGrayYeoman includes Armourcoat's KonCrete polished plaster wall finishes. Situated in the heart of central London, the former 1940's Ministry of Defence wedge-shaped building has been substantially extended creating a modern open workspace. BuckleyGrayYeoman's new design has transformed the building into a contemporary and relevant commercial space with a distinctive urban feel. The redevelopment has achieved a BREEAM 'Excellent' green building rating. Armourcoat KonCrete is an urban range of polished plaster colours and finishes designed for contemporary projects. The range offers a wealth of design options to achieve a distinctive modern look, including distressed effects or recessed 'shutter' markings. [www.armourcoat.com](http://www.armourcoat.com) 01732 460668





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