

I N E X

magazine



ISSUE
79



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WELCOME TO INEX

ISSUE
79
MARCH
2020

Much to the nation's delight, spring is on its way, meaning we're a little closer to those long-awaited lighter evenings and mornings and warmer temperatures. However, that doesn't mean 2020's lighting designs are taking a backseat. It's no secret that lighting can make or break an interior scheme; enhancing a room's ambience and perhaps, most importantly, the mood of a building's end-user. And, while exterior lighting is equally as imperative to get right, interiors do take precedence. We've all heard time and time before that we're spending too much time indoors, and with the severe lack of recognition towards the importance of a healthy work-life balance, we are now relying on bringing the outdoors in through the form of biophilia.

The key element of biophilia is improving our wellbeing while we spend so much of our time indoors, and lighting plays a crucial role in improving our mood. Lighting that positively responds to our circadian rhythm is now being incorporated into interiors to mimic natural daylighting rhythms and regulate our sleep cycles. In this month's issue, Luke Thomas, Design Director of John Cullen Lighting, touches on the importance of circadian rhythm-focused lighting in his article on lighting styles that are trending within the residential sector. Turn to page 28 to learn more.

Biophilic design runs through the pages of each and every issue of Inex magazine; whether it's in the form of living walls, colours, textures lighting or plants. If you attended this year's Surface Design Show, you may have noticed the prevalence of this topic amongst exhibitors and on-stage seminars. What was evident from this year's event was that biophilia and sustainability both have a long-term position within interior design.

I hope you enjoy this edition. Don't forget, you can also access all of Inex's features and product inspiration at your fingertips via the magazine's state-of-the-art app. To download your version free of charge, simply search 'Inex-online' on the App Store or Google Play.



Cover:
Vinterior Founder,
Sandrine Zhang Ferron,
explains how to work
antiques and vintage
furniture into residential
schemes.
See page 48.

Rebecca

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Inex rounds up the latest innovative products and solutions entering the interior marketplace.

MARCH EVENTS

Inex rounds up this month's industry must-see events, trade shows, seminars and exciting exhibitions from all over the globe, so you never miss a thing.



FUTUREBUILD

ExCeL, London
3-5 March

Futurebuild brings together 27,000 industry influencers and shapers to drive real change. A world-class knowledge programme alongside an immersive exhibition of 450 innovative and inspiring brands and a host of networking events will combine to create an unmissable experience.

*Find Inex magazine
on stand A82 at this year's Futurebuild*

futurebuild.co.uk

KBB BIRMINGHAM

NEC, Birmingham
1-4 March

kbb Birmingham provides the perfect setting to source and specify the newest and most exciting product launches from over 400 world-renowned brands, helping you to secure clients and win new business.

kbb.co.uk



HRC

ExCeL, London,
3-5 March

HRC (formerly Hotelympia) is one of the UK's largest and most prestigious events for the hospitality and foodservice industry. Split into four shows: The Foodservice Show, The Professional Kitchen Show, Interiors and Tabletop Show and Hospitality Tech Show, the event offers hospitality professionals the chance to meet with a range of leading suppliers.

hrc.co.uk



IDEAL HOME SHOW

Olympia, London
27 March-13 April

This year's show will feature more than 600 exhibitors showcasing an array of new products and household names across the interior, homeware, style and garden industries, with expert guests hosting stage talks.

idealhomeshow.co.uk



AFFORDABLE ART FAIR

Battersea Park, London
12-15 March

With more than two decades of providing stunning original artworks of all shapes and sizes to thousands of visitors every year, Affordable Art Fair is the go-to place for experienced collectors and first-time art buyers alike. Visit in Battersea Park this spring to browse thousands of contemporary artworks priced between £50 and £6000; bringing together over 100 galleries from all over the globe.

affordableartfair.com





CONNECT, CONVERSE AND CREATE WITH MASTERS OF DESIGN

From 8 to 13th March, London Design Week 2020 will bring together masters of design, creating a dialogue between exhibitors and visitors in an arena that is as inspiring as it is influential.

Across six days, London Design Week 2020 at Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour, will present new-season launches and share ideas on what it takes to be the best of the best.

120 showrooms and 600 brands will unite to present a compelling vision of interior design excellence. Adding another layer to the

offering will be the magnificent Design Avenue, an architectural space of breathtaking scale and proportion, unseen anywhere else in London. It will play host to a raft of house guests, only in situ for the duration of the show. They will bring fresh perspectives and even more ways for visitors to encounter world-class talent.



design centre
LONDON

LONDON
DESIGN
WEEK 2020

TRADE PREVIEW 8 – 10 March
ALL WELCOME 11 – 13 March

New collections for spring speak of a confident, thoughtful approach: exquisite materials, couture detailing and the dramatic use of colour and texture; and the importance of provenance, skill, craftsmanship and a move towards informed choices.

Reflecting a commitment to creativity and connection, a curated programme of more than 100 events will include workshops, talks, artisan demonstrations and discovery tours that dig deeper inside the stories behind the designs and provide opportunities to meet the people who shaped them. On the main stage, eminent names will share their experiences at the acclaimed Conversations in Design series, while memorable installations and specially commissioned places to eat and drink will bring plenty of visual inspiration.

Every year, Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour, enriches the programme, broadening insights and specialist knowledge for both professionals and design enthusiasts to enjoy. A vital industry hub with an international standing, it is recognised as an authoritative voice of interior decoration. ▣

dcch.co.uk



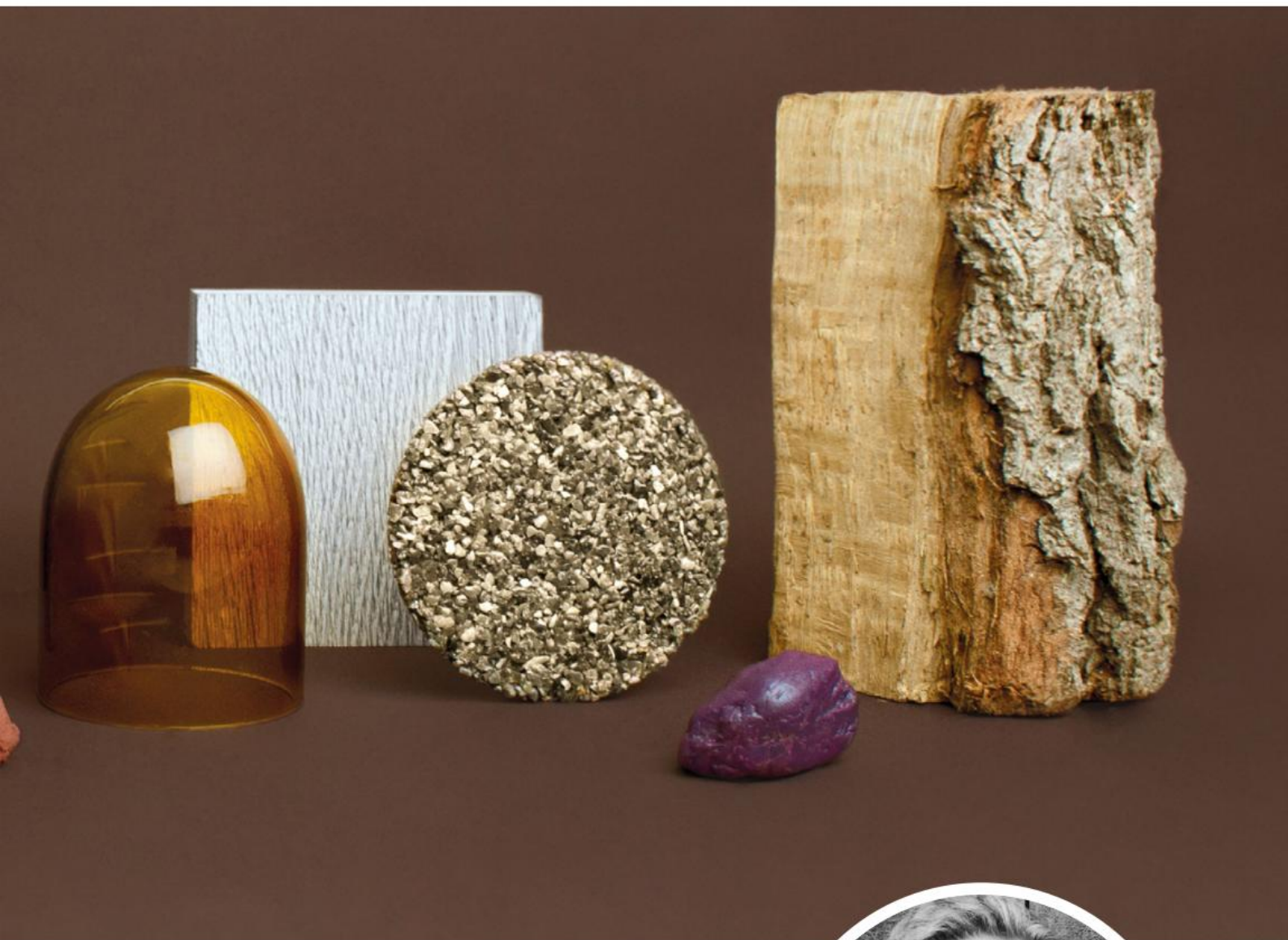
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Interior profile: **NINA BAILEY**

After graduating from Falmouth University with a degree in textile design, Nina Bailey was scouted for her first job at the New Designers exhibition in London to work for a prestigious flooring manufacturer in the Midlands, designing printed and tufted flooring products. Here, Nina – now the UK Design Manager at Formica Group – talks to us about her interior journey.







Please talk us through your career journey

Relocating to London after graduation, I continued as a design consultant in the flooring industry. I worked closely with interior designers and architects, creating floorplans, bespoke flooring solutions and products.

Moving to Formica Group felt like a natural progression, given my expertise in designing surfacing materials. I started as UK Design Manager. My role entails directing the design of our UK product ranges, alongside tracking and forecasting trends for product and business development purposes.

What inspired you to work in design?

I have always been creative, and for me, design is extremely fulfilling. Growing up, I was close friends with Architect John Pardey's daughter, and was introduced to his work and continue to admire it still. I used to feel incredibly excited visiting or seeing images of the buildings he had designed around the world.

This gave me a spark to embark on a career where you work towards creating a physical piece of design. I knew that I wanted to follow a similar path in this industry and create physical objects.

What has been your greatest source of inspiration throughout your career?

I discovered the work of Bauhaus Designer, Anni Albers, whilst studying textiles. I found her work particularly inspirational, and I still look to her designs and approaches for inspiration now. She was one of the most important influences on me while at university. Always bold and experimental, she was really ahead of her time, really pushing the boundaries in the early 20th-century male-dominated environment. ▶



How do you approach your projects?

I approach each project with an open mind. Key to my role is the ability to translate trends and themes into final, well-thought-out projects.

Who is your favourite interior designer and why?

I really appreciate the work of Philippe Starck. His design ethos is quite unconventional, placing a greater emphasis on the end product being highly functioning before being beautiful. In design, it's quite easy to get lost in pure aesthetics. Despite this focus,

Starck's work is memorable and iconic. He has been tackling the need for sustainability seriously for years.

Would you say that you have a design style?

My style is very adaptable. We design for all sectors at Formica, so my work is varied and involves applying different styles for different needs.

My personal preference is for simplicity, accented with a mix of eclectic patterns. For example, in terms of interiors, I love a pared-back, subtle look combined with statement colours and pieces to add character.

What do you believe is the biggest challenge for today's interior designers?

Finding the right materials in the right finishes and colours can be challenging. For interior designers, one of the first stages of a project is usually creating a carefully considered colour palette. Not being able to find suitable hues and tones can be so frustrating.

This is why we offer an extensive range of colours, finishes and material looks. We want to support designers and give them as much creative freedom as possible. ►



What has been your biggest accomplishment to date?

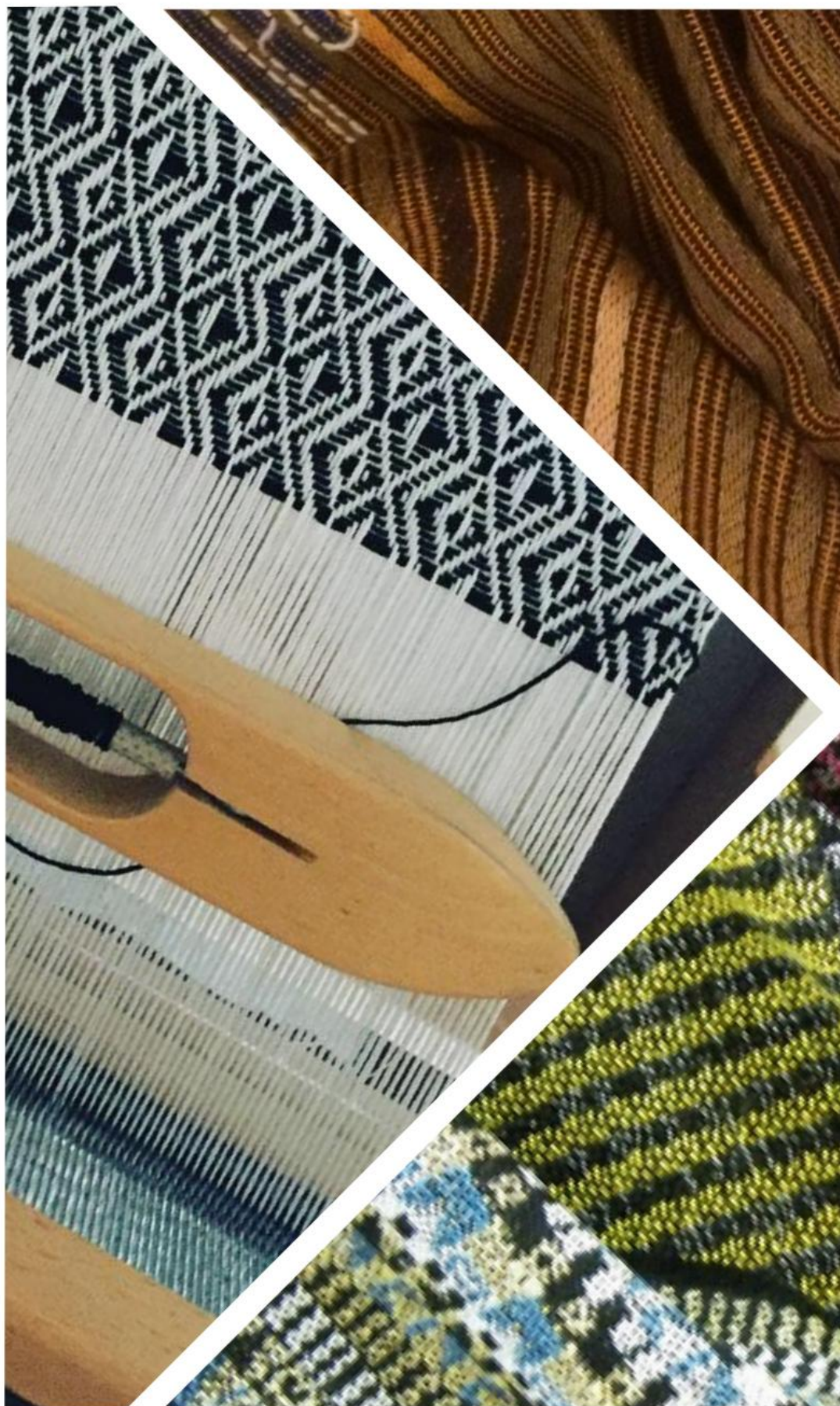
Getting to where I am today. I take each day as it comes while striving to accomplish something great every day.

Do you have a preferred colour palette you enjoy working with?

I love earthy colours and palettes for their meditative qualities. I'm always drawn towards blues, greens, oranges and yellows. Whether soothing tones or energetic, highly pigmented colours, they are all linked to nature. They are also adaptable and suited to almost any environment.

What advice would you offer to those that are considering a career in design?

A career in design is one of the best decisions I ever made, but it has its challenges. You should be prepared not always to be working with what you love the most, and you need to be open-minded to other people's opinions. Remember that design is subjective, and we all have our own likes and dislikes. Therefore, you should never be afraid to speak your mind; however, equally, you shouldn't be offended if someone questions your ideas. Take criticism and direction in your stride, and you can achieve great things.





What do you believe is the biggest challenge for newly qualified designers?

When you finish your degree and start your first design job, you'll realise that you can't just create what you feel like anymore. It can be difficult to transition into that headspace where you design for a specific market or customer. However, once you do, it's great. It's really rewarding work and can open your eyes to new ideas you might not have considered before.

What can we expect to see from Formica Group over the next year?

We have several exciting launches this year. For example, we have refreshed our Axiom and Prima UK worktop ranges. I have introduced an array of fresh, new on-trend colours and designs into the collections, alongside different abstract material looks to give the ranges a sophisticated update. ▣

formica.com



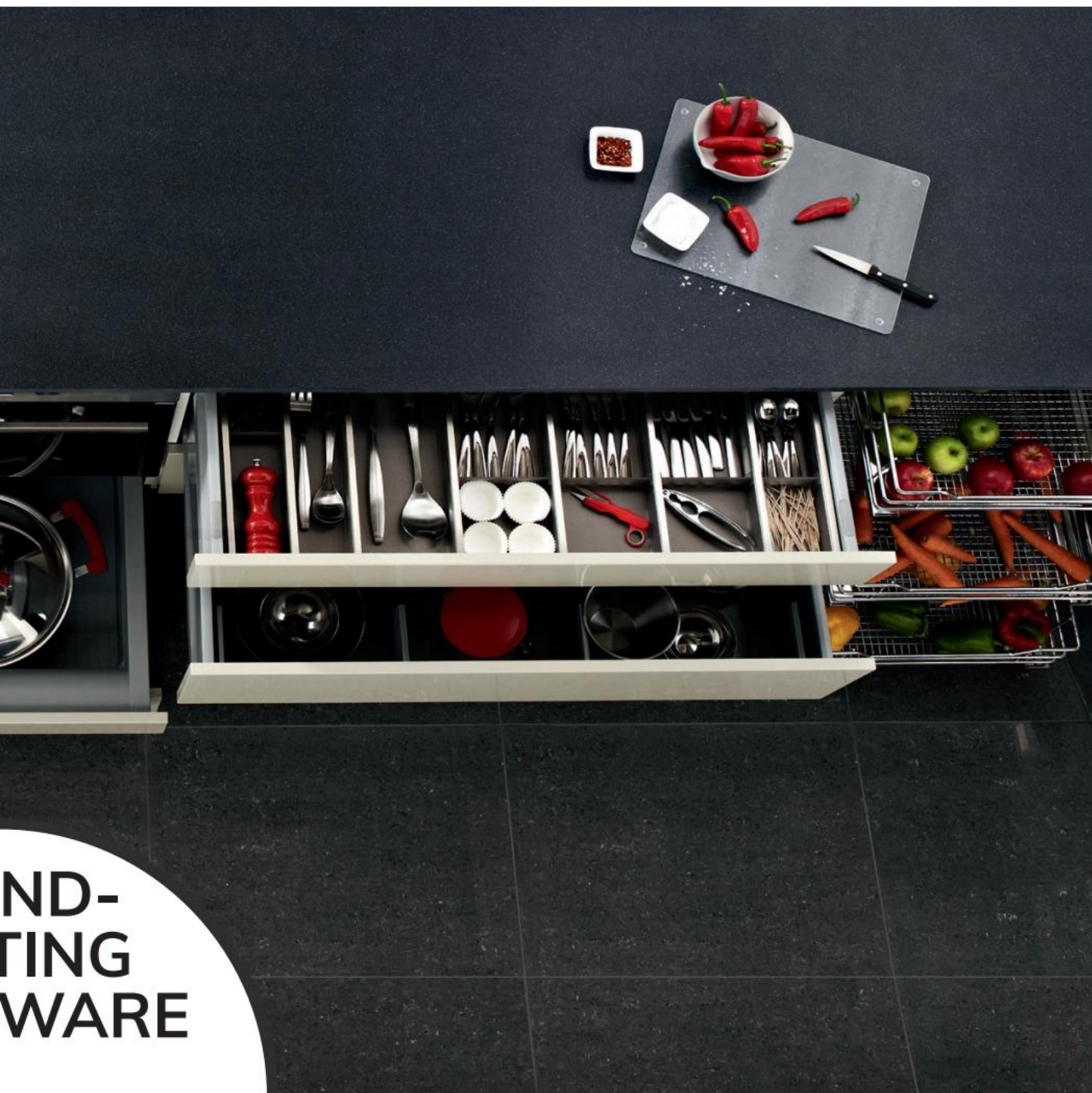
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Manager for Decor
Accessories



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Thanks to emerging trends and a different approach, products such as hinges, handles and wirework are adding stylish touches to the home, making hardware a key element when creating spaces that look as good as they function.

With an abundance of textures and colour palettes dominating everything from hinges to handles, designers need to consider every last detail of fixtures and features to make sure the overall look and feel of a room has the all-important wow factor.

Spaces hinged on great design

With a greater choice of hinges available, homeowners can now choose the perfect option depending on the space available, style of cabinetry and preferred functionality.

For example, we're seeing an increase in concealed hinge fittings introduced to the market. Used in partnership with ultra-thin doors, these remove the need for bulky, outdated hinges, catering to the minimalist design concepts we're seeing more and more of.

In the UK, we're also seeing hinge trends coming over from the continent. With space at a premium, homeowners are realising they can maximise space and height in their kitchen with flap hinges, compared to traditionally favoured side-hinge options. ▶







Easy come, easy go

Meanwhile, hinges such as our Grass Tiomos range offer the perfect mix of stylish design and maximum stability. With an adjustable soft-close feature, it can be tailored to units, cabinets and layouts of any shape or size; while its latest version, the Tipmatic and Tipmatic Plus, also offers a 'touch-to-open' option, making kitchen use more effortless than ever.

The range comes in a standard nickel-plated finish, as well as the recently launched 'night' – or anthracite – finish, which is perfectly timed for the trend of darker details.

Dark and bold hardware

While chrome and grey-coloured cabinetry and fittings have dominated the market for many years, 2019 saw a shift from light and mid-shades to darker, bolder options. In response, manufacturers and distributors are now creating complementary wirework and handles to help homeowners create a more dramatic look in their kitchen and put components at the centre of their design.

Alongside anthracite, antique bronzes and coppers will join rose gold as the metallic colours of choice in 2020, especially

for accent accessories such as handles and knobs.

Customers are increasingly demanding hardware which helps them achieve greater definition in their homes. As such, 2020 will also see more attention placed on the ways in which hardware can complement popular worktop and splashback products and styles, with designers tasked with sourcing the very best ranges on the market to achieve designs which stand out from the crowd thanks to exquisite attention to detail for maximum style and function. ▣

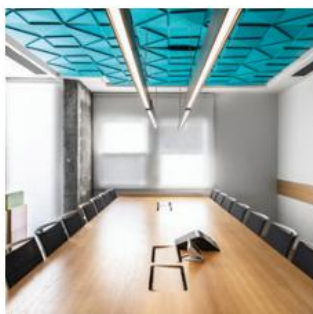
hafele.co.uk





From Ocean Pollution to Noise Solution

UK based acoustic solutions manufacturer Soundtect® began 10 years ago when their engineering team launched a pioneering process to recycle the carpets they manufacture for exhibitions into acoustic panels as a third generation product.



Soundtect® has grown into a Worldwide supplier of acoustic solutions with a wide range of products for walls and ceilings which not only reduces noise, but adds positive design features to any indoor space.

Soundtect® Ranges include; 3D Panels, CLASS Ceiling Baffles, CLASS Rafts and Freestyle, a semi-rigid felt used for wall applications, hanging partitions, ceiling rafts... in fact just about anything!

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FLAMBOYANCE MEETS TRANQUILLITY

Renowned Designer and TV Presenter Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen is thrilled to announce his collaboration with UK-based handcrafted furniture brand, Aspire. Taking inspiration from the white-hot 'Hollywood Regency' design trend, the Mayfair Lady is a brilliantly stylish bed with a distinct touch of Llewelyn-Bowen glamour.



Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen is best known for his unapologetic, flamboyant style when it comes to both fashion and interiors. For the Mayfair Lady, he has paid design homage to one of his all-time heroes, Cecil Beaton, whose designs made Audrey Hepburn so unforgettable in the multi-Oscar-award-winning film 'My Fair Lady'.

The Mayfair Lady bed design has been handcrafted in the UK, with solid timber framework and hand-carved, varnished feet. It also features hard-wearing timber slats and deep foam padding on both the head and footboards. The piece has been thoughtfully constructed for simple self-assembly and is available in both double and king sizes. The design is Laurence's hymn to the romantic tradition of the bedroom, combining divine comfort with the unprecedented heights of contemporary glamour.

Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen comments: "Aspire have allowed me to indulge my passion for glamorous, voluptuous design. I love the fact that the designs I've evolved so lovingly are skilfully made by hand, using the traditional British methods which guarantee unparalleled quality and comfort. As a young and dynamic company, Aspire have already begun to spark something of a boutique manufacturing renaissance in the North East, and it gives me huge pride to see these designs brought to life in the UK." □

aspirestore.co.uk



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– Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen



SHINING A LIGHT ON CURRENT TRENDS

In this article, Luke Thomas, Design Director of John Cullen Lighting, talks Inex through the seven prevailing lighting trends emerging from the high-end residential sector.





1. Ceiling recessed downlights used with thought

There is a general movement towards the minimal use of ceiling recessed downlights. Rather than banks of downlights providing an even, and mostly flat, lighting effect, the trend is to use downlights only where they are required to achieve a specific effect. For example, downlights would be used for light to artwork, a pool of light to flowers on a coffee table or to wash towards a kitchen cupboard. This effect would be supplemented with decorative ambient lighting to create the overall light effect.

2. Linear lighting is all the rage

Linear LED is being used in favour of single-point source lights, particularly under wall-hung units for task lighting. The continuous lighting effect is more discreet and draws attention to illuminated objects and surfaces rather than to the lights themselves. It can also be used to create an architectural accent. It's very popular to position

the linear LED under steps for a floating effect and is often used within aluminium profiles to create an artistic installation. The flexible tape of LEDs can be cut down to suit any measurement.

3. Smart (but simple) lighting controls

Many clients are aware of the benefits of smart lighting controls, and there



is no doubt that an iPad with access to control all the lighting channels within the home can give incredible flexibility. However, there is a strong requirement for simple controls that are sympathetic in style with the interiors and straightforward to use. It's now possible to have the look of a traditional lighting switch but with the intelligence discreetly concealed within. ►







4. Invisible lighting...nearly

In terms of architectural lighting (downlights, uplights, floor washers etc.), all manufacturers are pushing to create the smallest most discreet light sources, and this is made possible by the continued advancements in LED. This is particularly prevalent for residential interiors where the scale is typically smaller. The more discreet the light fitting is, the more magical and theatrical the lighting effect can be. Small LED uplights can be easily positioned within window reveals for dramatic effect or within the depth of a shelf to highlight an object. As well as being small, the lighting is baffled, and this prevents direct line of sight to source itself, reducing glare and distraction.

5. Natural materials on-trend for decorative lighting

Raw or lightly processed materials are currently making an impact in our client's choices for decorative lighting. Perhaps linked to a general environmental consciousness, the materials used are of a tactile nature. Marble, stone and wicker are all used very successfully for feature lighting pieces and tend to provide interesting shadow patterns. The key

with these decorative items is that an appropriate light source is used. Warm colour temperatures between 2200 and 2700 Kelvins will be the most appropriate for creating an atmosphere in residential environments, but colour rendering is also an important factor to consider; particularly with natural materials where the lighting should reflect and enhance their beauty. The wrong light source can make some materials seem flat and artificial. ►



6. Lighting that is in tune with our internal rhythm

Our circadian rhythm regulates our sleep cycles and is ingrained within our physical makeup. We need to pay attention to this inner clock in order to live happy and healthy lifestyles. The wrong lighting at certain times of day can disrupt our rhythm. For example, bright and blue colours close to bedtime can make it harder to get into a relaxed sleeping mode. Most smartphone companies now automatically adjust their display screens to a warmer colour later in the day, and we can do the same with our interior lighting. Choosing the correct colour temperature and having adaptable lighting will really help. Some lights can change colour within the same housing while another approach is to layer the light and set different scenes for different occasions.

7. Bringing spa luxury to the home

Having enjoyed luxury experiences at spa resorts, our clients are demanding that same experience within their homes. Yes, bathrooms need to be bright and invigorating in the mornings when getting ourselves up and running, but in the evenings, they should offer a place of sanctuary from the busy and hectic lifestyles we all lead. The lighting needs to be adaptable to suit both occasions. The minimum requirement is a dimmer,

but we can also consider a fully layered lighting effect like what we would apply to any of our other living spaces. Skimming effects over textured tiles can make an instant impact, while uplights can mimic a candle-like effect. Integrated mirror lighting can be very stark, so if possible, it's better to combine these functional lights with more decorative wall-mounted options either side. Above all, the lighting should be flattering. ▣

johncullenlighting.com









A TWISTED CLASSIC

A new staircase has transformed the hallway in a stunning refurbished property into an open and welcoming space. Bisca's unusual design features a striking balustrade with twisted uprights made in bronze, which cast a warm glow over the room.

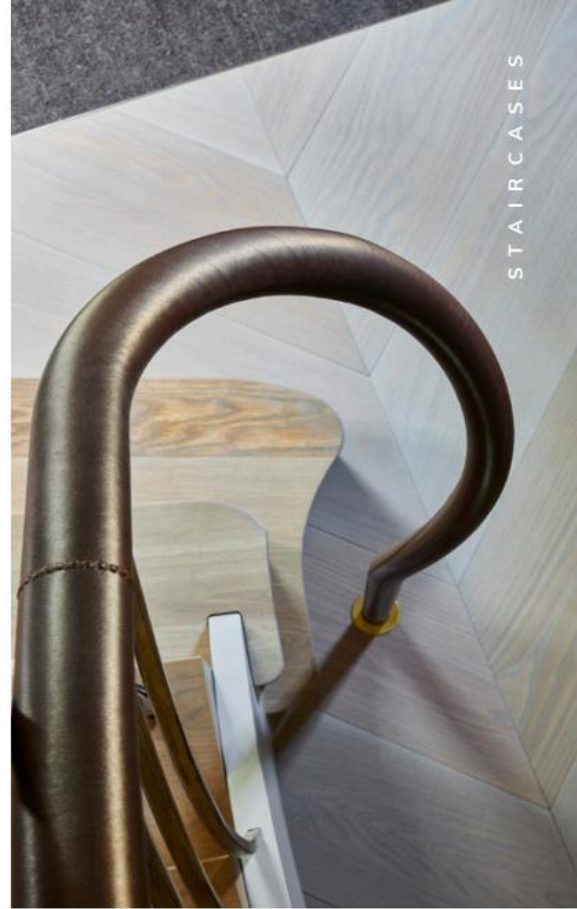
A work of art in its own right, the balustrade turns a classic staircase into something extraordinary, while remaining true to the elegance of a classical style of the Richard Grafton Interiors-designed rooms.

The forged and organically formed bronze uprights are twisted in a captivating design adding a luxurious, glamorous feel to the stair, complementing the straight plan of the staircase beautifully. The uprights are capped with an oval profile leather handrail which adds a flowing feel to the design.

Repositioned to maximise comfort in the space available and to open up the view to the garden beyond, the new staircase has flared treads at the bottom and curved landing edges to the first floor. The treads and risers are made in character oak, stained to match the flooring below and topped with a carpet runner. At the foot of the stair, two larger treads wind slightly, to turn the entrance/exit of the staircase away from the wall. □

bisca.co.uk





STAIRCASES



COPPER – THE CULT-COOL TREND THAT'S HERE TO LAST

The copper trend has taken over modern-day interiors in recent years, providing in-vogue aesthetics and a metallic definition to otherwise muted spaces. However, it's not just the interior industry that's witnessed a surge in copper popularity; jewellery, stationery, leading wearable technologies and even architectural building elements have adopted the on-trend look.



It's a trend that we thought was simply passing through; however, copper accessories and furniture appear to be staying a little longer than expected. Whether it's for a hospitality or residential scheme, there's something undoubtedly alluring about the substrate and the glamour it exudes within interior spaces.

Back in 2017, the Copper Alliance wrote an article for Inex magazine explaining why we're so drawn to the material. According to the alliance; as well as its good looks, the substrate also boasts health benefits and antimicrobial properties, which is a positive nod to today's current focus on health and wellbeing.

From kitchens and bathrooms to lighting fixtures and accessories, copper is certainly still a positive method of adding intrigue to high-end interior design schemes. Flick through the following pages to discover Inex's favourite copper-themed accessories. ▢





4



KEY:

01: Copenhagen pendant lamp By It's About Romi – copper, Lime Lace, £117

02: Fritz Hansen - Orient copper pendant light, Cloudberry Living, £361

03: Speckle 1 Light Electro plated pendant copper finish, dar lighting group, £127.20

04: Casegoods | copper box, Boca do Lobo, £POA

05: Monet copper center table, Boca do Lobo, £POA

06: Sona Copper storage hammered aluminium coffee table, Habitat, £250

07: Eden copper center table, Boca do Lobo, £POA





8



9



12



13



14





11



15



KEY:

08: Trio Copper jewel terrarium, The Urban Botanist, £449.95

09: 1920 French fire extinguisher, copper, Besselink & Jones, £1169

10: Victoria metal bar stool, solid elm wood, copper 65cm, Cult Furniture, £109

11: Klein copper tea light candelabra, Habitat, £45

12: Matteo Copper metal bar stool, velvet upholstered, burnt orange 75cm, Cult Furniture, £109

13: Honeycomb copper geometric pillow, Brabbu Design Forces, £POA

14: Infinity copper console, Boca do Lobo, £POA

15: Copper equator globe, Boca do Lobo, £POA



HOW TO: WORK ANTIQUES AND VINTAGE FURNITURE INTO RESIDENTIAL SCHEMES

As the Founder of online vintage furniture marketplace Vinterior, Sandrine Zhang Ferron knows a thing or two about sourcing vintage accessories and antique furniture for interior schemes. As well as an extensive direct-to-consumer portfolio, the innovative brand is also known for its trade work on high-end hospitality and residential projects. Given her knowledge of pre-loved vintage furniture specifications, Inex talked to Sandrine to find out her top tips for going vintage when designing residential interiors. ▶

ABOUT SANDRINE:

After a three-month stint trying to find the perfect Scandi yellow chair, Sandrine became fed up with trawling markets and vintage dealer showrooms. She thought that there must be a better, less time-consuming way of sourcing vintage and antique furniture – and so the Vinterior concept was born.

Quitting her job in finance, Sandrine learned coding to build the platform that would translate her vision into reality and would pave the way to connecting buyers to sellers. Today that means connecting buyers with over 150,000 different pieces of furniture, lighting and decorative objects that are now available to buy.



Start with one piece

Inspired by the blank canvas of a new home or room, it can be tempting to try and source everything in one go. However, my own experience taught me that choosing one piece at a time will let the room grow into its own more organically.

It is not easy to envision how furniture will go together in situ – in time, you will be glad that you gave the space a chance to come together slowly. Leave room to chance and collect pieces you stumble upon on your travels. Trust your gut when you find a piece that speaks to you and savour the process as much as the end result.

If you're unsure on where to begin, find one statement piece that you really love and start there. This could be a sideboard or a sofa, a storage unit or even a coffee table. No pressure though – just because you opt for a 1950s sofa or an Art Deco sideboard does not mean subscribing to one aesthetic only. Note how the most inspiring spaces are intentionally eclectic – a creative melange of styles and eras.

Nor must you necessarily start with a large piece of furniture. If you are in the process of discovering a style, start with a smaller find. This might be an antique plant pot or a beautiful teak Mid-Century mirror. One advantage of home decor is that you can eclectically mix and match styles to see what works, without too high an investment.

Mix styles and eras

The joy of buying vintage and antiques is the endless scope for creativity. Sticking slavishly to one period is the enemy of eclectic panache. Be bold and have fun experimenting with mixing old with new. Avoid an overly symmetrical layout weighed down by matchy-matchy furniture. Embrace imperfection. The room will come alive when rife with varied references to form, texture, material and colour. ►





“The joy of buying vintage and antiques is the scope for creativity. Sticking slavishly to one period is the enemy of eclectic panache.”

– SANDRINE ZHANG FERRON
Vinterior Founder

Trust your own tastes

You do not need to follow trends. These change all the time and should not limit your fun when decorating an interior. Instead of conforming to a specific look that will likely be outdated in a couple of years, think about how you can create a timeless feel that connotes both past memories and future gatherings. And remember: a home should be a treasure trove, brimming with points of inspiration that speak uniquely to the homeowner – whether they meet with wider approval or not.

Keep your accessories in view

Every home has characterful accessories gathering dust hidden inside cabinets. Why not showcase a client's favourite collection somewhere more accessible? Coffee tables and side tables are a great place for highlighting points of interest. Treat those as a moving shelf of sorts and make a habit of tinkering around with the most intriguing pieces. Play with indirect lighting to draw attention to them. These curiosities make for great conversation when homeowners are hosting.

Embrace antiques in dark woods

Darker woods, whether natural or ebonised, are not always an obvious choice. Forget old dictums about dark wood appearing too formal or austere. Much antique furniture champions a more dramatic depth of colour – think of gleaming woods such as rosewood, walnut and ebony. Darker tones create a space that is cosy and romantic yet evokes drama and elegance. These woods harness the advantage of maturing a roomscape full of lighter tones. A peppering of darker wood here and there does much to anchor a space. I have seen interiors where darker antiques pair with pale Mid-Century references to breath-taking effect. Coupled with dark walls – a deep blue or earthy green – dark wood antiques can add a sense of intrigue and sophistication to a room. Read on for advice on how to harmonise woods across a variety of tones.





Become skilful at mixing wooden tones

Wood is a wonderful, natural material to introduce into the home and its beauty lies in the limitless variety of tone and texture. How do you to avoid a clash of woods? Start by pinpointing a dominant tone. For example, the floorboards or perhaps a larger item of furniture. This major tone will then provide a useful guide by which to select other pieces. Why do this? Matching undertones creates a subtle yet impacting sense of continuity. Ensure that other wooden accents belong to the same tonal family. This means paying attention to the colour temperature: is the dominant wood tone cool or warm? For instance, pale ash is cooler than rosy walnut. You can also increase visual interest by playing with contrasting tonal depths. People often attempt to match exact tones but avoid this – the end result can look very outdated. Champion diversity.

Tie a room together with vintage rugs

If the home you're working on embodies a lot of wood, it can quickly become too much – particularly if you are blessed with wooden floors. Combat this by breaking up the space with a vibrant antique Persian rug or a vintage bohemian Beni Ourain. Throws and cushions will do much to add colour and texture to complement wooden features. Kilims, in particular, are celebrated for both their tough, flat-woven durability and vivid palettes.

When choosing the rug size, a good tip is to imagine that your furniture is floating. The rug acts as a 'raft' to tie it all together – furniture should just overlap the border as if it is holding onto the rug.

Find practical pieces

I love the alchemical flair of warmth and character abundant in spaces woven with vintage finds. However, a home should not feel like a museum or 'propped out'. Sometimes, we splurge on a historical piece or a designer creation, and the homeowner does not dare to touch it for fear of damaging it. I believe that furniture and decorative objects should be both beautiful and practical. Source functional antique and vintage alternatives for a pleasing, tactile experience – perhaps a Victorian daybed or Mid-Century cutlery. These pieces are so well made, using solid, long-lasting materials. They are – usually – comfortable too. Aim to create a home that feels collected and curated, which you can also enjoy every day. ▣

vinterior.co



FROM DRIVING TO DINING

The owner of a charming Victorian station cottage in Ealing, West London, set an interesting challenge when they wanted a garden redesign with one eye on the resale potential of the property.

The homeowner of the period building was determined to carry out extensive reshaping of his outdoor space but knew there needed to be provision for one element that he wouldn't be using – a driveway.

Parking in London is at such a premium that having a driveway is a great selling point for a property and, although it wasn't needed immediately, this needed to be incorporated into the design.

Award-winning Garden Designer Lucy Willcox chose Brett Landscaping paving products to guarantee that her client could enjoy

a stylish outdoor dining area which could ultimately convert into a practical and hard-wearing driveway.

The house has no back garden – so part of the brief was to provide privacy for entertaining in the front garden but not to enclose the space completely.

In order to achieve the beautiful patio and hard-wearing drive, the designer opted for Omega neutral paving. Omega, paired with granite kerbstones, allowed the customer to have a welcoming outdoor space but enabled the owner to sell the house complete with a fully operational driveway.

With its extensive range of colours and accessories, Omega provides nearly endless design opportunities. Its modern lines blend with almost any environment, maturing over time, for a subtle, natural effect.

Omega is the most popular product in Brett's block paving range and is available in a range of three thicknesses, making it suitable for most projects.

Lucy Willcox commented: "It was an interesting brief that required a bit of smoke and mirrors. The client wanted to avoid being overlooked but didn't want his views spoiled, and he wanted a driveway that didn't look like a driveway.

"I had seen the Brett products used in commercial settings, but these small pavers were perfect for the colours of the building and suitable for use on a driveway." □

brettlandscaping.co.uk



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- Microporous, breathable finish. Doesn't crack, peel or flake

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Product Spotlight

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

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT



Image©Style Library

UPHOLDING MILL TRADITION WHILST IMPROVING THERMAL PERFORMANCE

In the 11th century, the Grade II* Listed Blue Mills in Witham, Essex, was recorded in Domesday as the water mill at Benton Hall, a subsidiary manor of Blunts in Witham.

The original 16th-century cottage is attached to a Georgian house – at the front – a sequence of early Victorian extensions, and a later Victorian house in 1872 – at the rear.

It was important to the owners that an effective resolution would complement the existing architecture of the building. They reached out to Selectaglaze for advice on the best possible treatments for the

primary windows; a mixture of timber sash windows, fixed lights and inward or outward opening casements.

The irregularities around some of the bay windows meant that a considered approach was required.

Once the owners were happy with the bespoke solutions suggested, the install went ahead. Despite



the property being listed, Maldon District Council confirmed that no formal listed building consent was required for the works.

A total of 22 windows have been treated thus far using a number of window styles: fixed light, vertical sliding and side-hung casements. Two windows in the wood-panelled room were treated with Selectaglaze's heritage Series 47 hinged casement system, which was able to sit tight behind the wooden shutters, allowing its continued operation. The aluminium profiles were coloured in a woodgrain finish which colour matched the existing surrounds perfectly.

selectaglaze.co.uk
01727 837271
enquiries@selectaglaze.co.uk

MAKING SOUND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

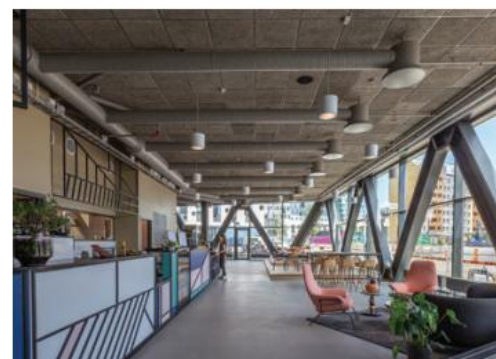
With the construction industry using an estimated 36% of worldwide energy and creating 40% of CO2 emissions (source:iea.org), it's easy to see why environmental awareness keeps dominating the top of the building agenda. This is why so many organisations are involved with sustainable solutions.

From FSC (1993) to LEED (1993), BREEAM (1998), Cradle to Cradle (2012), DGNB (2007) and more recently WELL (2013), countries and manufacturers are striving to make a difference.

One company that has embraced these standards together with a first-class CSR policy is the Danish wood-wool acoustic product manufacturer Troldekt. Troldekt acoustic solutions contribute positively to the certification of buildings. Its panels are 100% natural consisting of cement and wood. These can also be supplied in the 'FSC 100%' (FSC C115450) category, which means that all the wood in each panel meets the requirements for responsible forestry management.

Troldekt is also Cradle to Cradle certified (to 'Silver' level) and contributes to all the certifications, especially LEED, BREEAM, WELL and DGNB. Working with Ramboll, the company is also able to provide documentation for its acoustic solutions which are designed to help consultants assess Troldekt's specific contribution to these four schemes.

Specified throughout the UK and Europe, the benefits of 100% Troldekt natural wood-wool panels include



high sound absorption, high durability, natural breathability, low-cost life cycle performance and sustainability. Available in various sizes and in four grades from extreme to coarse, the panels can be left untreated or painted in virtually any RAL colour. Samples, case studies and technical information are easily sourced from the website.

troldekt.co.uk
01978 664255
info@troldekt.co.uk

SUSTAINABILITY AND SOUND DESIGN AT THE CHAMBERLAIN HOTEL

When interior design company Sibley Grove was appointed to re-design the public areas at The Chamberlain Hotel, near Tower Hill in London, sustainability was paramount.

The company ethos states that design should be a vehicle for positive change – both environmentally and socially. Consequently, to help achieve this, Troldekt's wood-wool panels make an important contribution to the overall design of the luxurious interpretation of an industrial basement bar.

As part of the concept, the interior has been stripped back to create height and volume, revealing structural columns and ductwork within. In addition, the facade has been adapted so that natural light can flood in and reveal the inner working of the space. By its very nature, this created a lot of hard surfaces, so Troldekt's acoustic wood-wool panels were specified to help combat the

problems generated by noise and reverberated sounds.

The designers were keen to specify as many sustainable and Cradle to Cradle certified materials as possible, such as wall and floor tiles, timber, carpets and Troldekt's wood wool ceilings (certified to 'Silver' level). By specifying these products, the environmental impact is minimal and also that, if and when the time comes for a change, the materials can be reused, re-appropriated, recycled or upcycled.



Specified throughout the UK and Europe, the benefits of 100% Troldekt natural wood-wool panels include high sound absorption, high durability, natural breathability, low cost life cycle performance and sustainability. Available in various sizes and in four grades, from extreme fine to coarse, the panels can be left untreated or painted in virtually any RAL colour.

troldekt.co.uk
01978 664255
info@troldekt.co.uk

MAKE A STYLISH KITCHEN STATEMENT WITH THE OMNI CONTEMPORARY TAP IN COPPER

Who needs a worksurface-hogging kettle when you can have this copper beauty from tap supplier Franke? Elegantly classic in design, the Omni Contemporary 4-in-1 tap boasts super functionality, providing 100°C filtered boiling water, filtered cold water, and standard mains hot and cold, all from one single lever. Made with Franke's hallmark quality, the Omni can dispense enough boiling water to fill eight cups or two saucepans before replenishing the tank. The copper PVD finish is also easy to clean, will not discolour and is resistant to wear and corrosion. The tap is available at an RRP incl. VAT of £1,646 and comes with the assurance of a three-year guarantee.



franke.co.uk 0161 436 6280



A PREMIUM FINISH, AT A SENSIBLE PRICE

Polyx-Oil from Osmo UK is a premium wood finish guaranteed to keep wooden surfaces in top condition. Offering all the professional features of a traditional oil-based finish, Polyx-Oil combines the smooth surface of conventional lacquers, and the application ease of a water-based finish. Ideal for solid engineered or laminate wood, Osmo Polyx-Oil is a high-quality, water-repellent and tread-resistant wood finish based on natural ingredients. Unlike ordinary oil finish products which form a film on the wood, the product's natural components penetrate deeply into the wood to create a micro-porous finish.

osmouk.com 01296 481220 info@osmouk.com

ITC NATURAL LUXURY FLOORING

When quality, style and colour come together

Riverline (as illustrated) – an eco-friendly carpet – is a fine example of craftsmanship by achieving a high-definition, textured cable rib design.

Constructed using six and two-ply hard-wearing construction of 100% New Zealand wool

with a VOC-free environmentally responsible backing, Riverline in 5m width, is an ideal choice for residential and general commercial locations. The six clean colours will appeal to those seeking a wool carpet that delivers on performance and good looks.

When high performance and super fine finish are required when specifying a velvet carpet, Richmond ticks all the boxes. Available in two widths – 4 and 5m – as well as 11 contemporary shades, together with a heavy commercial rating, makes this carpet product exceptional.

Architects and interior designers have fallen in love with the Richmond range due to its style, good looks and excellent suitability for both residential and commercial applications.

Riverline, Richmond and all other broadloom carpets which make up the Campeone and Connoisseur collections by ITC Natural Luxury Flooring, are available in made-to-measure rugs in sizes up to 500cm wide. Additionally, a selection of tape finishes are available, which are exclusive, chic and coordinate with its carpets.

itcnaturalluxuryflooring.com
info@itcnaturalluxuryflooring.com
 01622 534041



SMART DESIGN FROM BLANCO PROVIDES HOT WATER ON TAP

The BLANCO TAMPERA hot tap brings smart design to the kitchen without compromising on safety. Homeowners can now enjoy the convenience of instant hot drinks and hassle-free cooking when they need it the most with this three-in-one – cold, boiling and warm water – mixer tap. The water is purified to reduce limescale and contaminants whilst preserving its taste-neutral qualities. To keep little ones safe, BLANCO has installed a rotary knob feature. Hot water flows only when the knob is touched and turned at the same time ensuring that the hot water stops flowing as soon as it is released. The spout is insulated to keep grown up hands protected too.

blanco.co.uk 01923 635200

REPLACING KITCHEN DOORS AND DRAWERS?

Changing kitchen doors can be a great way to create a new kitchen without the cost and hassle of starting all over again. It is now easy to freshen up doors quickly if they are getting tatty.

Getting exactly the right replacement kitchen doors and drawers is not as difficult as you may think. The range of colours and styles of kitchen doors has grown dramatically over recent years with the quality of manufacturing improving all the time. With replacement doors ranging from vinyl wrap to solid wood; the choice is yours; not to mention there are hundreds of colours and styles to pick from. You will be amazed just how much a kitchen will change with a simple door replacement.



granitetransformations.co.uk
 0808 149 5914



ANTHOLOGY FROM STYLE LIBRARY CONTRACT LAUNCHES VOLUME 07

A striking collection of wallcoverings inspired by Brutalist influences and the ever-giving wonder of the natural world, new for SS20.

Anthology introduces Volume 07, an evocative collection of 10 wide-width wallcoverings that further explore man's interaction with the natural world, unearthing abundant inspiration and endless possibilities.

New for SS20, this latest addition to the Anthology story is curated to be at one with the building in which it's placed, seamlessly amalgamating motifs and techniques with interiors of all ages. Hero designs such as Brutalist Stripe and Ammonite highlight the contrast between old and new, and luxurious beaded embellishments bring a distinctive, sophisticated style.

A captivating blend of semi-plain, large and small-scale designs, Anthology 07 features cork for the first time. A substrate for two of the compilation's most

contemporary designs, this is an exciting addition, not just for the material's beautiful aesthetic, but also for its environmental and acoustic benefits.

Peter Gomez, from the Anthology studio, says: "With a range of contrasting wallcoverings, Anthology 07 tells a story from two sides of the design spectrum. On one hand, the permanence of fossils and concrete share a longevity and finality, juxtaposed against the fluidity of rippling waters and the shimmer of momentary refraction."

Featuring an enticing colour palette of aptly named tones such as 'Sapphire', 'Emerald', 'Slate', 'Brass' and 'Charcoal', designs including Kimberlite, Ripple Stripe and Refraction reflect the direction of this collection, emulating its resonance with our surroundings, whether natural or manmade.



Volume 07 is perfect for all four walls and a blend of embossed and non-metallic inks further intensifies the collection, which also works alongside all previous Anthology launches.

To discover Anthology's selection of fabric and wallpaper, please visit the Style Library Contract website. □

stylelibrarycontract.com
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