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in[sight]

Cosentino has collaborated with Brazilian interior design architect Brunete Fraccaroli on a colour for Silestone's 25th anniversary

ex[rated]

Two luxury Spanish properties by architect Ramón Esteve include outdoor spaces that perfectly complement their surroundings

in[spire]

Innovative new seating designs demonstrate how advances in technology continue to impact on office furniture design

ex[pose]

Danish brand, We Do Wood presents the sustainable advantages of working with bamboo within a new chair design



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Iast month London Design Festival presented the best of British and international design across an array of events and exhibitions. For those who didn't get a chance to indulge in all that the design industry has to offer, Inex has put together an extensive array of show highlights.

One such design is The Nomad Chair by Danish brand We Do Wood. Launched at designjunction, the design seeks inspiration from the iconic Roorkhee Chair and its 20th century Scandinavian reworkings. The chair is made from bamboo, which is a surprisingly versatile material that has many sustainable benefits – read about these on page 10.

designjunction was also home to the first collection launch from new company WRKBNCH. The group of designers behind the new brand aim to create solutions for urban living. The designs are functional, compact and easy to move. Read about the innovative BOX collection on page 40.

Other highlights within this issue include an exclusive interview with renowned Brazilian interior design architect Brunete Fraccaroli to discuss her recent collaboration with surfacing expert Cosentino, two outstanding Spanish projects by architect Ramón Esteve starting on page 16 and an array of design solutions within this month's Product Spotlight.

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Top left: The right acoustic solution has the power to transform both domestic and commercial projects – read about how in this month's Acoustic focus

Cover: Luxury homes deserve outstanding outdoor spaces – two Spanish properties by architect Ramón Esteve demonstrate

how this can be achieved

Above: Cosentino has collaborated with Brazilian interior design architect Brunete Fraccaroli on a new Silestone hue



SMART TECHNOLOGY MEETS SMOOTH FUNCTIONALITY

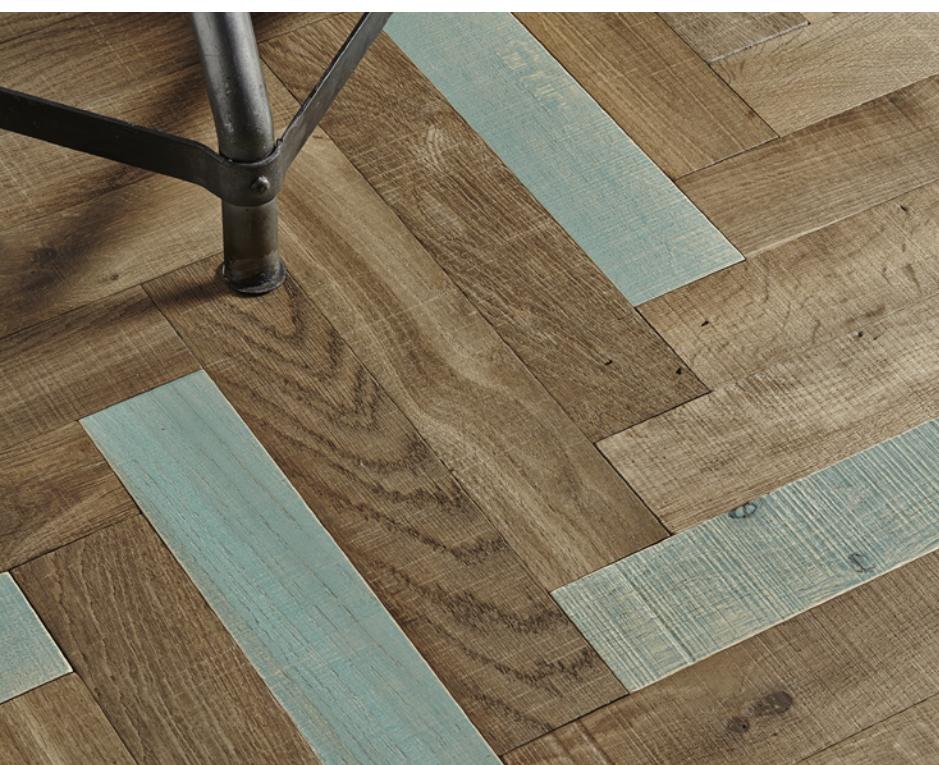
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Mr + Mrs

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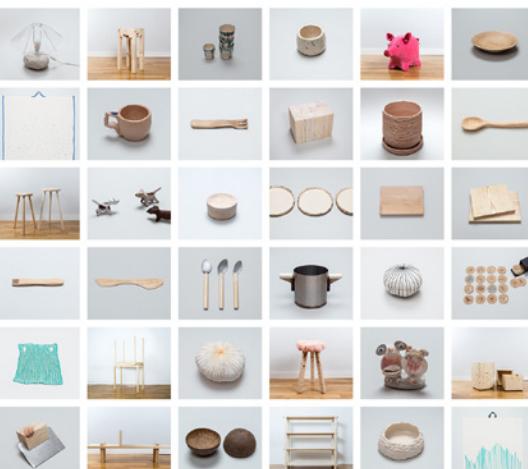


Make Yourself Comfortable at Chatsworth

Chatsworth, Derbyshire

Until 23 October

Make Yourself Comfortable at Chatsworth presents items from the private collection of the Duke and Duchess showcased alongside furniture by internationally acclaimed and innovative designers. Having run since March, this is the last chance to see this broad collection of art and design. chatsworth.org



Dutch Design Week

Eindhoven

17-25 October

This year's DDW promises to be a programme packed with design, technology and innovation under the banner 'What if...?' For nine days there will be presentations in 80 locations by 2400 designers. A DDW ticket offers unlimited access to a number of exceptional locations, museum ticket discounts and free entry to live concerts. All other locations are free, unless stated. topdrawer.co.uk

Memory Movement Memory Objects

Wellcome Collection

Until 18 October

Last chance to see over 100 works by acclaimed artist Alice Anderson, displayed at Wellcome Collection. Her sculptures are entirely mummified in copper thread. The result is a glistening landscape of beautiful, uncanny and transformed objects. wellcomecollection.org



Ai Weiwei

Royal Academy of Arts

Until 13 December

Although Ai is one of China's leading contemporary artists, his work has not been seen extensively in Britain and the Royal Academy presents the first major institutional survey of his artistic output. Ai Weiwei has created new, site-specific installations and interventions throughout the spaces. royalacademy.org.uk



Independent Hotel Show

Olympia Exhibition Centre

21-27 September

The Independent Hotel Show, presented by RateGain returns to Olympia with a packed two days of networking, new business ideas, advice and insight from some of the UK's leading figures from the luxury, boutique and independent hotel sector. With over 300 exhibitors from across the hotel supply chain, the event will present the UK's finest and unique companies showcasing the breadth of products and services that luxury and boutique hotels require. Read more about the event in a dedicated event preview on page 14. independenthotelshow.co.uk



Sleep

Business Design Centre, London

24-25 November

Sleep – the hotel architecture, design and development event – returns to the Business Design Centre in London on 24-25 November. Building on the brilliant success of Sleep 2014, this year's event promises new immersive experiences, ingenious installations by celebrated industry names, thought-provoking conference sessions and exhibitors carefully selected for diversity, innovation and quality. The free-to-attend Sleep Conference is shaping up with fresh, forwardthinking content to inform and inspire industry professionals. thesleepevent.com



Pioneering office seating

With advances in technology continuing to impact on the design and manufacture of office furniture, Mark Barrell, Design Director at The Boss Design Group, takes a look at a pioneering breakthrough that has created a revolution in office seating.

Today, technology is incorporated into almost everything we use in the workplace, and continued advances serve to make our environment more inviting, comfortable and productive.

As we continue to move towards more flexible work environments, technology has become a key component of office furniture.

From flexible meeting systems and acoustic office pods to meeting tables with integrated table-top power, and upholstered soft seating with integral data connection points, we are surrounded by technology.

Technology has now shifted to task and meeting chairs and the market's preconceived expectations of these chairs has

been well and truly shattered by what can only be described as a 'revolution in office seating'.

Supporting employee wellbeing

Although the workplace trend for informal, collaborative and soft-seating furniture continues, the partnership between the desk and task chair remains steadfast, as long as technology ties us to a keyboard and screen. So whilst the task chair remains a staple of the office environment, manufacturers have continued to provide more and more sophisticated chairs with a greater number of manual adjustments, designed to improve the ergonomic quality of the workplace and to support the wellbeing of employees.

By investing in more sophisticated chairs with a greater number of manual adjustments, corporate clients believe they are doing right by their people – and in theory they are. Indeed, from an anthropometric perspective, good quality task chairs from credible manufacturers, which come laden with manual adjustments, can confidently claim to accommodate, or fit, over 95% of the population.



However, no matter how sophisticated office chairs become, no matter how many manual adjustments a chair provides and no matter how great a dimensional range these adjustments achieve, they are simply doing little to improve the way that people sit.

A task chair will only 'fit' correctly if users have the necessary knowledge on how to adjust it and if they make the effort to set it up correctly.

Whilst the quality of office task chairs and the comprehensive training that accompanies them have consistently improved over the last twenty years, the number of employees suffering from back, neck and shoulder complaints caused by sitting and postural-related issues continues to rise.

Individual comfort

In an effort to understand these issues and with user-fit in mind, The Boss Design Group has undertaken two years of research that focused mainly on the backrest and armrests of the chair. In summary, the results showed that 79% of the people observed are not getting adequate support from the backrest of the chair because of poor posture, and over 90% keep their backrest in a locked position which prevents any dynamic movement necessary for the wellbeing of the spine. It was also discovered that 89% of people do not use the armrests of their chair in the recommended manner.

The research suggests that employers are fulfilling their responsibility to staff, yet employees appear to be ignoring their advice. The gauntlet was laid down to design a chair which would 'follow the person', given that the person 'won't follow the chair'.

Improving support

This challenge has led to the birth of a new generation of task chairs that boast pioneering technology. Designed for flexibility and ease of use, they provide revolutionary dynamic support through fluid movement, and more importantly, they do not require user

adjustment, multiple components, complex assembly or even training.

Essentially, these chairs use the natural flexibility of a single ribbon of material and combine a pivot point and flexible Polymer shell to mimic a traditional 2:1 synchronised mechanism. This helps to deliver improved levels of support, without the need for user adjustment and makes them visually unique with an incredibly slim and refined shape that complements the human form. Designers now have a product that will enhance, rather than compromise their interior spaces.

This breakthrough in design is an engineering triumph and offers a perfect harmony of simplicity, quality and comfort.

As well as being used for workstations, Coza's unique design also lends itself to meeting and touchdown areas. So, the same chair may be specified throughout multiple areas, making life easier for designers whilst making the chairs more relevant to today's flexible working environments.

In addition to improving the way we sit, this new generation of task and meeting chairs also has the potential to save employers' time and money by reducing the burden of training and absenteeism. The future of task seating has well and truly arrived!

boss-design.com »



Above: The new design was the result of two years of research

Right: This new generation of task chairs do not require user adjustment, but instead support through fluid movement



Iconic influence

We Do Wood's new design, The Nomad Chair, seeks inspiration from the iconic Roorkhee Chair and its 20th century reworkings.

We Do Wood is a Danish brand that uses bamboo to produce practical, yet beautiful, furniture. When Sebastian Jørgensen – the designer behind the brand – designed a small and practical chair for his two-year-old daughter out of bamboo, this became the basis of the current range of furniture. Whatever piece of furniture, the consistent approach is that functionality must be the key and that the product must be able to fit smoothly into people's everyday lives.

The designer launched his latest design at last month's

designjunction. The Nomad Chair is a rediscovery of a Scandinavian furniture classic. It is inspired by the British Roorkhee chair design, which was originally made in the 19th century for British military officers stationed in India – a design which was reworked several times during the 20th century by renowned designers, including Kaare Klint and Arne Norell. We Do Wood's reworking of this classic design is a true field chair that can be assembled and dissembled in a matter of seconds.

Sebastian comments on his design: "The Roorkhee Chair is a classic design that everybody in Denmark knows in some form,

most probably Kaare Klint's Safari Chair. So the inspiration came from growing up with this kind of chair. The Nomad Chair is true to its origins, with linen textile and leather armrest. However, the design is completely new and the turned bamboo also gives the chair a new appearance."

Having previously worked as an artist, Sebastian draws inspiration from the work methods that he practiced and refined in the past. He continues: "If you try desperately to find something new, it just won't happen. But if you work your way into the design process and apply some direction, every now and then some opportunities arise that you haven't seen before. Even if art involves a completely different kind of storytelling, the comparison still applies, because it's about an intellectual way of approaching your material." **»**

Above: The Danish brand have brought a new element to this iconic design by making it out of bamboo

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Below: The chair can be transported easily
 Below left: Bamboo is a sustainable wood
 Left: A strap is used beneath the seat to support the structure
 Right: The chair can easily be disassembled
 Below right: The canvas is held in place with a strap



Pioneers of sustainability

Although We Do Wood have no ambitions to revolutionise the art of furniture-making, the company's designs are part of a wider trend revolution towards sustainability.

There are many sustainable advantages to making furniture with bamboo. This material is an incredibly sustainable natural resource because it is fast growing and is able to keep up with the rate of human consumption and deforestation. It is a remarkably versatile and strong material to work with – it holds the same material characteristics as Oak, but is much stronger due to the many long fibres.

Other sustainable objectives for We Do Wood are reducing the amount of glue in its products and the aim to create furniture that lasts. Sebastian adds: “We don’t see the concept of sustainability as a passing phase, we view it as our very foundation. There is definitely a sustainable movement, especially among the new talents, but it’s still a minority. One problem is that many new designs have a short product lifetime and are often designed to use and throw away. Ethics and aesthetics must go hand in hand. And the opportunities are endless, once you’ve started investigating a material like bamboo – we just can’t walk away from it.”



Positive public response

The first batch of Nomad Chairs were offered as a limited edition exclusively on the crowdfunding platform kickstarter.com during six weeks in May-June 2015.

The campaign received a great response and reached 165% of the funding target. Sebastian explains: "We had to approach this project with a great deal of respect and humbleness towards the predecessors. The chair is considered to be one of the first designs behind the Scandinavian modern furniture movement, starting in the early 1930s. So, when we thought we had our design right we were keen to find out if other people felt we had got it right, hence going down the crowdfunding route. I think this kind of platform is great for anyone that is looking to market test a project."

The Nomad Chair is perfect for use both indoors and outdoors and can easily be transported thanks to its lightweight and easily disassembled frame. The design comes in both a black and natural linen canvas.

wedowood.dk »





Independent hotel showcase

The Independent Hotel Show returns to Olympia later this month with a packed two days of networking, new business ideas, advice and insight from some of the UK's leading figures from the luxury, boutique and independent hotel sector.

uring 20-21 October, The Independent Hotel Show – presented by Rate Gain – will present the finest products and service providers with a carefully selected line-up of over 300 premium exhibitors from across the hotel supply chain.

Hear more from industry thought leaders as they share their knowledge, insight and expertise across a range of hard hitting seminars and business discussions that tackle some of the industry's hottest topics. Offering first hand design, technology, marketing and business support and advice, the free-to-attend seminars and panel discussions provide valuable insight from some of the leading names in the hotel business to help new and established hoteliers improve their performance.

Sessions will run throughout the

two-day show across two theatres – The Innovation Stage sponsored by CLEAN and the UKHA and The Business Theatre.

Inspiring the creative community

The Independent Hotel Show is making a bigger splash this year with an expanded feature area dedicated to hotel spas. Featuring some of the most respected exhibitors in the sector and supported by Spa Business, Destination Spa, this area will also present a targeted programme of business sessions ideal for anyone interested in expanding in this area.

The Hub will present a transitional space to network, discuss and share ideas. Designed by Jestico + Whiles, it will transform from cafe to champagne bar as the day progresses.

Launching at the show this year is the Independent Think Tank – a

dynamic space that brings together the movers and shakers of the hotel sector to debate key issues and evaluate sector opportunities. Throughout the two days it will host a schedule of smaller, more in-depth and focused workshops, allowing attendees the opportunity to ask questions and actively engage with the content.

The event will once again reward and acknowledge the country's most influential and respected independent hoteliers with the annual Independent Hotelier of the Year and Outstanding New Hotel of the Year awards. Previous winners include Kit and Tim Kemp of Firmdale Hotels – voted Independent Hotelier of the Year 2014 – and Robin Hutson, CEO for Lime Wood Group and Home Grown Hotels Ltd and founder of the Pig Hotels – winner of the Outstanding New Hotel of the Year award 2014. Nominees for this year's awards are presented on the Independent Hotel Show website and winners will be announced on the opening day of the show.

independenthotelshow.co.uk



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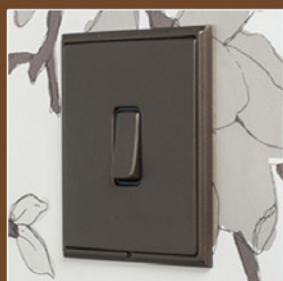
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Reflecting nature

A luxury garden can be achieved with the right combination of architectural grandeur, considerate design and high-end outdoor furniture, as demonstrated by two outstanding Spanish properties.

Two contrasting properties by renowned architect Ramón Esteve perfectly demonstrate homes that are inspired by their surroundings and enhance residence experience by reflecting nature.

Modern magnificence

Situated between El Portixol and Cala Blanca, the Sardinera house is situated on top of a hillside. A modern structure formed of concrete boxes, columns and expansive glazing, it is surrounded by trees and looks out onto the Mediterranean Sea.



Above: The stunning property looks out onto the surrounding sea

Left: The structure is strikingly modern

Right: An outdoor kitchen brings extra luxury





Left: Sardinera house sits on top of a hill

Above: There is a seamless transition between interior and exterior

Above right: In contrast, Forest House reflects its woodland surroundings

Right: Wooden decking features luxury recliners by Vondom

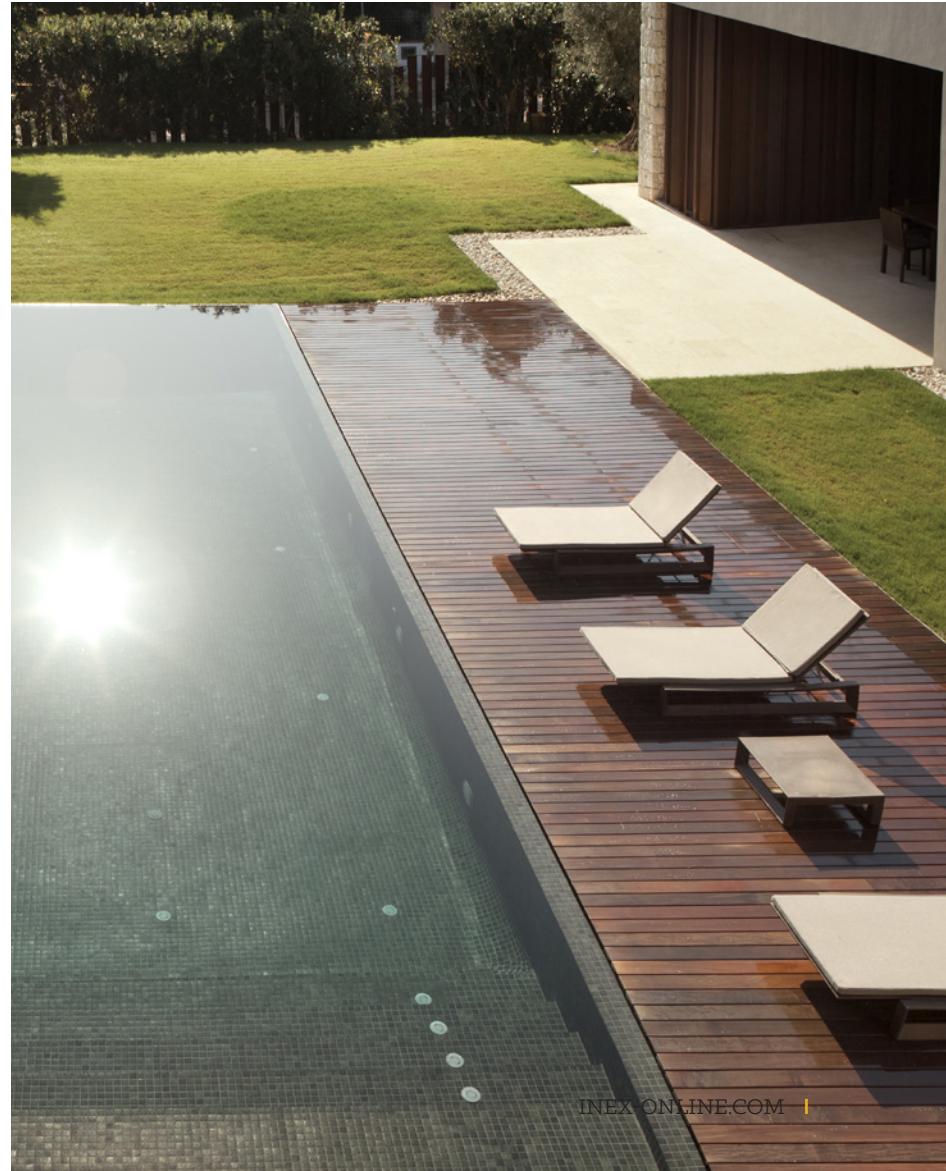


The impressive property has been designed by Ramón Esteve studio, who comment that: "The original idea for the design was based on enjoying and enhancing the panoramic views of the setting, by creating a relaxing contemplative environment that allows enjoying the experience provided by the place."

The interior design oozes contemporary luxury. The views outwards are framed between the architectural surfaces and the infinity pool surface that appears to blend into the sea beyond it.

The outdoor space has been designed as an extension of the indoor space. The flooring is made of off-white polished concrete, continuous both inside and outside. The outdoor space has been designed as an extension of the indoor space. The lines that define the building are drawn beyond the walls, marking the patterns of the vegetation, the pavement, the pool and the outdoor lighting. Each outdoor zone is singular but belongs to the same concept of a homogeneous indigenous Mediterranean garden. It results in a house with several spaces where the sea can be contemplated, from each of its indoor rooms or outdoor areas.

There are two sides to the property's exterior. The entrance facade is hermetical and opaque and protected by an automatic system of adjustable shutters made of whitened Accoya wood. This acts to protect the facade from sun exposure and to limit the view from the street. The property's rear facade is much more permeable and transparent. Vertical concrete surfaces are joined with



Right: The Forest House is surrounded by trees
Below: The interior benefits from large, full-height windows and a neutral palette





large lateral windows, allowing the interior to benefit from the impressive view.

Each volume on the first floor hosts a bedroom that is orientated towards the sea view. The bedrooms feature individual balconies and the day rooms on the ground floor look through the full height glazing onto the same views. As Ramón Esteve comments: “It results in a house with several spaces where the sea can be contemplated, from each of its indoor rooms or outdoor areas.”

The importance of the property's surrounding sea is also reflected within the indoor and outdoor pools. Although the two pools are on different floors, they are linked by a longitudinal window, through which the water of the outdoor pool casts shadows over the indoor pool.

The vast palette of white is continued within the outdoor furniture by Vondom. At night the

integrated LED lighting files through the walls of the house to create lines of light on the patio and the pool has in-built lights to enable late light swimming.

Forest retreat

The Forest House, also designed by Ramón Esteve, is situated in the residential area of Chiva, Valencia and is positioned within a large pine forest.

The stone walls create prismatic volumes that act to divide the space into individual areas. The area between the rooms is covered by a wooden roof that acts as corridor and connector. There are various outdoor areas that are each linked to an interior room. Each room within the house has a different height to correspond with its use and the corresponding outdoor space reflects the privacy of its accompanying room.

The masonry walls are combined with the carpentry of aformosia wood and weathering steel lattices operate as window shutters. The shallow pool evokes a pond and reflects the natural feel of the surrounding vegetation.

The garden features Vondom's Frame and Vela collections, both in bronze. The peaceful resonance and natural palette creates a consistency that connects the property with its location.

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Celebrating 25 years of Silestone

To commemorate Silestone's 25th anniversary, The Cosentino Group has collaborated with Brazilian interior design architect Brunete Fraccaroli to develop a new colour for the iconic quartz countertop.

A brand leader in quartz surfaces, Silestone consists of more than 90% natural quartz. This high-tech material is highly resistant to stains, knocks and scratches and has a low level of fluid absorption. The last 25 years has seen this versatile material produced in more than 60 colours, but to celebrate its 25th anniversary Cosentino felt it was time to add something extra special to the collection. The result is a vibrant blue-green hue developed in collaboration with renowned Brazilian interior design architect Brunete Fraccaroli.

Called 'Acqua Fraccaroli',

this limited edition colour was launched in the UK at last month's 100% Design event in London. Brunete explains the vision behind this new hue: "Acqua Fraccaroli represents strength, joy, nature, health, happiness and well-being. It is a proposal full of freshness, able to revive any aesthetic space in which it is used."

Acqua Fraccaroli is a bluish-green that stands out for its brightness, strength and cheerfulness. The hue evokes freshness and can revitalise any space in which it is used. Thanks to the versatility of Silestone, it aims to evoke harmonious and relaxed environments, whilst maintaining quality as standard.



To create the new tone, Brunete sought inspiration from her childhood, where strong, intense colours were always present. As she says: "I travel a lot for work and always try to use my experiences within my work, for example, Acqua Fraccaroli is related to my childhood. I've always had a passion for this tone. When I was young I loved playing with the anilines of my father's factory to mix colours and the hue I always delivered was this same blue-green. Everyone thinks that my favourite colour is pink, but in fact it's this blue-green. Everyone now calls this colour 'Brunete blue', and I use it in almost all of my projects" [»](#)

Top: The new hue joins a collection of more than 60 colours
Above: Brunete Fraccaroli was inspired by her childhood when designing Acqua Fraccaroli



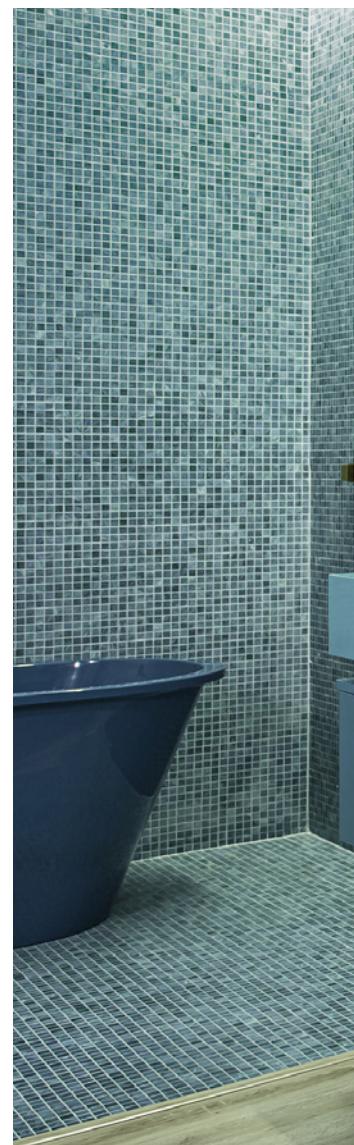
in some way. I believe that I do have a style. In fact, my secret is that I often use symmetry in my work. I believe it provides balance and creates a project core."

Versatile and vibrant

Sao Paulo's CasaCor show was the chosen location for Acqua Fraccaroli's first debut, followed by the worldwide launch. Just like all Silestone colours, Acqua Fraccaroli offers unmatched aesthetics, outstanding mechanical properties such as high resistance to scratches, stains and impact, and low fluid absorption. All accompanied by a 25 year warranty from Cosentino and a series of international certifications confirming its quality: Greenguard, NSF and LGA "Hygiene".

Brunete feels this vibrant colour will suit a number of applications, both public and private sectors and for kitchen and bathroom worktops, flooring, tiles, bars, staircases, or indeed any application desired. As she explains: "It is a super versatile weight, perfect for all kinds of applications. Thanks to the material's versatility and broad collection of hues, there are endless colour combinations that can be used together to create any environment, from bright and busy to more harmonious and relaxed."

Silestone comes in over 60 colours, three textures and several different formats, making it a versatile product with large format pieces without joints. Thanks to these special properties, Silestone surfaces are highly suitable for the kitchen, bathroom and demanding buildings such as hotels, restaurants, hospitals and laboratories. The collection also includes a recycled series called Eco Line, which establishes a new standard for sustainable construction and design. Eco Line is manufactured with at least 50% recycled raw materials. It is a pioneering and eco-friendly product which sensibly makes use of natural resources and offers beautiful design and excellent performance.



Left: The blue-green hue benefits from Silestone's quality certifications

Above: Acqua Fraccaroli's fresh appeal is great for bathrooms

Right: The hue aims to evoke joy, happiness and well-being



Designer profile

Having originally dreamt of becoming a plastic surgeon, Brunete decided to become an interior design architect because she thought a medical career would require too much time out of family life.

Since graduating from the Universidade Mackenzie in São Paulo, Brunete has forged a respected career, and is regarded for her domestic and commercial projects. During her career, she has experienced an evolution in the design sector: "Many things have changed in the realm of interior design. Contemporary Brazilian designs experience playful material combinations, incorporating glass, stainless steel, aluminium, wood and more. There are so many more options today than 20 years ago and glass is much more widely used in contemporary design. Even surfacing has changed – there are now so many options for walls and flooring. It's all down to the evolution of society and the way that we constantly seek new decorations."

When asked what piece of advice she has most benefitted from in her career, Brunete says: "Work with what you love. I think that life can be difficult, but it's a lot easier to enjoy if you find pleasure in what you do."

cosentino.com «



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Blurring the lines

Leisure and retail have long been merging entities, but the evolution of consumer habits is placing greater importance on designing for heightened customer experience, rather than simply for functionality. Here, Michael Artis, Director of Leisure at design consultancy 20.20, explains the reason behind this shift and what it means for commercial design.

Experiences have always had social value, the difference now is that our world is more socially motivated. Experiences have transcended from being the by-product to the main attraction; a great experience could now be viewed as a currency that is exchanged and shared by the digital-savvy.

2015 sees the “Millennials” become the biggest generation in our population. This generation group comprises the 80 million people born after 1980 and before the early 2000s. The Millennials are digital natives and as a result are less impressed by the expectation of digital innovation. They understand the value of content versus tangible ownership.

Sense of community

Retail and the high street have always had roots in community. It has long acted as a place for people to come together to exchange goods and services. The majority of contemporary society still value the need for a sense of community, it's just that many utilise social interactions and experiences in a different way. Retailers and leisure operators need to understand that they now operate in a world of conspicuous consumption – the social media spotlight shines bright and the right experiences reign supreme.

For a generation where home ownership is often an unrealistic goal, and living spaces are becoming smaller, the need for space and time outside the home is increasing.

Above: This bookshop design by 20.20 aims to engage with customers



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Starbucks' promise of a "third space" resonated strongly and has been a big success. But coffee shops aren't the only provider of a space for social engagement and leisure outside the home, as more shops and companies are recognising the importance of providing somewhere to "hang out" on the high street.

Some companies are creating new marketing campaigns that make the most of the social media generation by getting their customers to do the marketing for them. For example, the recent Pizza Express #pizzaexpressmoments campaign encourages customers to tweet and Instagram experiences by using a specific "hashtag". This adheres to the community feel and the importance of experience, whilst also promoting a specific brand.

Another way the high street has responded to providing a space for the

"experience" is in shops placing more emphasis on the importance of cafes. Where cafes were once hidden on the top floor of department stores, they now often take centre stage on the ground floor.

In a world where the best prices are guaranteed at a click of a button, value now seems to reside in the experience. The trick is to make that experience worth paying for.

Being commercial when selling experience

The recession has created a society that is savvy to spending. Customers can categorise essentials from luxuries and can purchase their usual essentials via supermarket home delivery – all price matched to get the best value for money.

Current retail winners offer services that are functional – be it click and collect, or facilitating

Above: No longer a "club level bar" at The Emirates, 20.20 reimagined the pub in which Arsenal was founded – opened August 2015

access to larger stock by 'showrooming' and then sorting the messy stock bit for home delivery. Those companies that understand the importance of service are realising the value in on-going service and help, but many are not seizing the opportunity to provide an exceptional experience as well as service.

When looking at the crossover the other way round, a key example of leisure becoming retail is the growing appearance of shops within restaurants. Go into any Jamie's Italian, Carluccio's or Wagamama's and you will see a small retail section on offer. By selling the latest cookery books, provincial ingredients, branded utensils and cookware, customers are given a taste of the retail experience in a restaurant setting. The authenticity of the product selection enables higher retail prices too.



What does the future hold?

While the retail market is increasingly led by the internet and the consumer demand to source the best bargains, there is a feeling that we are all social creatures that would rather be within the high street hustle than behind a computer screen.

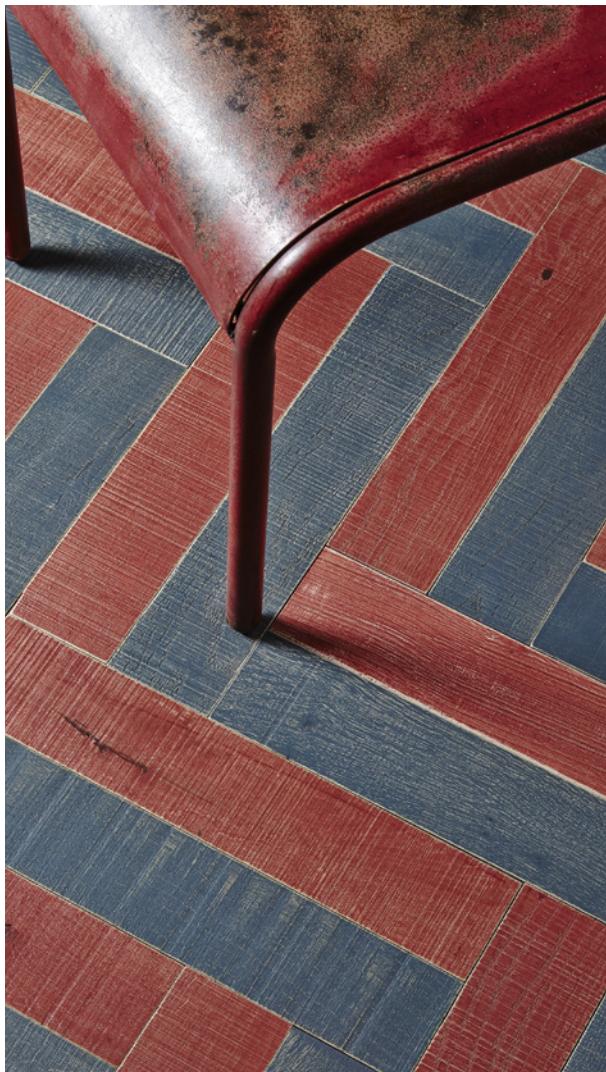
Retailers are now conscious they have to offer the consumer more, and for the offering to be of the highest value it has to span multiple sectors. Put simply, experience is now the greatest currency of all, as it provides the social value we as shoppers crave. The crossover in sectors looks to be here to stay, as until the algorithms are developed it cannot be replaced by a digital proxy.

Having said all this, fundamentally, consumers still require the basics. Retailers and leisure operators should never forget the level of customer service we have collectively come to expect. It nods towards the old adage of 'customer is king' – look after your customer and make them feel valued. Design the experience that is relevant for them, and that is where you'll win.

20.20.co.uk «

Below: This cinema interior plan presents spaces for customers to "hang out" before their film





Popular parquet

Herringbone has become a popular pattern across the spectrum of design solutions, from fabric to furniture. New flooring collections are also responding to this trend, where clever application offers a simple solution for remaining en-vogue.

Iunched last month at Decorex, Ted Todd's newest collection, Urbanist is all about individuality and urban living. The hardwood flooring expert has brought together an eclectic, industrial feel with a playful, rebellious edge. Recognising the trend for this bold pattern, the company presented the new collection's three widths of planks and ten colours in various combinations of herringbone and chevron application. Each hue has a distressed finish, but this has no impact upon its durability as each plank has an air-dried lacquer finish.

From a muted, neutral palette that creates a variety of tones and textures, to a combination

of bright colours, Ted Todd demonstrated the versatility of both its new product and the herringbone design.

Commercial popularity

Although often associated with bedroom and floorways, parquet flooring is now a popular choice across a wide range of commercial and domestic uses. Flooring expert, Tarkett has extended its commercial modular products collection to include Loose-lay LVT – a comprehensive modular solution. Available in stone and wood designs, the Loose-lay collection stands out for its textile and abstract aesthetics.

Although this pattern is a popular aesthetic option, herringbone is also a practical



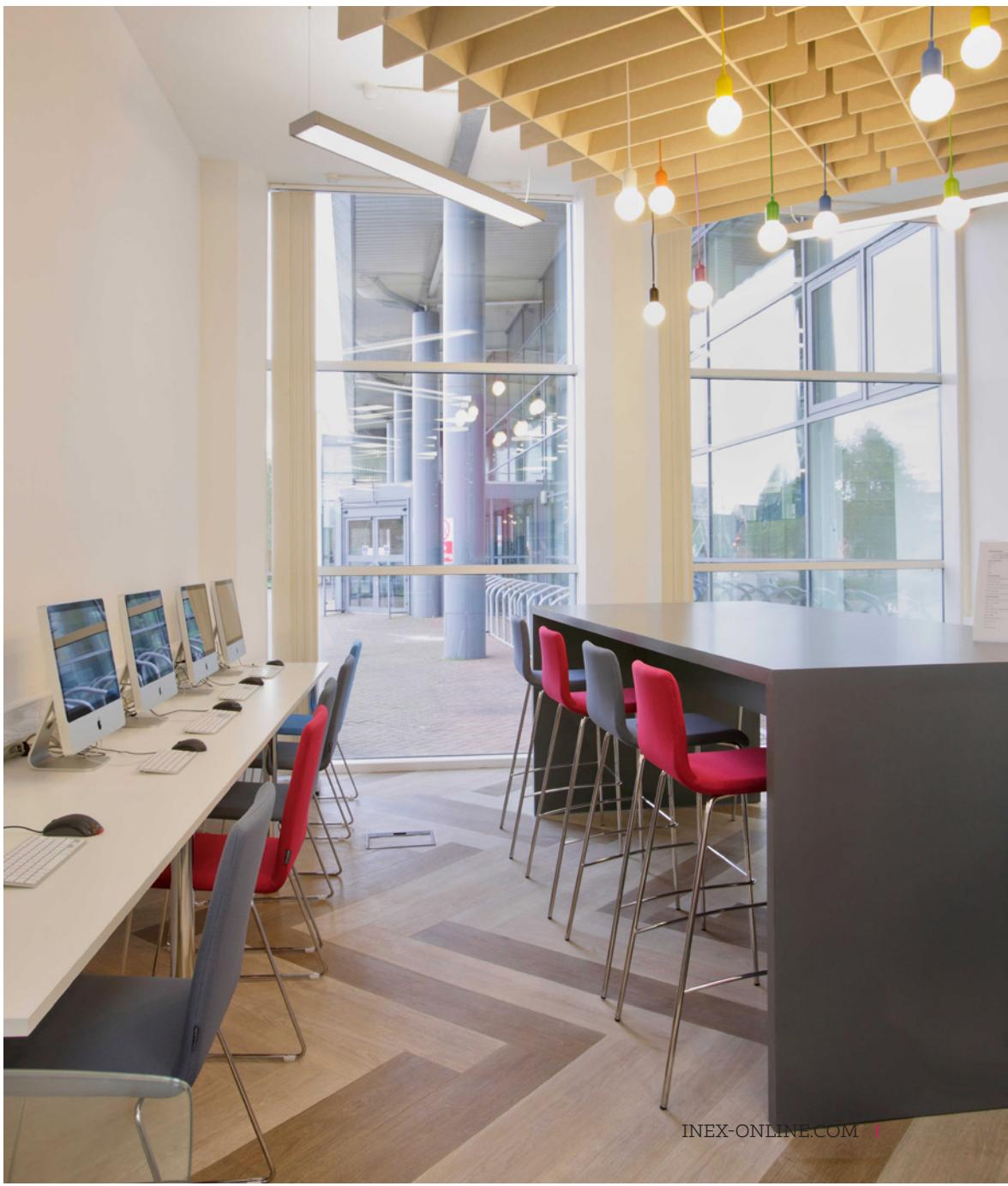
Left: Tarkett's new iD Loose-lay LVT panels
 Below: The Gloucester College library has benefitted from a new floor
 Far left: Ted Todd's new Urbanist collection
 Below left: The Urbanist collection comes in ten colours

gripping solution. Tarkett's iD Inspiration Loose-lay LVT features a unique herringbone 'gripping tread' design effect on its underside. Ideal for overnight installation, the loose-lay requires little if any subfloor preparation as it absorbs uneven patches.

The company's iD TILT – a floating floorcovering solution – features interlocking tiles similar to a jigsaw puzzle, which is great for retail or industrial applications when there is limited subfloor preparation time available. Incredibly strong and hardwearing, the product is quick to lay which is why it is favoured by businesses wanting to reduce trade loss by keeping installation time to a minimum.

Educational choice

Following this trend, Gloucester College recently transformed its student services and library area thanks to a new vinyl flooring in a herringbone pattern. The college, which provides further and higher education and welcomes thousands of students on a daily basis, opted for Moduleo's new parquet vinyl flooring option. Herringbone is a popular parquet option, as demonstrated by the college's choice of pattern in





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Above: Herringbone patterns can be achieved with nearly any flooring preference – here carpet has been used

its refurbished library. Two shades of Moduleo's Verdon Oak have been used in the computer space to create a bespoke pattern.

Sarah Payne, Senior Designer at OEG Interiors who worked on the project, explains: "We went with Moduleo's new parquet option because it enabled us to construct our own bespoke design – which was again a big factor in our decision."

Moduleo's parquet flooring is available on all products in its Transform and Impress collections. The Impress collection includes five wood designs, in 22 colour options, while the Transform collection was recently extended with the addition of eight new designs, in 42 colour options.

Versatile design

Herringbone flooring designs are not limited to wood or wood-appearance solutions, as a recent office refurbishment demonstrates. Flooring contractor, Loughton Contracts contacted flooring expert Interface to provide a modular flooring design for its Essex headquarters.

Loughton Contracts wanted a calm and decorative scheme for its boardroom to encourage a more relaxed, reflective environment for both customer and internal meetings. Muted Walk the Plank 25 x 100 cm Skinny Plank carpet tiles – in Interface's Cyprus colourway – were installed in a herringbone pattern, mimicking

the effect of wood to evoke a restful atmosphere.

Amy Farn, Interface's Concept Designer, designed the scheme. She comments: "In addition to helping provide an unconventional design, using modular flooring means that individual tiles can be easily replaced once they are worn, rather than needing to install a full new carpet. This will help Loughton Contracts cut long-term maintenance costs, while minimising the effect of daily wear and tear on the look of the office in the eyes of employees and visitors."

tedtodd.co.uk
tarkett.co.uk
moduleo.co.uk
interface.com



The sound of silence

Architectural journalist, Gideon Sykes examines two contemporary solutions for improving the acoustic performance of interiors.

The sound of silence is increasingly important to both specifier and user. The absorption of noise is as vital in rooms with hard surfaces, such as sports halls and swimming pools, as it is in school classrooms and public places. Noise reduction is equally important in working and retail environments. There is also the growing problem of increased noise abuse in housing.

This is nothing new. It has been known for decades that noise has a detrimental effect on people,

their focus and their attention. For example, Bronzaft and McCarthy (1975) conducted a study which indicated that New York City students were hampered in their reading skills by elevated noise levels. Students 70m from an elevated subway track lagged behind their peers, on the quieter side of the building, between three months and as much as one year. In 1986, Cohens, Evans, Krantz and Stokols found that some children from noisy schools had higher blood pressure, less cognitive task success and greater feelings of helplessness.

The students gave up and were more easily distracted from the task at hand.*

Modern solutions

Fortunately, there are many systems and products available to help reduce noise and its effect. Many manufacturers offer modern methods of construction and innovative design to provide aesthetic, practical and high performance solutions.

Italian manufacturer PL, part of the Abet Laminati Group, has developed Silentwall. This is a range of interior

Above: Studies have found that elevated noise levels can have a detrimental effect on people

Right: Many modern acoustic solutions add aesthetic appeal



cladding comprising vertical and horizontal panels of high pressure laminate on an aluminium fixing system. This innovative panelling is designed to absorb noises in rooms of high frequency or where there is a high level of background disturbance, such as in auditoriums and large meeting rooms, where sound reduction is vital.

The system is available in hundreds of colours, textures and patterns with foldaway joints. These allow the cladding material to display a completely unbroken surface or with visible anodised aluminium joints for aesthetic appeal.

Another company making huge strides in the UK with cost-effective acoustics is Danish manufacturer Troldekt which offers natural acoustic tiles and panels. As the panels are made from 100% natural wood fibres mixed with cement, their sustainability was recently recognised with certification at Silver level within the Cradle to Cradle concept. Their benefits include high sound absorption, high durability, natural breathability and cost life cycle performance.

The acoustic panels are widely used in many different types of project. They are particularly popular in

»





schools, including Passivhaus design. For example, Troldekt ceiling tiles were recently specified by Architype architects for two Passivhaus schools in Wolverhampton where they make a major contribution to comfort and learning. The tiles not only offer high performance sound absorption in the study areas, which need to be quiet, calm and healthy, but also in the sports hall and play areas which are traditionally very noisy.

Architype Director, Jonathan Hines comments: "Oakmeadow

is one of two schools we have designed using Passivhaus principles to offer radically low energy consumption together with optimised comfort for children and staff. We are convinced that designing to an energy target is the most logical and effective route to achieving carbon reductions. Troldekt acoustic ceilings are one of the solutions which have helped to meet our design and performance objectives – in this case optimising the acoustic environment using a

natural and beautiful product."

Noise reduction materials are also playing a part in the retail world. For example Hedonism Wines is a new drinks boutique which recently opened in the heart of London's upmarket Mayfair. The stunning interior ambience is achieved through a masterly combination of clever display, subtle lighting and an inspired choice of building materials

abetuk.com «
troldekt.co.uk «

Above: Acoustic solutions are especially important in noisy areas, such as school halls

*Source: University of Georgia: Environmental Influence on Student Behaviour and Achievement.



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Bringing sunlight into the fold

Incorporating both bi-folding doors and roof lanterns are an excellent way of utilising natural light at the same time as bringing the outdoors in.

An impressive seven-bedroom home in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire has utilised bi-folding doors alongside roof lanterns. The 8500ft² property was built in a traditional style to blend seamlessly with the surrounding period properties. Completed last year, the property has been built by house developers who specialise in bigger projects.

The Victorian styled property mimics a wide range of architectural styles and benefits from a large, single storey modern extension. The

modern wing comprises kitchen and dining space as well as a contemporary living area.

Natural light floods into the large space thanks to four roof lanterns and two sets of bi-folding doors, one of which opens up a whole corner of the room onto the outside patio. A five door set of Origin bi-folding doors have been used, alongside a ten door set with a moving corner post. This set-up provides an impressive, completely frameless corner.

Aluminium doors were specified after the construction company experienced previous problems with

PVC and wood. The aluminium doors are powdercoated in anthracite grey on the exterior, whilst the interior is in hipca white to maintain a modern fresh look. This bespoke option means that, whilst the outside of the doors can match the external fixtures and fittings of the house, the interior frame can be a different colour to match the room.

Extension solution

Another property that has benefitted from expansive glazing is the home of a Cambridgeshire based family. They have added two extensions onto their four-bedroom home since moving in 2006. Incorporating two sets of folding sliding doors proved to be a good solution. As the homeowner explains: "The security of the doors was paramount for us as a family. We had specific requirements in mind to ensure optimum protection

Above: The large, modern home is flooded with natural light

Above right: Two sets of bi-folding doors open the home onto the patio

Right: This property also benefits from bi-folding doors and a large roof lantern



and privacy for our child. We didn't want external handles on the doors and requested that the same key was used to open all doors for convenience, and due to the bespoke nature of the Origin door, all these non-conventional features were catered for, without fuss."

The two sets of doors creates a seamless transition between home and garden. The doors fit into apertures of 3397mm and 3435mm, with each door leaf measuring 805 x 796mm wide respectively by a standard height of approximately 1996mm.

The homeowner continues: "What I love about the doors is that you are essentially able to take down the walls and merge your outdoors with your interior. It is lovely being that close to the outside, which is quite special being in a town."

origin-global.com <





Overcoming space limitations

As urban living spaces seem to become increasingly expensive and consequently smaller, new designs are offering flexibility and solutions for homes that encounter space limitations.

Last month, London Design Festival was full of new products, as well as new brands presenting innovative designs. One such brand was WRKBNCH, who exhibited at the popular event, designjunction.

The new company presents interesting solutions for small living areas. WRKBNCH designs include a compact kitchen, mini office, bar, cross functional wardrobe and a mobile coffee table. Created in the lead-up to the festival, the collection is called BOX, after its simplistic and box-like appearance.

WRKBNCH – a contemporary twist on the word ‘workbench’ – describes itself as a collaboration of young, eccentric and very ambitious designers. The collection is based upon their perception of urban lifestyle and ergonomics, and aims to present the usability and flexibility of home decor.

Project founder, Ivan Gorozhankin, comments: “Each accommodation in London, same as in any other European city, is unique. But forget about classy square rooms, today you are renting a tiny studio in Zone 1, next month you might be residing

in an East loft and end up living in a real maze of multi-leveled rooms. There is one more thing you should bear in mind about living in the city: your living space might be relatively small, so you have to use it in the most efficient way. Good news: we’ve done the job for you!”

The collection aims to present solutions for urban dwellers that are constantly on the move from small space to slightly smaller space. Each item within BOX opens up to present a fully functional domestic solution that is both functional and easily moveable. For example, the Mini Kitchen appears to be a modern cupboard with shelves at one end, but instead it is a fully functioning fridge, oven and storage cupboard with its own table that folds down at one end. Each design comes in a variety of colours and offers different customisation to suit individuals.

Above: The new collection debuted at last month's designjunction – part of London Design Festival

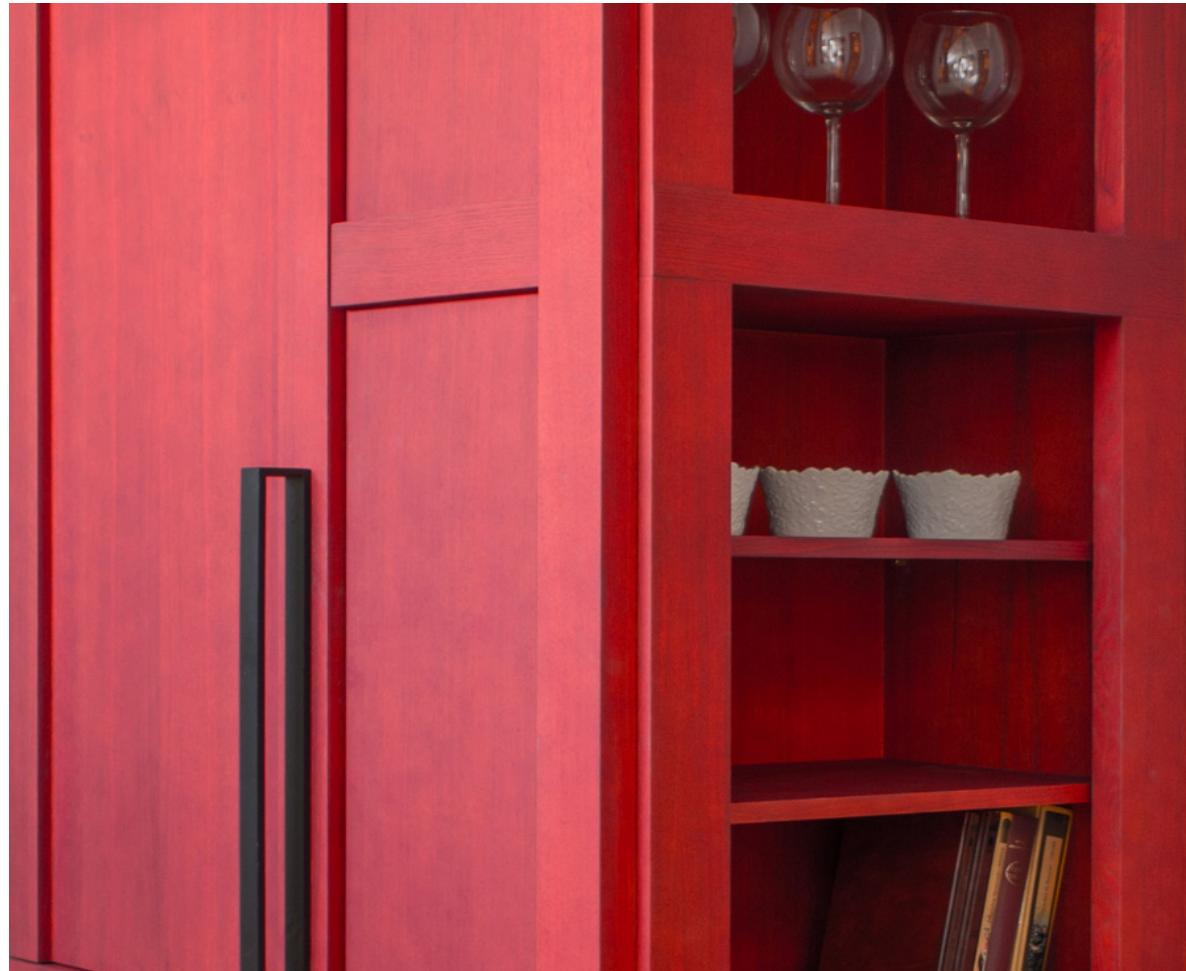


Left: What appears to be a cabinet opens up to present a fully functional office space
Below: The kitchen BOX has space for storage along one side

WRKBNCH designers Robert and Sylwia Grzybek add: "A lot of youngsters stick to the top Swedish brand, and the correlation of price and quality is fair enough. However, we believe this presents a problem in that the furniture you are using now is not likely to fit into a new interior if you move. We have analysed the real needs and drawbacks of 'mobile living' and came up with a solution. For instance, our kitchen which looks like a cupboard can hide inside a fridge, an oven and all the utilities you might be using. There is no way you would decide to get rid of it, plus it serves all the needs of students or young couple."

All pieces from the new collection are handmade from high quality, organic materials and available online. The company is currently working in its second collection, OWL, which will be presented along with BOX at the Milan and New York decor fairs.

wrkbnch.co.uk





The 'Suite' choice of boutique hotels

Boutique Hotels, also referred to as lifestyle or design hotels, are unique in interior design, architecture and theme, and are often historic. Essentially, a stay in a Boutique Hotel is a lifestyle experience and as a specialist supplier to the hotel interiors market. Few companies understand this more than Hamilton Litestat, as Marketing Manager Gavin Williams explains.

The hotel industry is seeing a rise in demand from small to medium boutique hotels for electrical wiring accessories and Mercury lighting control and multi-room audio systems. Hamilton's ability to tailor products to the individual requirements of customised projects makes the company an attractive option. Not least because of its desire to partner with lighting and interior designers who want to turn a design concept into a reality/room interior. The company has a huge amount of flexibility to supply unique and bespoke products. By partnering with designers, the team can help designers to realise their vision and make their work stand out from the crowd, cost effectively.

Boutique hotel guests are discerning. For them it is all about the experience: the aesthetics of the environment and high levels of personal service. One thing is for sure – they expect luxurious home comforts and that includes access to all of the home technology and entertainment services as standard. This is a major consideration and a challenge for interior designers when planning hotel guest rooms, especially as many of their projects tend to be refurbishments of older style and heritage properties. The ability to integrate smart technologies sympathetically and seamlessly within these projects is key – merging the new in a way that's in keeping with the old.

Anne Boleyn would approve

Hamilton's expertise in this area recently proved invaluable during the refurbishment of Anne Boleyn's guest rooms within a new wing of Hever Castle's luxury bed and breakfast accommodation – an Edwardian annex created by William Waldorf Astor, designed in Tudor style.

Hever Castle boasts a fine collection of 19 stunning 'five-star gold' graded suites that overlook a private garden area. Each suite needed to encompass historical elements, modern comforts and contemporary style. Lighting control, alongside a relaxing and cosy ambiance within each suite, was a priority. Elements of continuity and finishing touches were the point of difference – so selecting a suitable lighting control system and the perfect mix of switch plates and sockets was a must.

This project's interior designer, Sarah Clark of Interiors at Nine to Eleven, says: "I was initially drawn to Hamilton for its Mercury Lighting Control system and range of stunning switch plates and sockets which perfectly suited the needs of this project. However, I soon came to appreciate and value the fabulous personal service and consultative approach provided by the Hamilton Team."

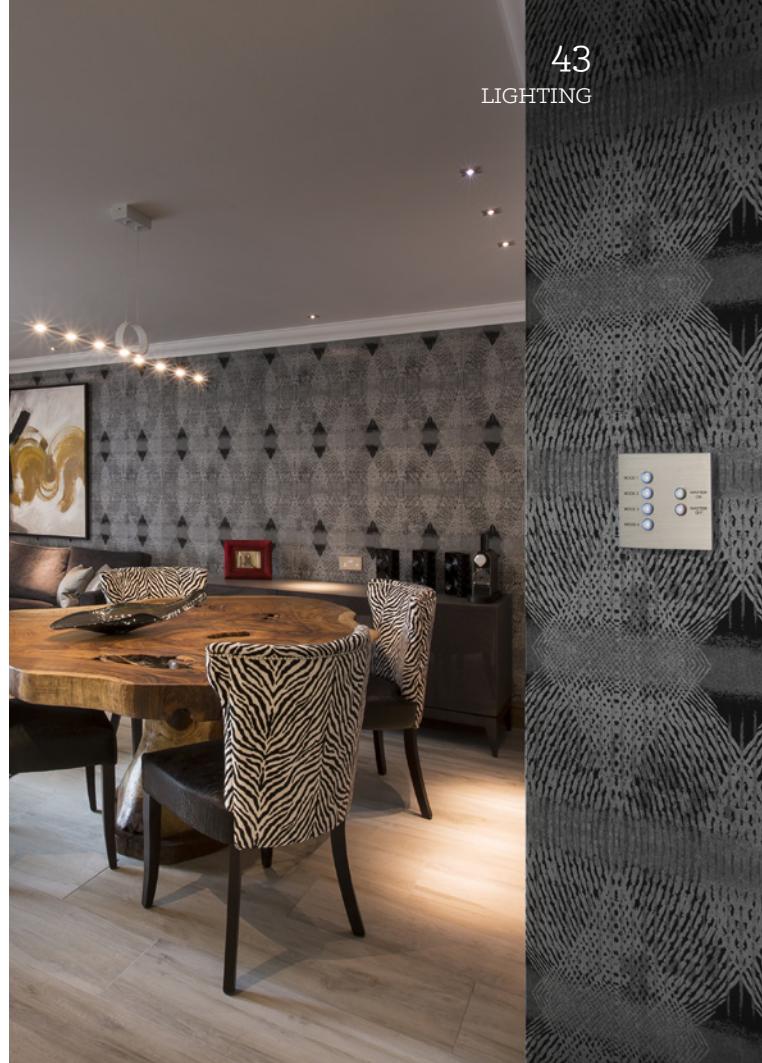
Tailor-made as standard

Sourcing unusual, quirky or period furnishings and accessories is time consuming. However, when it comes to electrical accessories Hamilton can help to save both time and money. Unique items such as special plate finishes/colours or non-standard plate functions can be supplied using Hamilton's bespoke design service, Savile Row, and larger plate sizes incorporating specified multiple functions can be designed and produced to order.

Hamilton can deliver a totally coordinated look and meet the needs of virtually any client brief. This is thanks to its bespoke design and production service, alongside its 18 unique plate collections – available in metal, plastic, wood and even glass finishes, many of which are compatible with the company's Mercury lighting control and multi-room audio system.

A Mercury work-out

Hamilton has recently completed a fit-out at Alexander House – a luxury 5-star Boutique Hotel and Utopia Spa in Sussex. The new-build construction presented the hotel owners with a golden opportunity to incorporate state-of-the-art modern amenities and technology within the layout and individual design of each suite and public spaces within the structure.



Top left: Boutique hotel design requires ultimate luxury and home comforts

Far left: The entrance atrium of the new Alexander House hotel

Above: Hamilton provide lighting solutions for independent hotels
Left: One of the new bedrooms at Hever Castle



Working with the Contractor and the owner's interior design team, Hamilton developed a total solution for both lighting control and bespoke complementary switch plates and sockets. Control plates and lighting system work together to create a stylish and efficient solution that complements the room concepts. The solutions are designed to withstand wear and tear and look good for longer – a prerequisite even in a boutique hotel.

Design support and flexibility

Having identified its strengths in the boutique hotel sector, Hamilton is continuing to develop and grow its product range and breadth of design support services to meet the needs of hotel interior designers and specifiers, while the company's attitude to customer service and ability to be flexible still comes as standard.

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Left: A major recent refurbishment includes Armourcoat's KonCrete polished plaster wall finishes
Below: Armourcoat's Rusted finish offers an authentic rusted iron or patina effect

Surfacing solution

Indulgence, sophistication and prestige are synonymous with luxury hotels, bars and restaurants, many of which fully exploit the aesthetic benefits of Armourcoat Surface Finishes.

For over 25 years Armourcoat has been a leading supplier of wall finishes, offering a complete service for a diverse range of decorative and innovative wall decorations. The company operates through a global network of agents and specialist applicators, providing high quality service and installation across the world. This has resulted in specifications for exclusive retail outlets, hotel and restaurant chains and commercial projects, as well as government buildings spanning several continents with architects being offered consistency throughout the world.

The family owned company has its headquarters in Sevenoaks, Kent, which also houses the R&D, design centre, laboratories, QC and production. In 2009 Armourcoat established a new national sales office as well as distribution and production centre in Las Vegas to service the North American and Canadian market. This wholly owned subsidiary of Armourcoat gives the company a strong platform in the US from which to grow and develop.

Armourcoat products are durable, cleanable and repairable as well as aesthetically pleasing. They can be seamless or supplied in modular

panels for walls and ceilings and can also be applied on columns and curves, achieving what other decorative solutions cannot.

Many of the company's product lines are made from natural minerals, including recycled marble powder. As well as being environmentally friendly, all Armourcoat finishes are backed up with stringent quality controls and performance test data.

With a comprehensive website in place containing visuals, extensive product catalogues and technical data sheets at the tip of a finger, Armourcoat can help in the planning process giving inspiration, product information and technical guidance.

Architects and designers alike have turned to Armourcoat to achieve their personal vision of excellence utilising the company's launch of new finishes throughout the year to reflect current fashions and the ever-changing needs of the market place.

Specification options

The scope and size of Armourcoat Surface Finishes can be seen in its range, comprising of four different products:

- **Armourcoat polished plaster:** the enduring elegance and beauty of polished plaster remains the company's classic offering of standard

and custom high-end wall finishes. Armourcoat polished plasters give sumptuous finishes which can be enhanced by a host of textures and colours, thereby blending or contrasting with any setting, whether classical or modern.

- **Armourcoat Sculptural:** with its dramatic and seamless wall designs, Sculptural brings identity and character to any interior. Some of the 20 designs on offer are based on a single panel that create a repeating pattern; others are made from a sequence of different panels that can be integrated together in many ways to create totally unique sculpted walls.

- **ArmourCast:** the ArmourCast stone finish casting products represent stunning textures and effects with the look and feel of real stone. The panels offer a modular solution for commercial, retail and hospitality clients.

- **ArmourColor:** with ArmourColor the company's objective for a full range of interior finishes has been met. ArmourColor has been designed to not only look and feel gorgeous, but also to be hard-wearing, hygienic and cost effective.

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Refashioning floors

Alternative Flooring is an award-winning brand that is revamping floors with design-led collections. Its innovative and authentic voice starts conversations with natural fibre and wool ranges that explore pattern, texture and colour on carpets, rugs and runners.

Pioneers of the patterned carpet revival, Alternative Flooring has collaborated with Britain's best designers – Ashley Hicks, Margo Selby and now Ben Pentreath – on the distinctive Quirky B collection.

This year's collaborator is Ben Pentreath – one of the UK's leading architectural and interior designers. His architectural practice has worked on projects from new housing developments for The Prince of Wales to private houses worldwide.

Ben Pentreath for Alternative Flooring is inspired by 18th-century stone floor and marble patterns, but now re-worked as carpet in a range of vividly coloured patterns in wool. The three designs are Cube, Tetra and Lattice. These create three-dimensional patterns that play with space, creating rich textures for the contemporary interior.

The colour combinations are named after Georgian architects

and fuse country-house with contemporary quirky.

Ben comments: "There is a hint of something smart about the carpets, but I hope they are relaxed enough to feel at home in a lot of interiors. The darker, richer colours would look beautiful in a book room, or library; the lighter and fresher tones, in soft greys, would be perfect for a bedroom or a country drawing room."

Alternative options

Alternative Flooring considers carpet making a craft and these carpets showcase the best of British design. The Quirky B carpets are woven on traditional axminster looms in Salisbury with its rich carpet making tradition.

The company's personalised Make Me a Rug online service offers countless flooring and border combinations and styles. The runner collection now offers over 80 designs, including patterned and striped

wools, natural fibres and plain options.

Alternative Flooring offers a range of undyed wool carpets. From the new Wool Crafty flatweaves to the deep pile Barefoot, these carpets are hand woven on traditional looms to create the ultimate in eco-luxury.

The naturally classic carpets such as Wool Iconic and Rock 'n' Roll stripe are timeless classics and for those at home with pattern, Quirky B's wall-to-wall broadloom carpet and runners make the perfect choice.

Alternative Flooring brings comfort and joy back to all our floors and has that spark of curiosity that inspires flooring to be different.

With award-winning eco-friendly and patterned collections, Alternative Flooring is a popular choice for the design savvy and interior designers.

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Top right: Quirky B Lattice Flitcroft by Ben Pentreath for Alternative Flooring
Above: Also part of the new Quirky B collection, this design is called Cube Webb

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New dedicated design space

Marshalls – a leading manufacturer of hard landscaping, water management and street furniture products – has opened a dedicated design space in the heart of Clerkenwell.

The Marshalls Design Space has been created specifically with architects and designers in mind, with a wide range of materials in various finishes on display to help inspire and assist them in making specification decisions.

Architects and designers are welcome to drop in anytime to view materials, speak to materials experts, use the hot desks or simply to have a cup of coffee. The space also features two bookable meeting rooms both with audiovisual equipment.

The Marshalls Design Space is also a space to learn as there will be

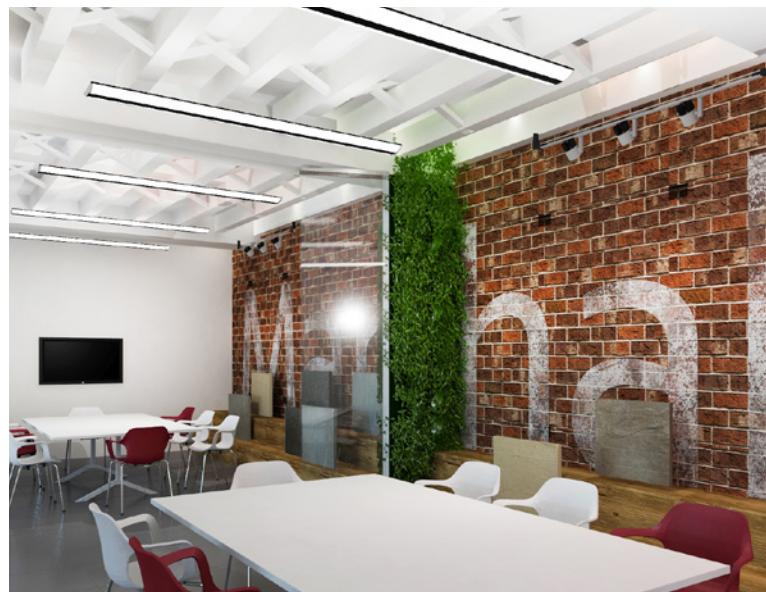
bookable events, guest speakers, CPD's and seminars all listed on the dedicated website.

Peter Hallitt, Marshalls Group Trading Director, comments:

"Clerkenwell has the highest concentration of architects in the UK, if not the world, therefore it makes perfect sense for us to locate our dedicated Design Space there.

"With the range of materials on display, this space is designed to help our clients make specification decisions, but it's also about giving them somewhere away from the office to think, learn and be inspired."

The space has been available



for architects to use since Monday 28 September. The address of the Marshalls Design Space is Unit 4, 1st Floor, Compton Courtyard, 40 Compton Street, Clerkenwell, EC1V 0BD. To book a meeting room or for more information simply contact Marshalls via the details below.

www.marshalls.co.uk/designspace «
designspace@marshalls.co.uk «
 0208 722 1335 «

Main: Marshalls is an expert in external landscaping, interior design, paving and flooring products
 Above: The new space is an exclusive venue for design professionals



crest JMT leather

www.crestjmtleather.co.uk info@crestjmtleather.co.uk Tel: +44 (0) 1706 643 121 Fax: +44 (0) 1706 643 133



Left: Custom Carpet Company work alongside clients to produce bespoke designs
Below left: The company is able to offer a comprehensive range of carpets for both domestic and commercial projects

Bespoke carpets

Custom Carpet Company is a family business with more than 30 years' experience in producing custom made carpets.

Producing custom made and standard carpets from plain broadloom to complex designs and textures, Custom Carpet Company prides itself on its service from the initial enquiry through to installation and beyond.

Current and recent projects include houses, apartments, villas, palaces, a ranch, hotels, super yachts and sailing yachts in locations as varied as UK, Europe, The Middle East, Caribbean, U.S.A and Canada.

The company offers a comprehensive range of carpets

for residential and commercial projects, with specialist knowledge in yacht and aircraft installations. Custom colours are available in most qualities, including handtufted, handknotted, passmachine, woven and machine tufted. The majority of the designs are made in wool, but the company also uses cotton, chenille, silk, linen, bamboo and synthetic yarns.

Bespoke requirements

Custom Carpet Company are experts in analysing the requirements of each project. This

may involve guidance in quality selection, colour choice or the development of a design proposal.

The team can work from original artwork or assist clients in developing new ideas to realise design requirements. The company also has an extensive design database of previous work, which can be reproduced or adapted for new projects. Once designs are agreed, Custom Carpet Company will then produce sampling for final approval.

The company also provides a full support service that offers assistance with all aspects of project planning, including product advice, estimating, site surveys, templating, installation and transportation. These services are available throughout the UK and overseas.

Custom Carpet Company can liaise with architects or contractors to survey and template projects. This service can include advice on installation techniques, which may vary dependant on surface finishes. The surfacing expert also offers guidance on maintenance, with recommended contractors, if required.

Custom Carpet Company understands that installation is an important part of any project, therefore the company can arrange fittings with a supply of underlays and fixing materials throughout the UK and overseas. The company's fitters are experienced in all methods of fitting, including stretched gripper fixing, adhered systems and the company's Velcro technique. Custom Carpet Company can also supply stair rods and door plates in various finishes.

Delivery of carpets and installation materials can be coordinated with the company's freight forwarders by sea, road and airfreight, with groupage and dedicated options available worldwide.

If you would like further information or would like to arrange an appointment for the company to visit with the complete range of samples, simply contact the company via the below details.

www.customcarpetcompany.co.uk «
info@customcarpetcompany.co.uk «
 01737 830301 «





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Egger door is ideal solution

James Latham recently supplied Hanson & Beards – a UK manufacturer of performance timber doorsets and glazed screens – with more than 200 Egger FD30 Decor 44mm melamine faced door blanks which have been installed as part of Criterion Capital's £5.2m refurbishment of Enid Wood House in Bracknell town centre.

Hanson & Beards has used the door blanks – which are FSC certified and exclusive to James Latham – for internal flat doors on the lower floors of the building. Egger laminate – also supplied by James Latham – has been used to produce matching entrance doors throughout the project, which extends to more than 60,000ft² across seven storeys.

Adrian Hanson, Managing Director of Hanson & Beards, comments: "The team at James Latham has real technical expertise and an in-depth understanding and knowledge of all the products they supply, meaning they were able to advise and work with us in developing this specification.

"One of the main benefits of the Egger FD30 Decor 44mm door blank

is that it saves the door producer time and money with its high quality melamine faced decor – there is no need for the purchase of laminate or veneer, saving associated production, wastage and administration costs, which of course can be passed on."

The high quality melamine finish on the fire-rated door core colour, matches the rest of Egger's comprehensive decorative sheet material portfolio which is already carried by James Latham, so it is an excellent addition to the Latham/Egger offering.

Local manufacturer

Steven Dennard, Group Door Manager for James Latham, adds: "We are delighted to be able to offer this exclusive range of Egger door blanks and it has provided the ideal



solution to Hanson & Beards for this particular contract.

"Made in the UK, it is the only manufacturer produced decorative FR door core in the country – all other decorative blanks are produced by third parties.

"Melamine-faced fire door blanks are relatively unknown in the UK as the process is really only possible for a melamine producer, but they offer real benefits to the door manufacturer and I can see plenty of opportunities with this product going forward, which will appeal not just to the traditional door manufacturers, but also shop fitters and broader turn-key operation businesses as they don't have to own a veneer or laminate press."

The Egger FD30 Decor door has the added benefit of FR Certification with a 3mm ABS edging – as well as the standard hardwood lipping required for all FR doors. It is available through James Latham, directly from stock and in 10 striking decors – all matching Egger's extensive decorative sheet portfolio. The decors are supplied as a 2135 x 915mm blank. Finishes include Light and Dark Grey, Beech and Oak, as well some more exotic decors such as Tobacco Aida Walnut, Colo Bolo and Mail Wenge.

www.lathamtimber.co.uk
marketing@lathams.co.uk
0116 257 3415



Above right: The Egger FD30 Decor door in place at the refurbishment project
Left: The design is available in 10 decors



1. Kährs has introduced a new collection of 10 rustic oak wood floors. Part of Kährs Supreme Range, the Småland Collection features a dynamic timber surface with a unique composition of knots, graining and cracks. Its very rustic, undulating appearance is complemented with a range of surface treatments, which create a multi-faceted surface. This collection is suitable for both contract and residential environments and features a multi-layered construction, which can be installed over underfloor heating. The designs have a one-strip 'plank' format enhanced by a bevelled edge along all four sides. Colour tones range from light beige/grey Oak Vista, to deep toned Tvetta, which is smoked to give a brown/black hue.

www.kahrs.com 023 9245 3045

Product Spotlight

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



2



3

#giveusyourA++

[Click here to view video about ErP <<](#)

2. Polyflor is pleased to announce the launch of its innovative Affinity^{2⁵⁵} range of high design, heavy commercial luxury vinyl tiles, which have been created to work in perfect harmony with vinyl sheet flooring ranges. Featuring an eclectic mix of 16 authentically reproduced wood plank designs, the 2mm gauge Affinity^{2⁵⁵} collection offers straightforward installation alongside 2mm vinyl sheet flooring, providing a beautifully seamless flooring solution that flows throughout any commercial installation. The hard wearing Affinity^{2⁵⁵} collection has been developed for heavy traffic commercial environments in sectors such as retail, leisure, office, housing, healthcare and education.

www.polyflor.com 0161 767 1111

3. Mitsubishi Electric is offering anyone the chance to win a special Ecodan thermal mug by Tweeting their own picture of an A++ to celebrate the new Energy Related Products (ErP) rating for the entire range of Ecodan heat pumps. The ErP Directive aims to help both residential and commercial customers identify the most energy-efficient products on the market. To help celebrate the achievement, the company's Hatfield staff helped spell out the A++ rating for Ecodan and now Mitsubishi Electric would like others to have a go too. Anyone wanting to secure their own mug should create their own A++ image using tools, people or whatever comes to hand, then Tweet it using #giveusyourA++ and follow the company @meuk_les.

www.livingenvironmentsystems.mitsubishielectric.co.uk 01895 276600



4



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4. Vinyl flooring from Polyflor's Classic Mystique PUR and Expona Design ranges has been used to create a fresh, modern office environment for international technology company Analog Devices in Co. Limerick, Republic of Ireland. 500m² of Classic Mystique PUR sheet vinyl flooring in two complementary grey shades – Silver Mist 1430 and Nocturne 1380 – have been installed within the office canteen at the Analog Devices' regional headquarters. 300m² of Expona Design PUR luxury vinyl tiles have also been used for tea and coffee stations around the office. The linear, silver-toned Light Contour 7214 design was chosen to complement the surrounding grey carpet tiles.

www.polyflor.com 0161 767 1111

5. An "out of this world" flooring design using Polyflor's vinyl flooring has helped to bring an extra dose of fun to a play room at the Nightingale children's ward at Chesterfield Royal Hospital. Polyflor's in-house Design Service created this bespoke floor design for the children's ward, featuring a colourful rocket ship, planets and stars. The design elements of the floor were manufactured by Polyflor then cut into the sheet flooring on site by County Contract Flooring. Polyflor's Pearlazzo PUR vinyl sheet flooring in Purple Crush 9722 has been used as the backdrop to the play area's space-themed designs, which are a mixture of colours from the Pearlazzo PUR, 2000 PUR, Classic Mystique and XL PU homogeneous vinyl ranges.

www.polyflor.com 0161 767 1111



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6. Kaldewei will once again exhibit at the Sleep Event on Stand V10 with an exciting line up of recently launched products, including models from Kaldewei's brand new product segment – washbasins. Shown for the first time in the UK, visitors at the event will see products from two of Kaldewei's new series, Silenio and Incava. Both ranges are designed by industry-experienced designer, Anke Salomon and are distinguished by exceptionally soft interior lines. The harmoniously combined bathtubs and washbasins of the Silenio range will be on display along with the Meisterstück Incava bath – an addition to Kaldewei's Meisterstücke collection of fully enamelled freestanding baths and already the proud recipient of a Red Dot Award.
www.kaldewei.co.uk 01480 498053

7. Hansgrohe will exhibit a selection of its latest products from its Hansgrohe and Axor brands at Sleep 2015 on Stand M39. Found in quality hotels worldwide, Hansgrohe is a well-established bathroom brand serving global chains through to independent boutique hotels. On show this year will be iSpecify – Hansgrohe's latest planning tool for architects, interior designers and bathroom planners, allowing for easy, fast, and efficient project specifications with Axor and Hansgrohe products. Visitors will be able to experience the Select Evolution – this growing range of showers and controls with intuitive push button operation is enjoyable to use for all age of hotel guests. Latest products include new materials like white glass and stylish SoftCube shapes.
www.hansgrohe.co.uk 01372 465655



8. For a simple installation and a contemporary look, the Click shower enclosure collection from Simpsons is the ideal choice for modern bathroom spaces. A modern and practical choice, the range features an innovative click profile system – an easy and effective installation component that simply clicks into place. Available in a range of screen options including double access and single hinged, Click is also offered in three bath screen designs. With its semi-frameless design and angular edging, all components and fixtures are cleverly integrated into the silver frame. The toughened 6mm glass makes it suitable for power shower use and a reversible door design adds additional convenience when fitting, even into a corner.

www.simpsons-enclosures.co.uk 0345 873 8840



9. Designed to facilitate flexible working in the office, Mea is a new and unique task chair from Boss Design that combines a luxurious upholstered design with outstanding comfort and ergonomics. Incorporating a weight-balance synchro mechanism to offer dynamic support; Mea assists flexible working by reducing the number of manual user adjustments, whilst also fulfilling the need for more sophisticated conference chairs to accommodate longer meetings. Available in high-back-executive or mid-back options, the chair can be upholstered in any fabric and a wide range of leathers. Mea offers the option of veneered outer shells, a polished aluminium four or five-star base and a Polymer five-star base.

www.boss-design.com 01384 455570



10



11

10. Lyndon Design has unveiled the new Agent high table with bar stools. Suitable for both corporate and hospitality environments, this latest addition to the popular Agent range combines first class style with functionality and is perfect for informal environments and where space is at a premium. Oozing style and appeal, the Agent high table features a robust yet elegant white MFC top that creates a durable finish lasting for up to several years. The simple yet bold lines of the table and the quality of the timber used for the underframe reflect Lyndon Design's expertise in handcrafting wood materials, as well as giving the table an exquisite finish. Available in size 1050 x 1800mm, the table is available in an American Black Walnut or European Oak frame to suit a variety of interior design styles.
www.lyndon.co.uk 01242 584897

11. Morgan, the design-led British manufacturer of contract furniture, will once more be exhibiting at Sleep on Stand M23c. The company will be showcasing a selection of inspiring designs, such as the new seating collection, RIO. Mehran Gharleghi from Studio INTEGRATE has collaborated with Katerina McMahon and the Morgan Design team and developed a chair that uses a ground-breaking 3D printed component, made in both a polyamide and a metallic finished resin. Constructed using a mathematical algorithm, each set of chairs features a slight variation of the algorithm making it slightly different as if it were carved by hand. The result is a beautiful and comfortable chair that is available now and, as such, is ground-breaking within the commercial furniture market.
www.morganfurniture.co.uk 01243 371111

Listed transformation

The Chapter House of St Paul's Cathedral has become a more ecologically efficient office thanks to secondary glazing by Selectaglaze.



Adjacent to the iconic St Paul's Cathedral sits the striking grade II listed Chapter House, designed by Christopher Wren and his son – built between 1712-1714.

Seen as the administrative heart of the Cathedral, it was refurbished during the 1950's into offices and recently underwent a major revamp to bring it up to modern office standards, while still retaining key features of the building.

An important requirement was to increase the thermal insulation throughout the building, thus retaining the building's heat and reducing energy bills.

As specialists in the design, manufacture and installation of secondary glazing, Selectaglaze were specified as the company's tested products can reduce heat loss by up to 50%. This can be achieved by the bespoke fitting of the secondary glazing alongside the use of high performance seals.

A number of Selectaglaze products have been used to suit the various window styles. The majority of solutions used are from the slim-line range, which is particularly appropriate for heritage buildings as they are unobtrusive and offer a reversible adaptation, accepted by most heritage agencies across the UK.

Over 120 units have been installed in six different colour finishes to match the existing frames.

Selectaglaze has a wealth of experience working in buildings of all types, from listed to new build. Established in 1969 and Royal Warrant holders since 2004, the company boasts an extensive range of products to suit the needs of different buildings.

www.selectaglaze.co.uk «

enquiries@selectaglaze.co.uk «

01727 837271 «

12. Eco-friendly wood and finishes expert, Osmo UK, offers TopOil – an interior wood finishing treatment – designed to keep wooden kitchen worktops as beautiful as the day they were installed. Made with natural plant oils and waxes, TopOil accentuates the wood's natural beauty and leaves a flawless water-repellent and resistant finish. Suitable for all wooden worktops and general internal joinery, Osmo TopOil is easy to use. Two to three coats of the oil – depending on the wood species – will allow the homeowner to enjoy glorious wooden worktops for years to come. Liquid spillages will tightly bead on the surface without leaving marks.

www.osmouk.com

01296 481220





13. With bustling night life on its doorstep, Ham Yard Hotel is able to offer a peaceful night's sleep thanks to Selectaglaze. The hotel, part of Firmdale Hotels, has 91 individually designed hotel bedrooms and 24 apartments. Selectaglaze was approached to give advice on the treatment of a certain facade of the hotel because it was suffering from excessive external noise. Secondary glazing is an effective solution for combating outside noise. A total of 37 openings have been treated using acoustic laminated glass, to assist in creating a more peaceful environment. Selectaglaze Secondary Glazing specialists will be at this month's Independent Hotel Show on stand 50. www.selectaglaze.co.uk 01727 837271





14



15

14. CD UK and washroom fittings manufacturer Lovair have joined forces to supply and fit hand washing units for washroom areas and at the entrances to the dining areas on the newest P&O cruise liner, The Britannia. Designed by Richmond International to have a British ambience throughout the vessel, the 1082ft long ship took her maiden voyage earlier this year, carrying 3600 passengers and 1400 crew. The Corian hand-wash units were individually crafted in Lovair's Stockport workshop and range from 1.2-1.8m in length. The sanitary, easy to clean, seamless qualities of Corian bring added value to this closed environment, where hygiene is of paramount importance.

www.cduktd.co.uk 0113 201 2240

15. eporta is a new online sourcing platform exclusively for trade buyers, that is revolutionising the professional home furnishing sector by allowing interior designers, architects and retailers to connect directly with product designers and furniture suppliers globally. The members-only platform is a B2B marketplace which solves many of the daily issues faced by buyers, such as dealing with multiple suppliers and tracking individual orders, deliveries and payments. eporta radically transforms these administrative tasks and streamlines the sourcing process. The new platform is the first online sourcing platform exclusively for trade buyers. Professionals can use the professional search to access almost 30,000 unique products from over 500 suppliers.

www.eporta.com 01293 851115

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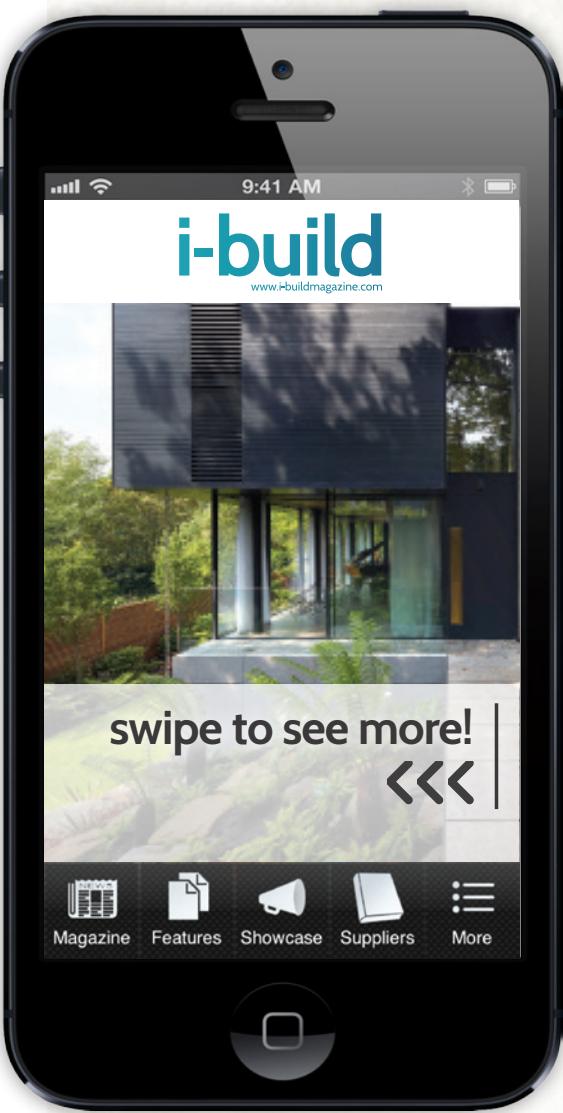
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