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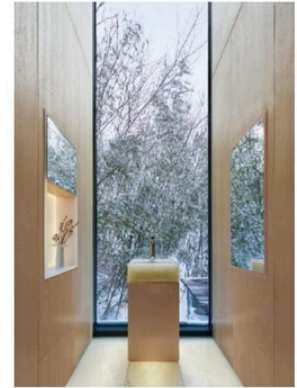
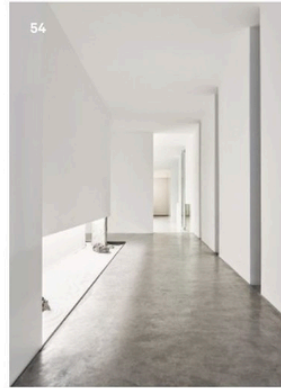
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cover: Fritz Hansen's Plenum Sofa, by Jaime Hayon, is a high-back sofa offers visual privacy and cuts down on noise.
photo courtesy the manufacturer

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EDITORIAL

New Possibilities for Interiors



At *Contract*, we believe product design plays a crucial role in the design of any good interior, and in the past year we've ramped up coverage of the latest trends and stories behind product. In this issue, we're showcasing the evolving trends that we're seeing in the marketplace as well as debuting a new regular feature "Interior Detail," which looks at a manufacturer's creative solution to one aspect of a project and the process behind the making of the interior element. This month, we highlight Arktura, a Los Angeles-based company that merges fabrication, innovative technology, and creativity to create a custom interactive lighting display.

When I visited Orgatec, the biannual tradeshow in Cologne devoted to the workplace, the two biggest trends were what we're calling "quiet informality"—a range of products offering both acoustic solutions and visual privacy for people who need to work together and focus—and the "outdoor office"—a marked interest from designers and manufacturers in addressing the possibilities of working outdoors (which is a welcome relief, given that we spend 95 percent of our time inside).

In this issue, we also survey the best work coming out of the Asia-Pacific region, celebrating the 14 winners of the International Interior Design Association's (IIDA) sixth annual Best of Asia Pacific Design Awards competition. IIDA Executive Vice President and CEO Cheryl S. Durst, Hon. FIIDA says it best: "The winning projects underscore the impact that can be made when cultural influence meets innovation.

Where do we go from here?

This past October, I co-hosted my first *Contract* Design Forum which took place at The Dewberry Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina. In addition to the contributions of amazing speakers like Paula Zuccotti, Brant Menswar, and Joseph McGill, we held an invigorating workshop with designers, manufacturers, and industry leaders, including Cheryl Durst (IIDA), Randy Fiser (ASID), and

Tom Reardon (BIFMA), who discussed what their biggest hopes and fears were for the coming year. The responses varied and ranged in scope from the impact of technologies such as artificial intelligence to the possibility of an impending recession. To continue this conversation, we later surveyed our editorial board of advisors asking them what they considered the most important building, interior, product, event, or idea of 2018 that will have ramifications for the future. Their varied and thought-provoking responses highlight some of the most relevant and exciting ideas that are shaping the world in which we live, work, and design, and I'm sure many of these ideas will be fodder for further conversations and debates next year.

Interiors Awards Breakfast

Who will be the 2019 Designer of the Year? Find out in person on January 25, 2019, at the 40th annual Interiors Awards Breakfast, presented by *Contract*. Tickets and tables are now available for the breakfast, to be held at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York. More than 600 industry colleagues are expected to attend the event, which honors the winners of the Interiors Awards, the Designer of the Year, and a Design Legend. Visit contractdesign.com/interiorsawards to learn more and to purchase tickets. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Paul Makovsky

Editor in Chief

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2018 Nightingale Award Winners Announced



Contract Editor in Chief Paul Makovsky and Healthcare Design Editor in Chief Jennifer Silvis presented the winners of this year's Nightingale Awards on November 12, 2018, at the Healthcare Design Expo + Conference at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix. Named after Florence Nightingale, the 19th-century founder of modern nursing, the awards recognize contributions to the healthcare built environment through product design and innovation that contributes to healing. Initiated by *Contract* magazine's editors and The Center for Health Design's founders in 1990, the Nightingale Awards are now presented by *Contract* and *Healthcare Design* magazines in partnership with the Center for Health Design.

A jury of 12 seasoned healthcare professionals, including architects, interior designers, and facilities managers, selected 24 winners in 14 product categories. The Nightingale Best of Competition award recipient is Krug for their Ascend Patient Recliner with Vertical Lift in the Furniture: Clinician Support category (pictured). The recliner was also honored with a gold award and an innovation award in the category.

For a full list of this year's Nightingale Award Winners, visit contractdesign.com/nightingaleawards.



Correction: On page 28 of our October issue, the incorrect image was shown with the description of Patcraft's CMYK. The correct image and caption are shown here.

Patcraft: CMYK

Patcraft's new campaign features four products inspired by how different shades of color can impact and enhance the built environment. This product, CMYK—a visually textured LVT tile—is available in 24 different colors, from neutral tones to vibrant hues. Available in 12-inch-by-24-inch tiles, CMYK supports mixing colors and visions for a customized look.

patcraft.com

Correction: On page 74 of our November issue, the incorrect location was listed for True Worth Place, the winner in the Social Innovation category of this year's Healthcare Environment Awards. True Worth Place, designed by HKS Architects, is located in Fort Worth, Texas.



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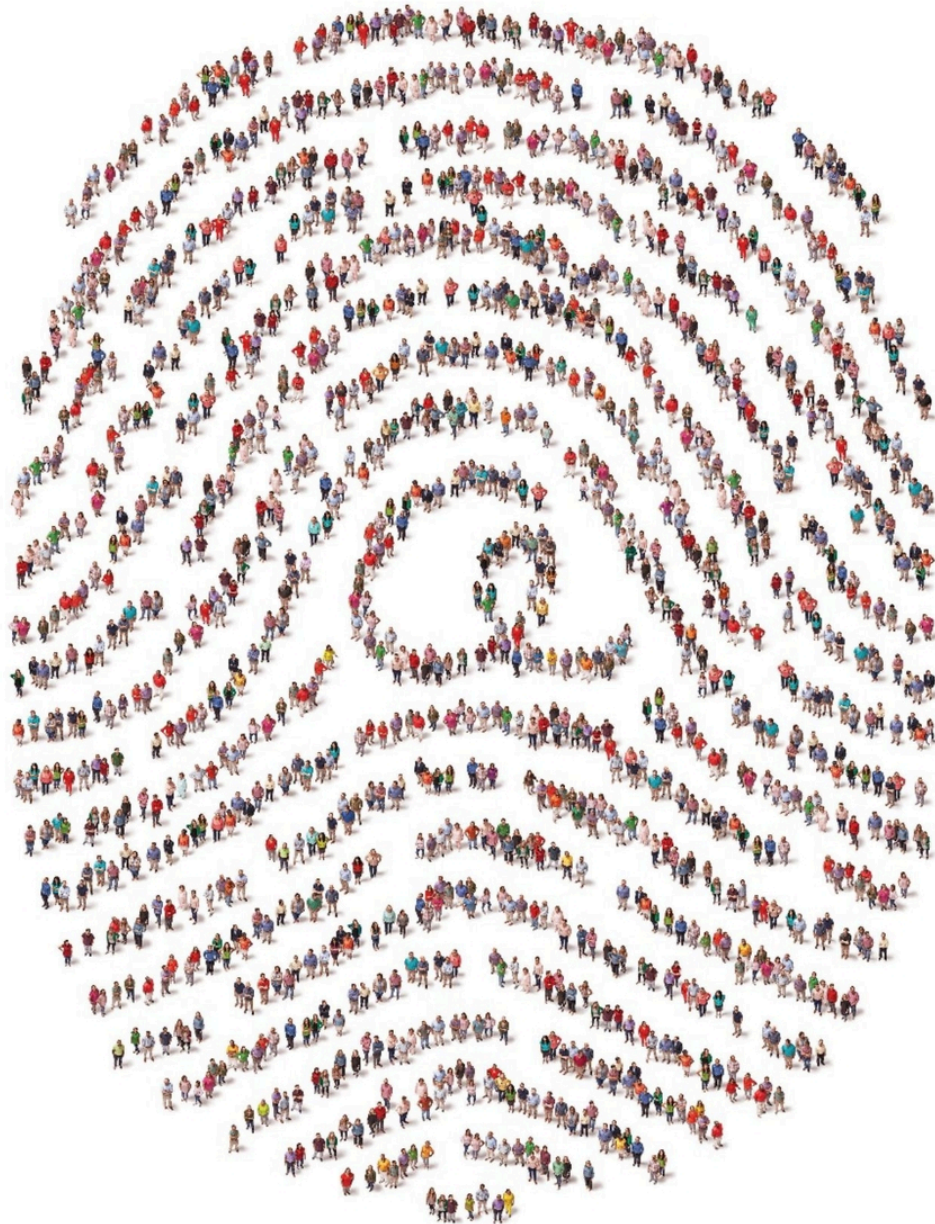


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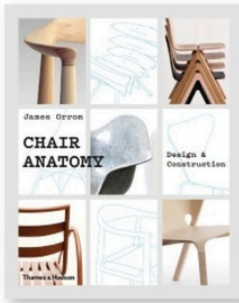


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Required Reading

Six Inspiring Books on Product Design



Chair Anatomy: Design & Construction
by James Orrom
Thames & Hudson, 240 pages, \$60

This nuts-and-bolt study and deconstruction of more than 50 iconic chairs examines how pieces were designed and produced; the materials used; and how each chair's structure can withstand stress while being fit to produce.



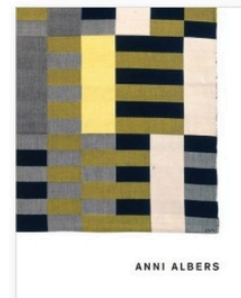
Victor Papanek: The Politics of Design
edited by Mateo Kries, Amelie Klein,
and Allison Clarke
Vitro Design Museum, 392 pages, \$75

This book examines the influential work of social design and eco-design pioneer Victor J. Papanek, and how design can make the world a better one by being inclusive, sustainable, and promoting social justice.



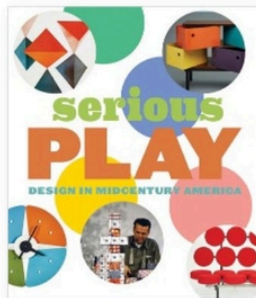
100 Ideas That Changed Design
by Charlotte and Peter Fiell
Laurence King, 216 pages, \$19.99

This mini edition of the original chronicles the influential ideas that have shaped modern and contemporary industrial and product design, outlining a concise history from the modern movement to more recent ideas such as open-sourced design.



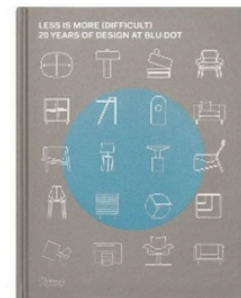
Anni Albers edited by Ann Coxon, Briony Fer,
and Maria Müller-Schareck
Yale University Press, 192 pages, \$50

A groundbreaking monograph on the German modernist textile designer, weaver, and printmaker Anni Albers, surveying her entire career and writings in addition to featuring works that include wall hangings, commercial designs, drawings, jewelry, and prints.



Serious Play: Design in Midcentury America
edited by Monica Obniski and Darrin Alfred
Yale University Press, 256 pages, \$50

A lively exploration of how postwar American modernist designers—including Paul Rand, the Eameses, and Alexander Girard—embraced whimsy and eclecticism in their work, which transformed the way interiors looked for the American consumer.



Less is More (Difficult): 20 Years of Design at Blu Dot by Maurice Blanks, John Christakos,
Charlie Lazor, and Andrew Blauvelt
Rizzoli, 360 pages, \$78

This three-pound tome celebrates and charts the evolution of 20 years of design, philosophy, and inspiration from the pioneer of democratic design, Blu Dot—from the earliest furniture designs to the iconic Real Good Chair.

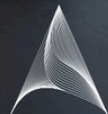
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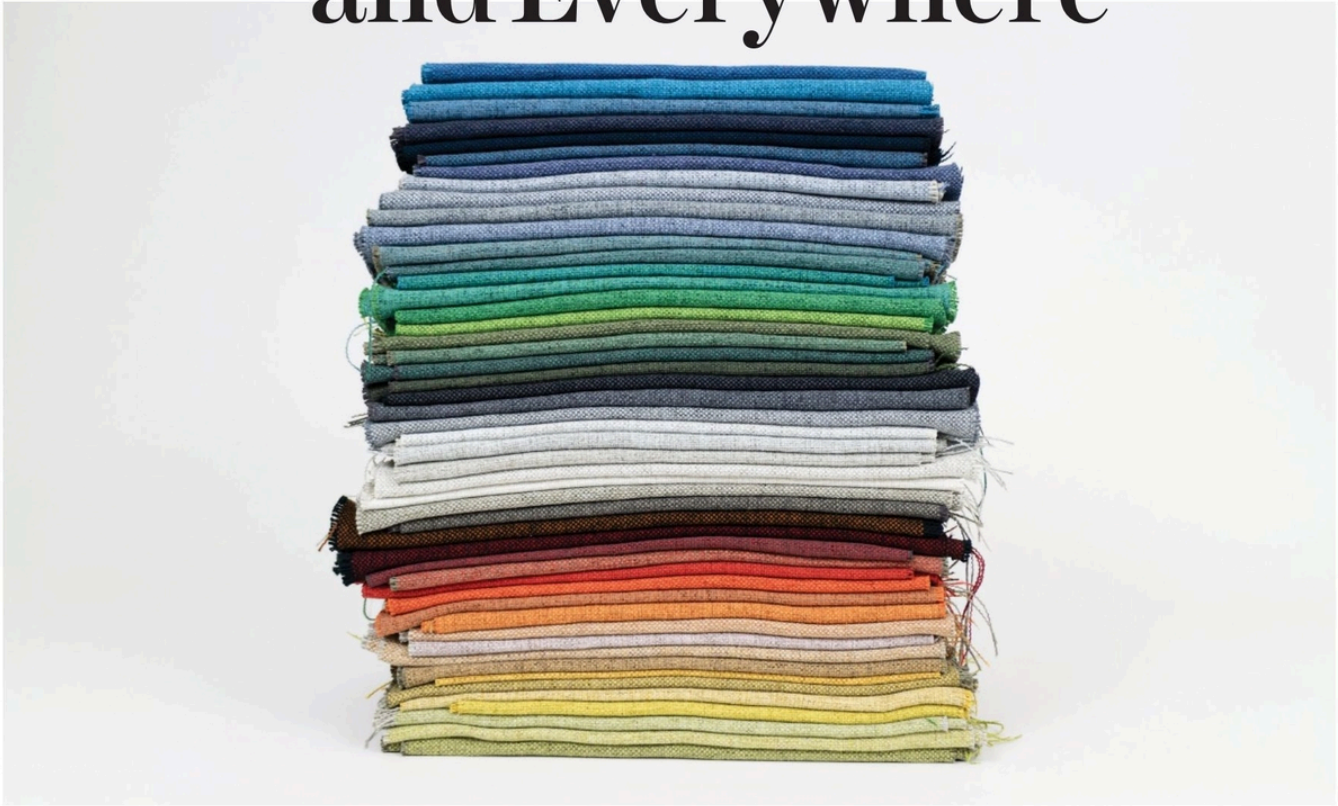
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Here, There, and Everywhere



With its innovative yarn, this Designtex textile collection was developed to adapt to every fabric need.

By Belinda Lanks

Interior designers tend to pick many different fabrics to outfit a room. Their reasons are often aesthetic—they look for textures, colors, and patterns that together will create the right look and feel for a space. But on the contrast, when they prefer to use the same fabric for upholstery, draperies, and wrapped wall panels, designers are hard-pressed to find one textile that meets the fire-safety requirements for all those applications. That is, until now: Designtex's new offering, aptly called Everywhere Texture, can be used—you guessed it—everywhere.

Each application has its own stringent test for flame retardance, and Everywhere Texture passes them all—without being coated in sprays and chemicals. “The beauty of the product is that it’s doing more for less,” says Catherine Stowell, Designtex’s design director. “You can have this wide array of application without the addition of chemistry or finishes.” The textile meets the Standard 100 by OEKO Tex, an independent product label testing fabrics for harmful substances. Because of the multiple rounds of rigorous testing, Everywhere Texture was two years in the making.



Designtex's new textile collection, Everywhere Texture, can be used as everything from furniture upholstery and draperies to wrapped wall panels. The uniquely engineered polyester yarn meets stringent fire-safety requirements for all those applications without the addition of fire retardants or other additional finishes. Because of the strong chemical bond between the fiber and the dye, the fabric can be repeatedly cleaned with a water-based solvent or bleach—a requirement for healthcare settings—without fading or discoloration.

The key to the line's versatility is in the engineering of the polyester yarn, which was developed in close partnership with a German mill, the name of which Designtex prefers to keep a secret. "From a developmental standpoint, it definitely started with the yarn, because the yarn is really what's doing the heavy lifting and providing the performance to the textile," Stowell says. Also, because of the strong chemical bond between the fiber and the dye, the fabric can be repeatedly cleaned with a water-based solvent or bleach—a requirement for healthcare settings—without fading or discoloration.

Aside from its performance merits, Everywhere Texture checks a lot of aesthetic boxes, too. Although it has the performance advantages of polyester in terms of its strength and color-fastness, the textile has a soft pattern resembling heathered wool, which the mill achieved by using a multicolored yarn in the warp and weft. That heathering, as opposed to a solid weave of saturated color, plays into the so-called resimercial trend of designing commercial interiors with luxurious, comfy, and warm furnishings more commonly found in residential or hospitality settings.

"People want soft fabrics that are a little more complex," Stowell says, adding that the feel of heathered wool is an of-the-moment choice. "It's really about adding dimensionality and layered color into something as simple as a texture. Having a little more going on in [a fabric] can add a richness to a space that people now desire in corporate offices." Offering the same fabric for draperies, upholstery, and wrapped panels also provides a solution for designers looking to create a sense of cohesiveness in a space through either a monochromatic statement or by layering different colors of the same material.

Achieving the heathered effect wasn't easy. Although the textile is a simple plain weave—meaning, the warp and weft interlace to form a checkerboard pattern—the heathered thread ran the risk of appearing blotchy in places. The key was to create a regular unevenness. "Plain fabric is the hardest thing to get right because there's nowhere to hide any mistakes or irregularities," Stowell says. "We had to employ some tricks to eliminate any sort of heathering repeating. Getting that even unevenness was a challenge."

contract

THE PRODUCT ISSUE

Everywhere Texture comes in an extensive palette of 50 hues, including bright shades and neutrals. "The goal of this product was to supply a really versatile solution for our clients," says Catherine Stowell, Designtex's design director. "Part of that intent includes offering a wide range of colors." The collection also responds to a demand among designers to use the same fabric across different interior applications as a way of creating a sense of cohesiveness.



Stowell also advocated for an expansive color palette of 50 hues, from neutrals like cream and steel gray to vibrant peacock green and tangerine. (In some colorways, the exact same color is used in the warp and weft; in others, contrasting colors are used.) "The goal of this product was to supply a really versatile solution for our clients," Stowell says. "Part of that intent includes offering a wide range of colors."

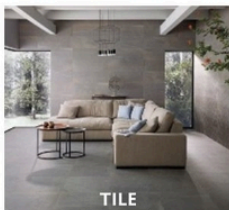
Finally, the last democratic feature of Everywhere Texture is its affordability. At \$33 per yard, the textile can fit relatively modest budgets. "Price point isn't the most exciting thing about a product," Stowell says, "but I do think when we're designing something like this, it's important to have that be a key part of it, because price is always a factor in making decisions." So far, she says, designers have been receptive to the new line: "We have a couple of customers doing their own arrange warps and customs off of the platform already, just because they're excited about using the yarn and its technology."

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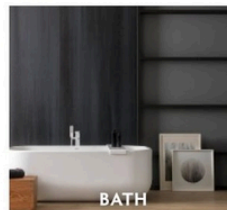
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**INTERIORS
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Innovative Materials

As commercial interiors in every market—be it offices or healthcare facilities—become more sophisticated in both appearance and performance, manufacturers are stepping up their product offerings, particularly within the finish-material categories. The following are just a handful of some of the latest high-performing products you should know, from modular flooring to acoustic solutions.



3form: Divy Partition

3-form.com

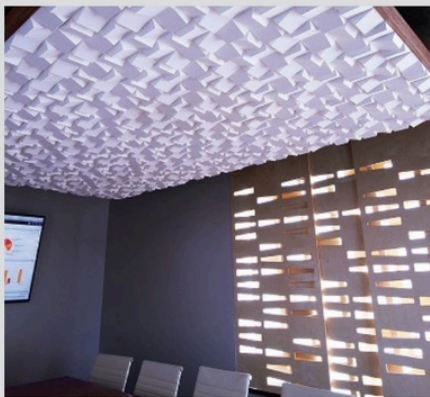
Developed with the open-plan office in mind, Divy is a dual-sided birch plywood partition covered with Sola Felt to provide visual and audio privacy. Six dimensional patterns and a spectrum of colors are available.



J+J Flooring Group: Tandem Carpet Plank

jjflooringgroup.com

Constructed with solution-dyed Encore SD Ultima nylon, this modular carpet plank measures 18-inches by 36-inches and features a bold, geometric pattern in 15 colorways that range from subdued to vibrant tones.



modularArts: AuralScapes Ceiling Tiles

modulararts.com

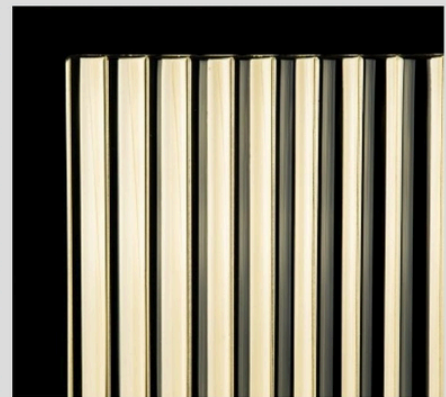
Made with a Class A fire-rated, plant-based foam core, these 24-inch square ceiling tiles mount onto standard T-grid assemblies and sport a white gypsum dimensional topography to diffuse sound.



Tarkett: Outliners + Techtonic LVT Line

tarkett.com

Emerging interior designer Jane Hallinan draws on the visual distortion produced by water for this Tandus Centiva LVT line. The phthalate-free planks come in three colors and feature Tarkett's Techtonic polyurethane surface treatment.



Nathan Allan Glass Studios: Channel Bronze Silvered Glass

nathanallan.com

Suitable for balustrades, windows, interior walls, and doors, this bronze-tinted glass creates a shimmery effect as light passes through its 1/2-inch-wide flutes and bounces off of a silvered finish applied directly to the back.



Skyline Design: Skyline Design x Maharam Digital Projects

skydesign.com

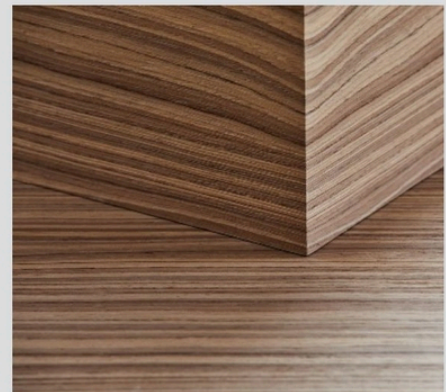
Through this exclusive partnership, eight museum-quality compositions by different artists are digitally printed onto low-iron tempered safety glass. Shown is "New World" by Francesco Simeti.



Sherwin-Williams: ProMar 200 HP Zero VOC Interior Latex

sherwin-williams.com

This eggshell-finish interior latex paint boasts a VOC-free formula that meets the stringent Master Painting Institute's X-Green standards, while still performing like other latex coatings for commercial spaces.



Treefrog: Treefrog Open Laminate

treefrogveneer.com

The real wood-veneer laminate brand has added eight new designs that feature a groove texture on the surface for an authentic feel, wider plank veneers, and trending color species.

contract

THE PRODUCT ISSUE: INTERIOR DETAIL



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF ARKTURA

CUSTOM INTERACTIVE LIGHTING CANOPY

Architect **CBT Architects**Fabricator **Arktura****Kevin Kane, president of design
and project management****Ravi Gupta, director of engineering****Eric Blumberg, senior project manager****Nicolas Pappas, project manager****Christian Kisereu, job captain****Derek Santana-Wong, production engineer**Client **Withheld**Media Artist **Refik Anadol**Where **New England**

THE CHALLENGE

Arktura, a Los Angeles-based company specializing in the design and manufacturing of architectural systems, procured most of the design from a 3D model, extracting and coordinating the elements digitally, and designing the canopy with the manufacturing methods in mind. "If you look at the structure itself, there is a logic to that pattern and there's a logic to that depth," says Kevin Kane, president of design and project management of Arktura. "A lot of that is aesthetically derived, but I would say that it was equally derived by the engineering requirements and the physical restraints." The repeating pattern addressed efficiency and structural concerns, and the varying depth of the design solved structural spanning issues. While it contains a regular patterning logic, it was designed in such a way that the repeatability is hard to read.

Arktura merges technology, innovation, and creativity to create a signature architectural element.

custom canopy

By Lauren Volker



DESIGN FOR INTERACTIVITY

Using a one-year data set collected from the local international airport, media artist Refik Anadol of Refik Anadol Studios developed custom software to read, analyze, and visualize wind speed, direction, and gust patterns along with time and temperature at 20-second intervals throughout the year. This local urban data inspired the interactive lighting portion of the canopy: a series of dynamic “chapters,” each a visual interpretation of the interaction between the environment and the city using existing LED light fixtures. Each chapter brings different aspects of the data sets to life with distinct aesthetics.

A beacon. A static structure that feels dynamic. These were the parameters for the statement piece that would connect a New England-based client’s lobby with the local urban fabric. CBT Architects, the firm tapped to redesign the space, enlisted Los Angeles-based Arktura to be a part of the collaborative process and design the signature element.

Arktura, which specializes in the design and manufacturing of architectural systems, also prioritizes engaging in art and design dialogue. “We’re comprised of a wide variety of backgrounds and people,” says Kevin Kane, vice president of design and project management of Arktura. “That, in turn, helps drive our unique approach to solving a lot of the design and physical problems of projects. We’re really paying attention, leveraging our backgrounds, and thinking how we can utilize technology to enhance a project—even if it’s just one small detail.”

Many small, 100-percent unique details comprise the commanding canopy structure that Arktura created for CBT Architects’ client. Designed to establish a sense of arrival, the lobby element makes a statement while still fitting seamlessly

contract

THE PRODUCT ISSUE: INTERIOR DETAIL



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF ARKTURA



PATTERN INTERPRETATION

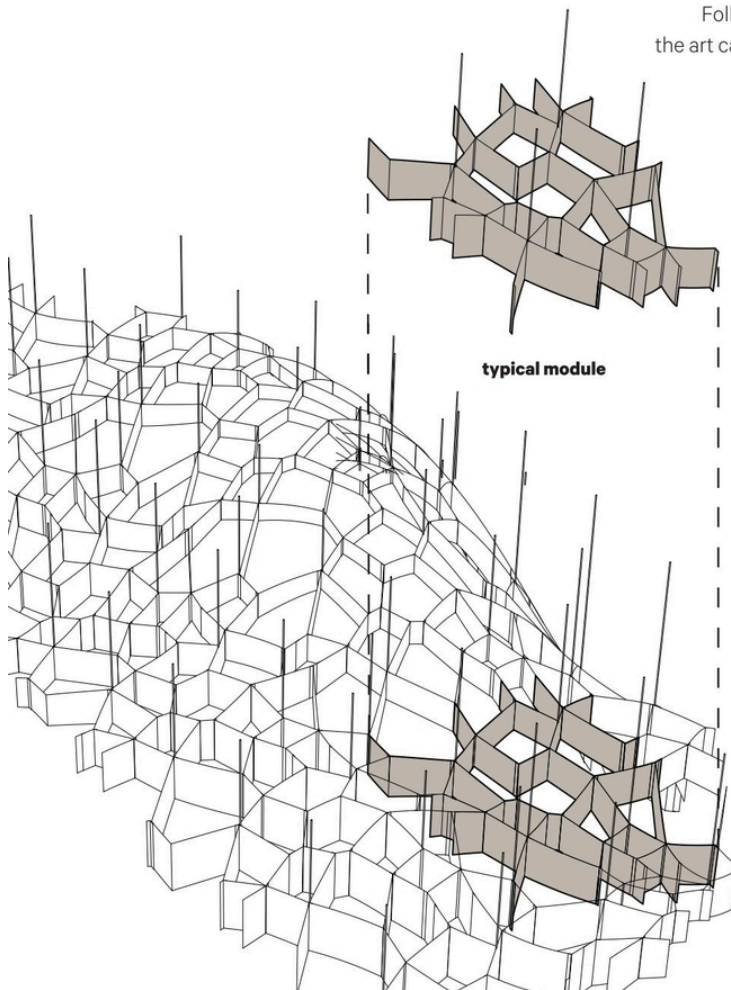
The construction represents urban growth, from changing waterways to population shifts and the resulting landscapes. The flowing shapes were created by curating overlays and intersections from mapped features of the city's harbor region over time. The resulting pattern is comprised of nodes and connections illustrating the urban fabric as it relates to the human landscape. High-precision forming was used to create all of the shapes and angles of the fiber laser cut aluminum "fins." Arktura also utilized robotic milling for the assembly.

within the existing architecture. "We went through a multitude of designs and settled on something that was a little bit crisp, very contemporary, and really encompassed what the client wanted to showcase in the space, which is that dynamic, urban quality," Kane says.

The Arktura team—composed of Kane; Ravi Gupta, director of engineering; Eric Blumberg, senior project manager; Nicolas Pappas, project manager; Christian Kisereu, job captain; and Derek Santana-Wong, production engineer—also worked with media artist Refik Anadol, the creative mind behind the canopy's interactive lighting.

"Lighting was a big part of making it feel dynamic, along with the design's multitude of angles, the uniqueness of every different part and how they come together, and how the structure flows through the space from the ceiling to the wall," Kane says.

Following eight months of design, conceptualization, and manufacturing, the art canopy was finalized and installed in April of this year.



Facing page: The canopy modules—each weighing an average of 150 pounds—are hung by a thin, precision cable system, connecting it from the ceiling to the wall while maintaining the structure's light appearance. An industrial bronze finish, intended to echo the rich history of the Northeast coastal region, generates a warm, hand-crafted quality. "The irregularity of the finish brings in another level of craft to a piece that's highly designed and technology driven," Kane says. "I think that balance is really interesting and the client really enjoyed marrying those two elements together."

Left: While the canopy system is made up of 15 modules, it's comprised of 300 unique aluminum parts. "We're not utilizing repetition in the manufacturing process for a piece like this but we're thinking about it in a really logical fashion such that we can still design modularity inside the piece," Kane says. With high-precision engineering and thoughtful design, Arktura delivered modules that could be easily assembled and installed on-site.

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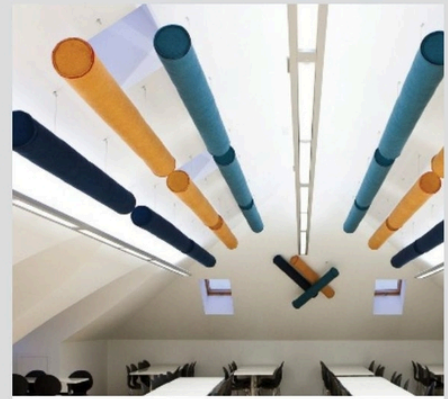
Smart Education Solutions

The newest options in seating, lighting, and textiles for education spaces are designed to withstand day-to-day use by students of all ages while enlivening utilitarian interiors. Styles run the gamut from sleek to cushioned, while hues range from earth tones to bright pops of primary colors.



Nienkämper: Gateway Height Adjustable Table
nienkamper.com

This table allows users to seamlessly change their working position from sitting to standing with the push of a button, and it can be easily adapted to a variety of learning environments.



Unika Vaev: Lina Cylinder Acoustic Ceiling
unikavaev.com

A cylindrical form made of felted Icelandic wool, this acoustic solution is designed to hang from the ceiling to absorb sound in noisy classrooms, and is available in 18 colorways and two lengths.



KI: Ruckus Mobile Height-Adjustable Lectern
ki.com

The newest addition to the Ruckus Collection, this lectern's height pneumatically adjusts to accommodate a range of body sizes, and gives instructors the flexibility to teach while sitting, standing, or perching.



IDEON: Nano Seating
ideondesign.com

This modular seating collection features four pieces that can stand alone or be grouped together to create endless configurations, with solid surface or laminate table top options that double as writing desks.



9to5 Seating: Lilly Chair
9to5seating.com

With a classic design, this sophisticated lounge chair has a surprisingly roomy back that provides plenty of comfort, with four base options that look stylish in collaborative or touchdown areas.



KnollTextiles: Sideline Upholstery Fabric
knolltextiles.com

A large-scale diagonal twill woven on a double beam loom, the artful combination of heavy and fine yarns gives this post-consumer recycled nylon and polyester textile dimensionality and a handcrafted aesthetic.



National Office Furniture: Rizora Stool
nationalofficefurniture.com

Available in worksurface, counter, and bar heights, this stool with wood legs and a polished chrome footrest is an ideal seating choice at communal tables or dorm room desks, where space is limited.



Humanscale: Nova Task Light
humanscale.com

This sculptural task light complements any work surface, and features a custom lens and LED array that provides uniform, glare-free illumination with intuitive touch dimming for precise control of brightness.

contract

THE PRODUCT ISSUE

THE OUTDOOR OFFICE

We spend 95 percent of our time inside—nearly half of that due to work. Yet when we spend time outdoors, we are more productive, creative, and happier. A new survey from L.L.Bean found that 87 percent of indoor workers consider themselves people who enjoy the outdoors but 75 percent of indoor workers rarely or never take time to work outside. Thanks to advances in technology, public spaces—whether they be parks, plazas, or indoor settings like hotel lobbies, cafes, or airports—are becoming workspaces. The products shown here are either great for working outdoors or in indoor public spaces, and help people to be more productive, creative and happier. —Paul Makovsky

1. L.L.Bean: Outdoor Coworking Space

Outdoor retailer L.L.Bean launched an outdoor coworking space pop-up in New York City's Madison Square Park as a way to encourage people to spend more time outdoors—even while at work. It came complete with individual workspaces, collaborative conference areas, cycling desks and outdoor team-building activities—giving new meaning to "Out of Office."

beanoutsideratwork.com



2

**3. Vitra: Soft Work Seating System**

This new seating system by Barber Osgerby includes ergonomic seating options, in addition to table surfaces, power outlets, and charging stations. Mobile tables and chairs can be pulled up as needed and put away again, and the addition of panels creates spaces for quiet concentrated work. Technical details including straight and curved elements in single or double versions, platforms, tables, panels, arm-mounted trays, power and data connections, along with a choice of covers in a wide range of colors offer countless possibilities for customized configurations.

vitra.com

**2. Extremis: Bistro Seating**

Inspired by Parisian bistro furniture, this seating made up of three legs, two chairs, and one tabletop allows you to sit side by side with someone else, making it ideal for a cozy chat or informal working outdoors. Its three cleverly positioned legs make the seating quick to stack and lock away.

extremis.com



4

4. Landscape Forms x Arcadia: Upfit Outdoor Structural System

Upfit is a new outdoor structural system providing endless flexibility to create outdoor environments where people live, learn, work, and play. The "kit-of-parts" includes a simple post-and-beam structure, a louvered roof with weather management capabilities and open roof, power, and embedded lighting.

landscapeforms.com



5

5. Kettal: Office Pavilions

Kettal's Office Pavilions are made up of movable walls capable of creating secluded rooms to optimize the acoustics in open-plan office spaces. They give shape to big, open spaces, both indoors and outdoors; come in a wide array of color and material finishes for walls and ceilings, including aluminum, wood, fabric, and glass; and include an integrated automation feature.

kettal.com



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THE PRODUCT ISSUE

QUIET INFORMALITY

With the popularity of agile, open workplaces, designers and manufacturers are developing products that not only offer acoustic solutions, but also visual privacy for people who work close together and need to focus. These solutions can improve the well-being of the people using them and also help reduce stress. The products shown here address the new need for quiet informality as workplaces bring people closer together, whether it's by creating cozy nests for solo concentration or work in collaborative group settings.—Paul Makovsky



1. Fritz Hansen: Plenum Sofa

The Plenum, designed by Jaime Hayon, is a high-back sofa system consisting of one-, two-, and three-seater units. It is flexible and offers features such as power plugs, USB ports, and mounted or separate tables, for a functional yet aesthetically pleasing experience in any space, be it for collaboration, concentration, or relaxation.

fritzhenzen.com

2. Kinnarps: Fields Furniture Range

Fields, designed by Olle Gyllang of Propeler Design, is made up of different modules which can be combined, linked together, and placed in a variety of ways. Available in the United States from Scandinavian Spaces, the furniture is offered in an extensive range of materials, colors, and accessories.

kinnarps.us; scandinavianspaces.com



3. Arper: Cila Go Armchair

Designed by Lievore Altherr, this small armchair features a polypropylene storage base with castors and is available in four colors. It is ideal for group collaboration, quiet space for independent work, and learning environments.

arper.com



4. Wilkhahn: Landing Wall

This acoustic wall creates a welcoming atmosphere for "stopovers" in aisles, crossover spaces, and stairwells where space is lacking for groups of seating and side tables. It consists of two basic sound-absorbent modules: a flat one and an equally large three-dimensional molded relief element. The latter can be used in three ways: as a shelf, rotated vertically by 90 degrees to designate a zone, a screen or a cozy corner for leaning on, or turned 180 degrees horizontally to perch on.

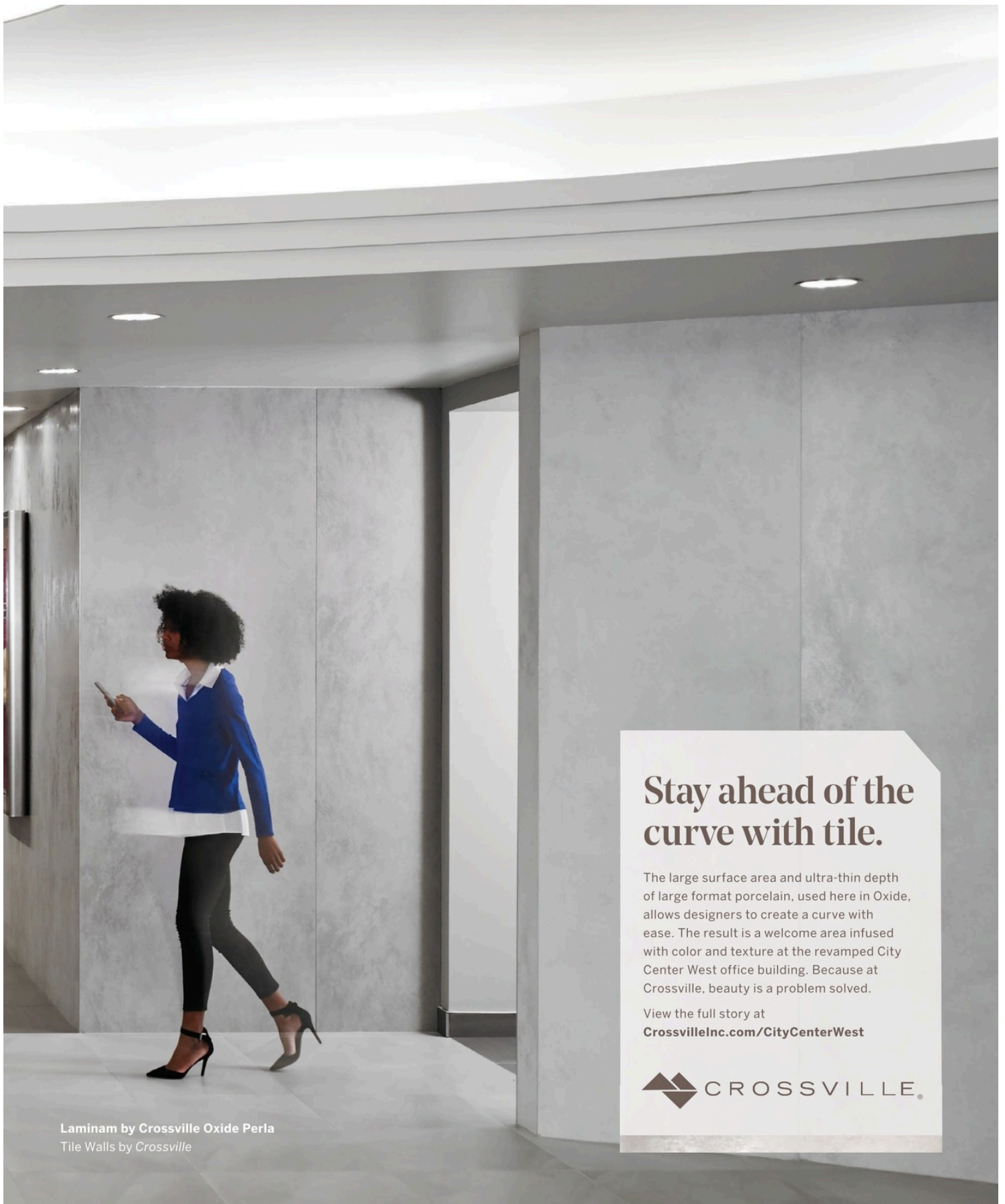
wilkhahn.com

5. Buzzispace: Buzzispace Sofa

This sofa, designed by Alain Gilles, offers visual and sound protection for its users. Depending on the height and placement of the shelf, it either becomes a room-within-a-room, acting almost as a loveseat, or functions as a normal sofa.

buzzi.space





Laminam by Crossville Oxide Perla
Tile Walls by Crossville

Stay ahead of the curve with tile.

The large surface area and ultra-thin depth of large format porcelain, used here in Oxide, allows designers to create a curve with ease. The result is a welcome area infused with color and texture at the revamped City Center West office building. Because at Crossville, beauty is a problem solved.

View the full story at
CrossvilleInc.com/CityCenterWest

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Kitchen & Bath

Traditionally associated with the home, functional and handsome kitchen and bath spaces are now more relevant than ever in contract environments. These recent products straddle the line between performance and aesthetics, making them well suited to a range of commercial settings.



Cosentino: Dekton Stonika Surfacing
cosentino.com

The Dekton ultra-compact surface series now comes in six new high-gloss, stone-inspired colorations—from Carrara marble to Taj Mahal quartzite—while still resisting high UV exposure, scratches, stains, and thermal shock.



Neo-Metro: Edge Basin
neo-metro.com

Inspired by 19th-century iron troughs, this customized cast soy-resin basin features a linear design with a sloping channel for draining and an integrated edge that helps minimize spillage.



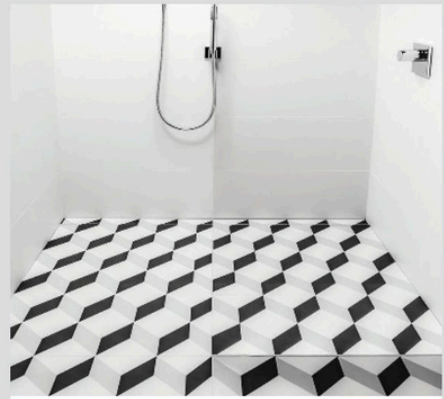
Kallista: Grid Sink Faucet with Cube Handles
kallista.com

The Kohler brand's first foray into 3D printing takes cues from the De Stijl movement, presenting a pared-down geometric composition of matte-black lines that deftly conceal the source and path of the water.



Porcelanosa: Krion Eco-Active Solid Technology
porcelanosa-usa.com

The solid surface material's new formulation reacts to natural light: When in contact with light, it purifies the air around it, expels bacteria, eliminates chemicals, and self-cleans.



Infinity Drain: Compact Floor Drain Body
infinitydrain.com

Addressing issues of limited space between shower, wall, and drain, Infinity Drain developed a compact floor-drain body measuring just 3 1/4-inch in diameter at the narrowest part.



Samuel Heath: LMK Floor Mounted Mixer
samuel-heath.com

This Bauhaus-influenced bath fitting collection now includes a floor-mounted, single-lever tub filler with an integrated hand shower. Finishes range from bronze and brass to polished nickel and stainless steel.



Sub-Zero: Integrated Wine Storage
subzero-wolf.com

This 30-inch wine chiller with an integrated refrigerator or freezer drawer features UV glass doors and dual evaporators to help regulate humidity and temperature.



TOTO: GR Faucet Series
totousa.com

This faucet sports a clean, minimalist design comprising a blocky body, crisp edges, subtle curves, and a thin spout. Variations include deck-mount, wall-mount, widespread, and vessel height.

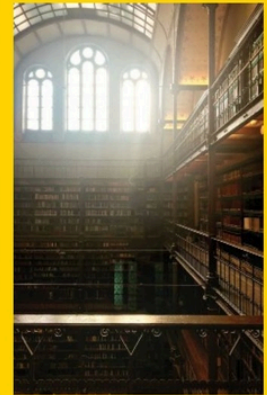
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VISIT. WIN. FLY.

Design inspiration from Amsterdam

Olivia Hammer was the lucky recipient of a trip for two to Amsterdam after winning *Contract's* Visit.Win.Fly at NeoCon this past June. The interior designer works for SDS Architects, an Eau Claire, Wisconsin-based architecture and interiors firm where she loves bringing her client's ideas to life and enjoys the thrill of the ever-evolving design industry. She had just stepped off the plane from Chicago after attending her third NeoCon trade show, when she got the news that she won. "I couldn't believe it, I was in complete and utter shock! After I picked my jaw off the ground, I texted my boyfriend and said 'pack your bags, we're going to Amsterdam!'"



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This was not your first visit to Amsterdam. What were you excited to revisit or explore for the first time?

I was so excited when the Pulitzer came up as one of my choices for hotels. As a designer I was in heaven from the second I walked through their doors. It was so quirky yet sophisticated. I was so excited to revisit the Anne Frank House and really look at everything in closer detail and to travel to different parts of Amsterdam that I had not seen before.

Did you have a different perspective this time around? Why?

I had a much better sense of how to get around, which made for a more relaxing experience—at least for me (My boyfriend, Nate, may have been freaking out a bit inside, as this was his first time traveling in Europe!) I am so grateful to have been able to experience this city again, and really take in everything around me in more detail.

How did the newer buildings, including restaurants and hotels, complement the authentic history of the city?

What I love most about European cities is their history and how they reuse existing structures. Even though these buildings have often been modernized and updated, you can still see all the amazing details within the space. We went to an Ice Bar on our last night, which from the outside looks like an old brick canal building, but once you step inside it transforms into something entirely different. In our hotel room, there was a picture on the wall that told the story of all the different types of businesses that the building has housed throughout its years. It's crazy how old Amsterdam and other European cities are; you just cannot find that type of history in the United States.

Were there any favorite buildings or spaces that you found to be particularly noteworthy?

Amsterdam architecture and design in general is really interesting because it's all built on massive load-bearing stakes called piles. The Schiphol Airport is 13 feet below sea level, and the lowest point in Amsterdam is almost 20 feet below sea level. It's amazing that this city can survive like this—they must have really amazing engineers! The Willet-Holthuysen Museum (a historical double mansion built in 1687 and located on one of the most elegant canals in Amsterdam) was such a stunning place.

It was like stepping back in time to the 18th and 19th centuries. As an interior designer, seeing how homes were designed and decorated in the past is fascinating. One Amsterdam building that really stood out was the NEMO Science Museum. Much of the city architecture is either brown, black, or white brick but this building is a striking green patina metal.

Did you bring back any inspiration to current projects you are working on?

I was really inspired by texture and colors—from the black and white brick houses to the dark canal waters and the bright, colorful flowers at the markets. I also love to get inspiration from the clothing that people wear. People in Amsterdam have such a thrifty, unique style—taking something old and giving it new life—which is totally up my alley. There's something about this city that is so quirky yet romantic and mysterious.

We hear you took a side trip to Reykjavik, Iceland.

Would you recommend the city for our next Visit.Win.Fly. giveaway destination?

I would highly recommend Iceland as the next giveaway destination. This country has such a different vibe than Holland. When you land at the airport, it's almost like you have been transported to the moon. The views of the sea and mountains are absolutely breathtaking, and the architecture and street art is unbelievable. Not to mention the food is fantastic! I mean who doesn't love a good Icelandic hotdog for breakfast, which is a true story—that did happen.



SURVEY

Where do we go from here?

As we look to the near future, we contemplate the most important factors that are affecting our lives. To begin that conversation, we asked 22 architects and designers what they consider the most important building, interior, product, event, or concept of 2018 that will have ramifications for the future. Their varied and thought-provoking responses highlight some of the most relevant and exciting ideas that are shaping the world in which we live, work, and design.



The new piazza at Apple Piazza Liberty, just off the Corso Vittorio Emanuele, one of Milan's most popular streets, is open 24 hours a day, and serves as Apple's own sort of community space, hosting events all throughout the year.

Apple continues to innovate in store design.

The astonishing exterior of this Apple retail space in Milan continues the brand's trailblazing innovation in store design. The trifecta of transparency, materiality, and nature represented in glass, stone, and water creates visual interest in what is seen, aural interest in what is heard, and piques one's curiosity in what is unseen: the store. Submerged under a newly designed plaza, this future vision for retail solves a spatial issue in a crowded city by burying the selling space, yet provides a window to product by sharing a sliver of light to the flashing action below ground via apertures in the plaza floor itself. The aboveground space is active both day and night, forming a new intersection point for the brand with an ancient city; people sit, snack, bike, and interact with one another—all of which is reflected in the polished glass of the Apple cube.

—Ray Ehscheid, *Principal*, IA INTERIOR ARCHITECTS

Scaled-up and innovative water solutions can combat climate change.

The 2018 XPrize winner, the Skysource/Skywater Alliance, creates drinking water by condensing water vapor from the air with solutions powered by solar energy or biofuels such as wood chips, coconut husks, and grass clippings. I live in Cape Town, which nearly ran out of water last May but was temporarily saved by heavy rainfall. Many other areas of the world are also drought-stricken, and water shortages will only get worse with climate change. Skywater can be a fantastic sustainable solution, if it can be scaled up and incorporated directly into architecture.

—Charrisse Johnston, *FASID, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP, Principal*, StudioSALT

Authenticity can help heal our souls.

The most important design concern from 2018 is a pervasive longing for authentic connection. People are exhausted by the tribal rage of recent elections and alienation of social media. It's time for designers to help heal the American soul. We must create inclusive workplaces, diverse neighborhoods,



Venice Beach, California-based Skysource/Skywater Alliance was named the 2018 Water Abundance XPRIZE winner, receiving a grand prize of \$1.5M for developing an easily deployable high-volume water generator that can be used in any climate.

and public spaces that promote authentic, face-to-face relationships.

—Elizabeth Lowrey, *IIDA, RDI, Principal*, ELKUS MANFREDI ARCHITECTS

In an age of turbulent times, memorials have the ability to heal us and teach us about who we are.

We are experiencing turbulent times as our government and nation are more divided than ever. Architects and designers have the ability to move, heal, and teach us how to move forward. The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, by MASS Design Group and

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF MASS DESIGN GROUP (LEFT) AND TOM HARRIS, COURTESY OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO (RIGHT)

The Equal Justice Initiative, which opened this year, is a powerful example of this. It recognizes the damage created by our long history of slavery, racial terror, lynching, and segregation, as well as the lack of discussion about lynching and its legacy. With this memorial, MASS Design Group and The Equal Justice initiative have created a space that embraces truth and inspires reflection and change.

—Geno Yun, AIA, *Principal*, ELS ARCHITECTURE & URBAN DESIGN



Can we leave the world better than the way we found it?

This year has brought public discourse surrounding monuments of our nation's horrific past to the news headlines. The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, designed by MASS Design Group, stands as a reminder that we can leave a mark on the world, making it better than the way that we found it.

—Jane Hallinan, IIDA, *Interior Designer*, PERKINS EASTMAN

We, in the interior design industry, need to elevate ourselves, become bolder, and believe in what we do.

As we end another year, I am more aware than ever that as an industry, interior design has an increasing external public relations issue. As an industry filled with highly educated, articulate, and informed professionals, we are consistently not perceived as an elevated resource. In a world where many of our services are being taken by others or managed out of our projects, we are not transforming and re-negotiating our path.

Set across six acres of land, The National Memorial for Peace and Justice is made up of over 800 corten steel columns, representing every county in the United States that experienced racial terror. Engraved in the monuments are the names of lynching victims.

We need to be seen as powerful business and design consultants where both roles are not only considered, but also highly intertwined. We can no longer tolerate being only 'receivers' of information for input, but rather 'originators' of bottom-line business drivers linked to design, brand, and cultural goals of our clients. We need to be bolder and believe in what we do!

—Scott C. Hierlinger, *Vice President—Interior Design, Managing Principal*, NELSON

"Thrival Geographies (In My Mind I See a Line)" by Amanda Williams + Andres L. Hernandez was created in collaboration with Shani Crowe for the 2018 U.S. Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale.



Architecture and design needs to become more inclusive.

'Thrival Geographies (In My Mind I See a Line)' is an unassuming braided organic structure by Amanda Williams and Andres L. Hernandez with Shani Crowe for the U.S. Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale. It's a piece that challenges conventional architectural form. This year's Biennale theme was how the very shape of architecture is promoting our societal constructs of us and them, colonizer and colonized—leaving large groups of historically marginalized populations out or behind. Amanda proposes another style of architecture that is potentially more inclusive. In this politically and environmentally charged time, everything we design and build needs to be evaluated for how it plays into these stories.

—Verda Alexander, *Principal and Co-Founder*, STUDIO O+A

The recent midterm elections have given us hope and will compel our profession to re-evaluate corrosive values and methods.

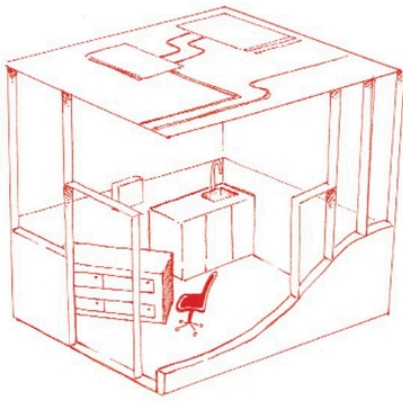
The recent midterm elections, at long last, is definitive proof that positive,

discontinuous thinking and action works. The new members of Congress represent a vastly greater awareness of issues ranging from sustainability to gender equality, inclusion, and human rights that were gained by specifically designing a strategy to amplify critical narratives, from women especially. I'm hopeful it portends the beginning of a movement embracing the marriage of intelligence quotient (IQ) and emotional intelligence (EQ), and will compel the design industry and beyond to re-evaluate corrosive values and methodologies.

—Angie Y. Lee, *Principal and Design Director—Interiors*, FXCOLLABORATIVE

contract

SURVEY



Prefab modular construction is transforming the way that we design and construct healthcare facilities.

The healthcare sector has been embracing this in a very big way, and in 2018, we saw it advance at an accelerated pace. We are now designing for modular rooms, such as toilet and exam rooms, on a regular basis. In the past year, we have designed modular components for complete outpatient facilities. This approach enables health organizations to standardize their operational processes since all rooms are designed to function the same, and to construct facilities at a much faster rate with lower cost and fewer construction quality issues. Modular construction is helping healthcare to bring a new facility online much faster. We are going to see this method continue to accelerate and become far more common.

—Jocelyn Stroupe, CHID, EDAC, IIDA, ASID, *Principal, Director of Health Interiors, CANNONDESIGN*

Integrated design processes and integrated professional teams on projects will become the future of designing.

There has been holistic movement of integrated professional teams on projects, overlapping the traditional roles seen in design-to-build environments. The thought of unifying designers, builders, clients, programmers, and health professionals into charrette-based environments to provide expedited project deliveries breaks the normal conflict-based scenarios we have been positioned in today. Trends such as design build,

integrated project delivery, and construction management-based build are foundational elements to what a forward-thinking company like WeWork has adapted entirely in-house. —Lance Amato, RA, IIDA, *Principal, VOCON*

Coworking space models are transforming the architecture and design landscape.

The plethora of coworking or on-demand serviced spaces being created is one 'product' with significant potential impact for

almost daily. Already, there is an emerging trend to retrofit existing buildings with shared amenities akin to coworking spaces to make them more attractive to businesses. Which amenities will tenants be willing to share in the future in exchange for relinquishing a part of their individual brand identity and culture?

—Sascha Wagner, FIIDA, AIA, *President/CEO, HUNTSMAN ARCHITECTURAL GROUP*

In the age of so-called perfect coworking spaces, how do you create a quality environment for a casual or random user?

Office design has changed radically in the last 20 years, and in many ways the appetite for unique spaces that help us concentrate, socialize, and build culture and community while still enabling a company to do meaningful work has never been stronger. If we can help individuals with spaces that support and facilitate work at existing businesses, what can we do for those who are still studying, just starting a business, or working from home? I see the shared workplace and the third space as being a new frontier for workers, companies, and independent contractors. When a company is ready to jump into the open plan or wants to give a team a break from their standard workplace, these alternative spaces are an obvious solution, which is why they are taking the country by storm.

The new approach is to think of the office as a service to be provided or a space available on demand. To me, it's an interesting development because it shows the importance we place on having the right space, much like having the right tool to get the job done. The right space is now a marketable product and developing a perfect space is a service very much in demand. I wonder how perfect these so-called perfect spaces are? It is at the very core of what a designer does to design space with specialized programming, and specific needs and preferences in mind. How then do you create a good environment for a casual or random user? I wonder how these spaces actually function and where they work and don't work?

—Primo Orpilla, Co-Founder, STUDIO O+A



WeWork is a leader in the growing shared workspace and coworking segment. The Chelsea location, shown here, is one of the company's newest New York build-outs.

the future. This is already affecting how space is financially procured, designed, delivered, and subsequently operated. Currently, coworking environments are meeting a high level of demand for shorter-term flexible occupancies, but the model is quickly evolving to include longer term turnkey serviced solutions at a larger scale. How will this shifting marketplace affect the business of commercial interior design and architecture? Will design services remain relevant for smaller tenants if companies can scale to full-floor or even multi-floor predesigned solutions before ever needing a more custom, optimized space?

To keep up with segment leader WeWork and others, many property owners and operators are beginning to pursue their own approach to pre-built speculative flexible solutions aimed at appealing to a broader spectrum of potential tenants. These offerings may include coworking configurations, although exactly how these will be operated is still evolving as new players appear to be entering the segment

PHOTOGRAPHY: ENDO MEDIA (TOP) AND SCOTT FRANCES/OTTO (BOTTOM); ILLUSTRATION: KOLTER HODGSON

We still need to think about social responsibility.

The workplace is becoming saturated by coworking spaces. Will this be a fad? Will this become yesteryear's 'cube-farm' of tomorrow? Dock 72 in the Brooklyn Navy Yard is changing how this neighborhood is re-shaped, on top of how business and incubators are changing work worldwide.

Our first concern is how these space types are impacting communities' small businesses, like the local donut shop and the mom and pop dry cleaner. Fast forward to ecospheres of industry dropping in with on-demand food delivery. What will this mean for the historic cultural fabric of communities?

Urbanization draws us all in, but what is the inherent responsibility of vibrant transformative businesses moving into neighborhoods, and vice versa? We're huge proponents of tech-forward organizations here at CannonDesign, but we're also pressing our clients and partners to think about the broader picture and each participant's social responsibility.

—Michael Bonomo, *Principal, Director of Global Workplace*, CANNONDESIGN



Dock 72 is one of the largest ground-up developments to be built outside of Manhattan in decades. The 675,000-square-foot building is revolutionizing today's work environment with innovative and collaborative work spaces.



The development of Hudson Yards represents a new and utterly contemporary way of thinking about a city, and the way people can interact within it.

We designed the interiors of One Hudson Yards, the first residential building to open in this historic complex, to explore how our work can create a new form of social landscape within a building so that residents can truly build a community. We create these spaces of engagement to provide places for people to come together, have positive interactions, develop

This 32-story luxury residential building in historic Hudson Yards includes well thought out common spaces rich in amenities to serve the 178 residences.

meaningful exchanges, and ultimately to form relationships. Our architecture is about establishing a true sense of place where we elevate common spaces into shared public space and everything is designed to encourage connection. This kind of opportunity could not happen without the visionary urban thinking of The Related Cos.

—Andre Kikoski AIA, LEED AP, *Principal*, ANDRE KIKOSKI ARCHITECT

Smarter interiors will transform the way we work.

The connected office will carry over into the future, drive how interiors are used, and how we shape workplace experience. Spaces that are starting to sense our occupancy and patterns of behavior are propelling the concept to center stage. One example would be the new occupancy sensors that are tied to behavior.

In the future, I can see spaces that provide recurring experiences for occupants. An example would be a study group in college that performs well on an exam and wants to repeat the characteristics of their exam prep before the next step. The space where

their group studied in the past may be occupied, but a 'smart space' could sense how that environment previously performed and emulate that experience in another space. This could include lighting, furniture, connectivity, layout, and other characteristics.

—Roy Abernathy, *Executive Vice President, Global Workplace Strategy & Human Experience*, NEWMARK KNIGHT FRANK

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SURVEY

A market-focused incubator as a new model for work.

Greentown Labs—the largest Cleantech incubator in the country—is innovative in both the model of workplace, as well as the technologies that are created there. The new space empowers member companies to create world-changing energy technologies and innovations in everything from agriculture and water to robotic automation and transportation. As a market-focused incubator, the space includes a range of prototyping and wet labs, as well as flexible and dedicated workspace, event areas, and shared meeting, collaboration, and support spaces. We are seeing a rise in this type of incubator as a new model for work.

—Felice Silverman, FIIDA, *Principal*, SILVERMAN TRYKOWSKI ASSOCIATES, INC.

The recent corrections in the stock market and midterm elections are helping us to slow down and reconnect.

The unprecedented financial growth we've seen in the past couple years, coupled with a political climate that places half the world at odds with the other, has everyone on edge, regardless of their place in this world. These recent shifts are helping to ground us all, let everyone slow down a bit to take a breath, and hopefully find a connection with those whom we may not see eye to eye.

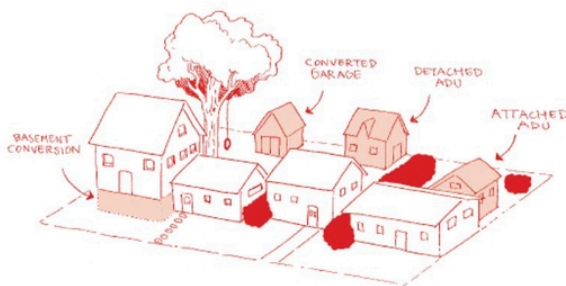
—Donald Cremers, *Principal and Senior Project Designer*, HOK

hewn wood paneling, lighting, and wall coverings, give an atmosphere of a 'True North' or 'Paul Bunyan-cool' vibe that is rooted deep in Minnesota.

—Bill Lyons, *Director of Design and Construction*, ROOM & BOARD

New policies to rapidly build housing units and decentralize development in Angelenos' backyards are transforming Los Angeles.

In 2018, the Garcetti Administration streamlined the process for homeowners to legally build an additional unit on their land, known as Accessory Dwelling Units. More than half the land in LA is filled by neighborhoods in which 90 percent of the housing is single family homes, and the city needs to create 600,000 more affordable units to satisfy demand. Through this development, LA expects to rapidly build over 10,000 units while allowing participating families to build greater financial stability through expanded equity. Diffuse and organic, these policies are encouraging new



forms of density while remaining tailored to LA's urban character.

—Tanya Paz, *Senior Designer*, CAMA INC.

The ICD 'Aggregate' Pavilion 2018 inspires visionary design thinking.

The ICD Aggregate Pavilion 2018 is the first fully enclosed architectural space entirely constructed from designed granules, which lie only in loose frictional contact. This experience 'space' caught my eye for several reasons: It is the 'opener' to principles of all future-proof design principles and hits the nail of interiors and architecture—inside

solutions to a vast array of other problems, both globally and locally. Cooper Hewitt's "Design with the 90%" travelling exhibition is a simple and profound exhibit demonstrating the power of design in connecting the dots between the universal principles of the industry and the issues we are facing today—saving the planet, improving lives, empowering women, and building community. —Anne Marie Cunningham, FIIDA, *Assoc. AIA, Principal*, NBBJ

Zaha Hadid will continue to inspire us.

Although recently deceased, Zaha Hadid has left her imprint around the world. Clearly, it was her instinctive and imaginative mind that defined her work as the inventive creator of visual artistry and human sensitivities to physical space in architecture. She is known for having 'liberated architectural geometry, giving it a whole new expressive identity'.

—Peter J. Ferzan, *Managing Principal/CEO*, FERZAN COMPANY

**Repurposing buildings can transform neglected neighborhoods.**

It's amazing to witness the energy the transformation of The Hewing Hotel—a former early 20th-century warehouse which sat vacant for decades—has brought to a neighborhood of Minneapolis. The mix of materials and furnishings from the original building elements—timber structure, wood floor, brick walls—contrasted with the new materials, such as sleek fireplaces, hand

The historic nature of the Jackson Building—built in 1897 and used as a farm implement showroom and warehouse—inspired the renovation and interior design of the 124-room Hewing Hotel.



and outside—on its 'granular' head! The DNA here is about something granularly invented, and has a formation process (think lifecycle), that stands structurally on its own by force, and is heavily tactile and textured, enhancing the user experience and responding to the trend of creating an increasingly unique sense of place.

Material innovation must emphasize recyclability and biodegradability in the immediate future, and this sustainable pavilion, made from recycled plastic, does that. While its DNA is a star-conceived form, and its process is manufactured, this is a system that a new set of building products can be founded on. —Bill Bouche, *Principal—Director of Design Interiors*, HOK

The power of design can solve the issues we are facing today.

We, as design professionals, know that innovative solutions to one problem can inspire industrious and enterprising

The ICD Aggregate Pavilion 2018 is constructed from designed granules. Project credits: Karola Dierichs; Achim Menges; Christian Arias, Bahar Al Bahar, Elaine Bonavia, Federico Forestiero, Pedro Giachini, Shir Katz, Alexandre Mballa-Ekobena, Leyla Yunis, and Jacob Zindroski (research assistants); Ondrej Kyjanek and Martin Loucka (cable robotics); Wilhelm Weber GmbH & Co. KG (manufacturing); and GETTYLAB, ITASCA Consulting Inc. (support).

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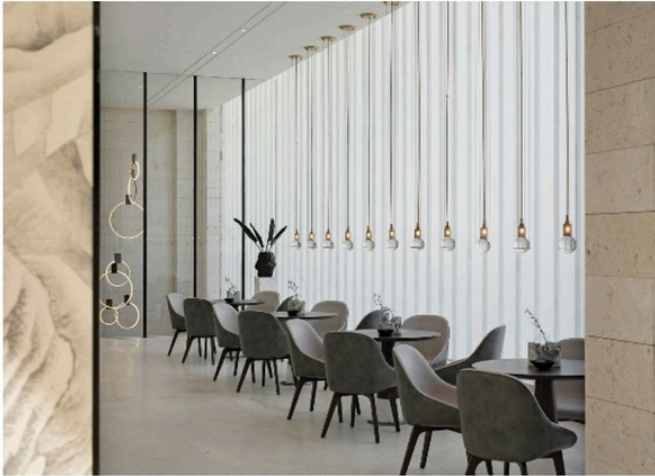


COMPETITION: IIDA BEST OF ASIA PACIFIC

IIDA Best of Asia Pacific Design Awards 2018

By Murrye Bernard, AIA,
LEED AP

PHOTOGRAPHY: ZHU JIANLI



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Best of Competition

Public Spaces & Commercial Lobbies

Project **Dongguan Timesgroup Tianjing Club**

Where **Dongguan, China**

Designer **Matrix Design**

This 10,764-square-foot lobby was conceived as an extension of the building's architecture while recalling elements from nature. The sophisticated, neutral material palette includes crema pearl marble, hand-painted wallpaper, cast copper, wood, metal mesh, and black brushed stainless steel. Clean lines and an abundance of natural light keep the focus on the textures of the materials and cultivate a sense of calm and comfort. When the sun sets, light passes through a skylight and screens to cast dappled patterns on interior surfaces.

The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) has named the winners of the sixth annual Best of Asia Pacific Design Awards competition, which seeks to recognize and honor the highest level of creativity and excellence in interior design and interior architecture projects in the Asia-Pacific region. There are 14 winning projects in 10 categories, including a Best of Competition winner, Dongguan Timesgroup Tianjing Club by Matrix Design (this spread). “The variety demonstrated by this year’s submissions is a true testament to the broad range of talent and ingenuity in this region,” said IIDA Executive Vice President and CEO Cheryl S. Durst, Hon. FIIDA. “The winning projects underscore the impact that can be made when cultural influence meets innovation.” Projects were reviewed by a panel of design professionals, including Michael Byun, IIDA, ASID, associate director, interior design leader, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Angie Lee, IIDA, AIA, principal, design director—interiors, FXCollaborative; and Billy Quimby, principal, BAMO.

contract

COMPETITION: IIDA BEST OF ASIA PACIFIC



PHOTOGRAPHY: MACASA & PARTNERS (1) AND WANG DACHOU (2)



1 Corporate Space Large
Project **Hyundai Card Studio Black**
Where **Seoul, South Korea**
Designer **Gensler**

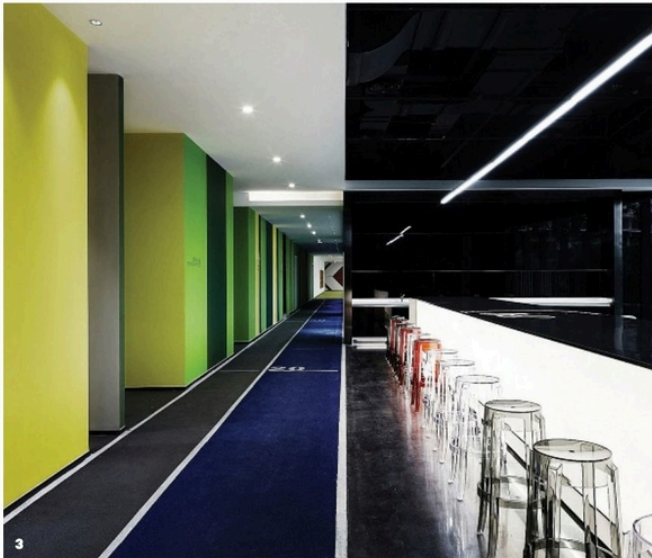
Studio Black is the first Korean coworking brand of its kind. It functions as an incubator studio geared toward creative and independent work styles and offers a variety of hospitality-like amenities including concierge services. The design team partnered with Hyundai Card to define a brand strategy and design concept that celebrated the process of craft, connectivity, and community. Comprising eight floors, Studio Black features a program that underscores a changing work culture, and amenities include independent workspaces, a connecting lounge, device testing lab, photo lab, lecture rooms, phone booths, concierge, cafe, rooftop garden, lockers, nap/shower rooms, makerspaces, break rooms, and meeting rooms.

2 Corporate Space Small
Project **SG Design Studio**
Where **Hangzhou, China**
Designer **SG Design Studio**

Inspired by the language of the building in which it is located, this design studio's office is minimal and white. It features custom-made long tables, lamps, and cabinets. Indirect light fixtures wash wall planes, establishing an architectural language with light, shade, and line. Natural light is introduced through grooves in the walls as well as electrified atomized glass, and some areas utilize high-end spotlights and gypsum or concealed lamps. Windows frame landscape views, and a moonlight projection lamp adds a sense of forward-looking technology to the otherwise contemplative interiors. The layout is open and flexible, which is especially evident in the design of multifunctional spaces such as the conference hall.



PHOTOGRAPHY: ZHANG JING



3 Corporate Space Large

Project **Heaven for Staff—Sina Staff Home**

Where **Beijing**

Designer **Drawing Design Consultant Co. Ltd.**

New communal areas serving the 6,000 staff members of Sina Corp., located in Zhongguancun Science Park in Beijing, accommodate a wide scope of activities from lounging to collaboration and entertainment. The 32,300-square-foot facility offers a range of humane spaces that allow staff to decompress, reenergize, or take care of business, including a coffee shop, bookstores, classrooms, yoga room, gymnasium, indoor jogging track, basketball court, supermarket, laundry room, beauty salon, and game room. Interiors feature custom designed furnishings, and the walls and floors present saturated blocks of color in both warm and cool tones. This creates a strong visual impact while encouraging employees to feel at home.



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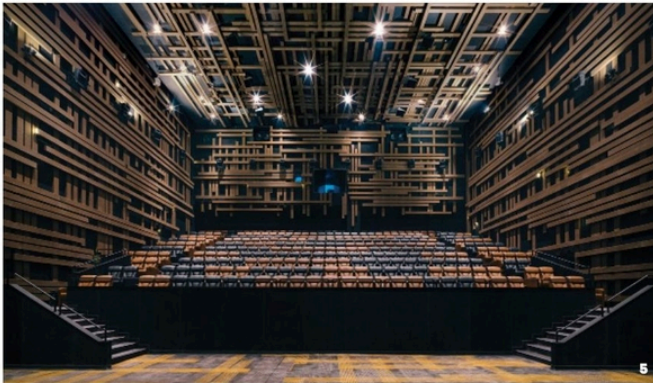
4 Healthcare

Project Perennial International Specialist Medical Centre

Where Chengdu, China

Designer DP Design Pte Ltd.

This center provides top-quality medical services and expertise such as cardiology and pediatrics. Though the property was originally designed for retail use, the developer decided to convert it into a hospital during construction. The new design scheme features a large atrium that not only serves as a central node of circulation, but also is an oasis for relaxation, offering waiting areas as well as a cafe. The designers applied a warm color scheme with shades of brown and bronze and textural materials such as timber and fabrics, and warm indirect lighting illuminates public spaces. Integrating with the center's local context, simple art and murals of flowers native to Chengdu provide positive distractions to reduce anxiety. The overall aesthetic effect is a comfortable, warm, and hospitable healing environment that subtly embraces visitors in a relaxing and assuring atmosphere.



PHOTOGRAPHY: MARC TET, COURTESY OF DP ARCHITECTS PTE LTD (4) AND JONATHAN LEONHUFVUD (5)



5 Entertainment

Project Xiangyang Fanyue Mall International Cinema

Where Xiangyang, China

Designer One Plus Partnership Ltd.

Dark boxes used for shooting morphs in film were the inspiration for the crisscrossing rectangular columns that form the dynamic, overlapping ceiling feature that is the focal point within this cinema. Aluminum columns painted with a light wood pattern are installed at different heights to enhance the spatial effect. Small TVs and lightbulbs at the ends of the columns resemble the images reflected in dark boxes. The distribution of these rectangular tubes is carefully designed, balancing between aesthetics and functionality while allowing the audience to move freely around the space. The ceiling columns transform into the ticket and concession counters, and they are also laid down and placed along the corridor walls as benches. Other columns are suspended from the ceiling to indicate auditorium number.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CARSON CHEUNG, COURTESY OF CCD/CHENG CHUNG DESIGN (HK) LTD.

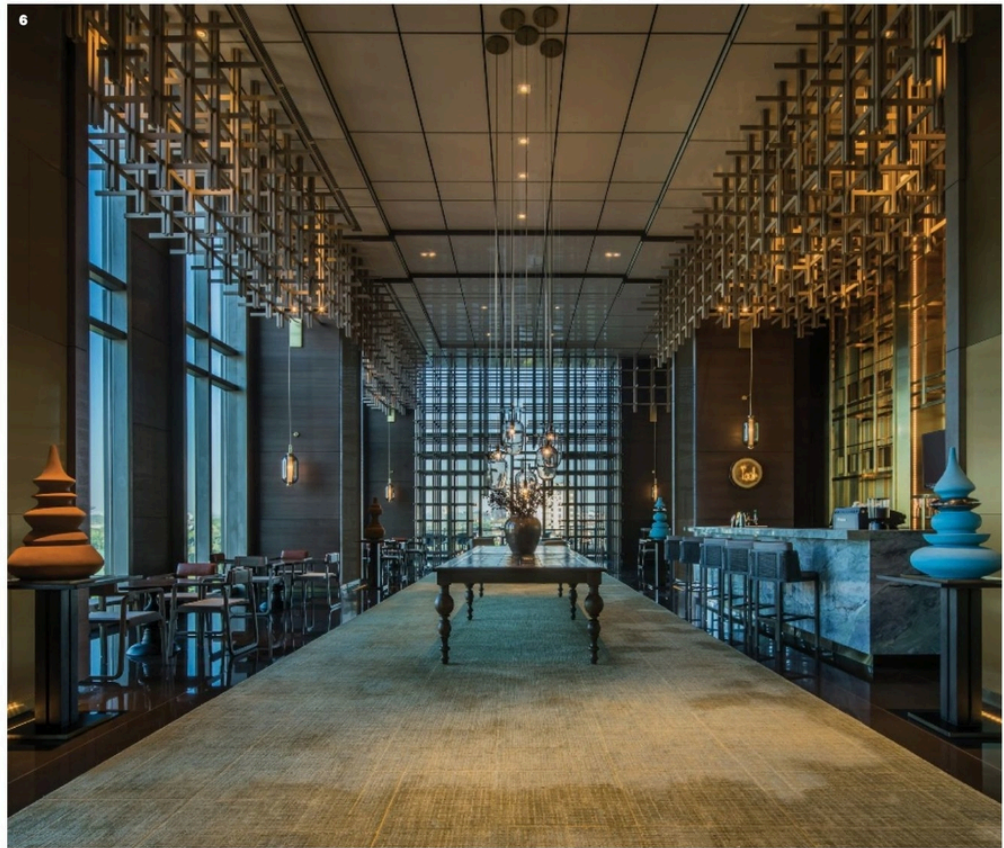
6 Hotels

Project **Pan Pacific Yangon**

Where **Yangon, Myanmar**

Designer **CCD/Cheng Chung Design (HK) Ltd.**

Pan Pacific Yangon is located in Yangon City adjacent to Myanmar's most famous and charming Yangon Shwedagon Pagoda. Inspired by Quinta Buddha Light and traditional Burmese architecture, the design team incorporated unique products from Myanmar, including wood, bamboo, rattan, traditional cloth, jade, bone, ivory, paper, and umbrellas. Design elements reference water and sand-like patterns, and different color combinations help achieve a harmonious balance between the modern concept and the local culture.



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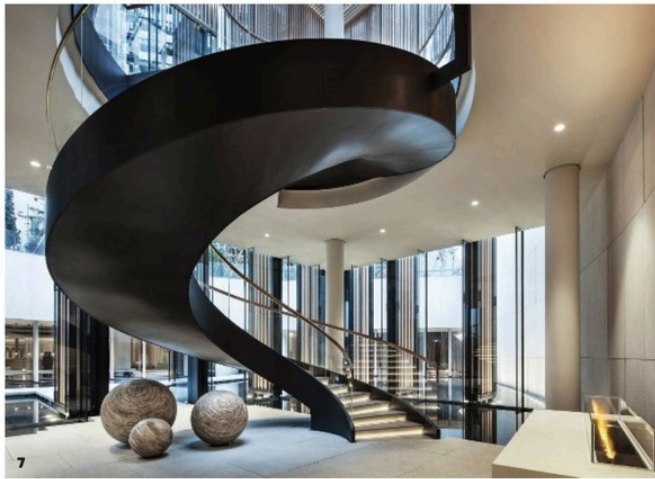
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COMPETITION: IIDA BEST OF ASIA PACIFIC



7 Sales Centers & Show Flats

Project Greenland Primus

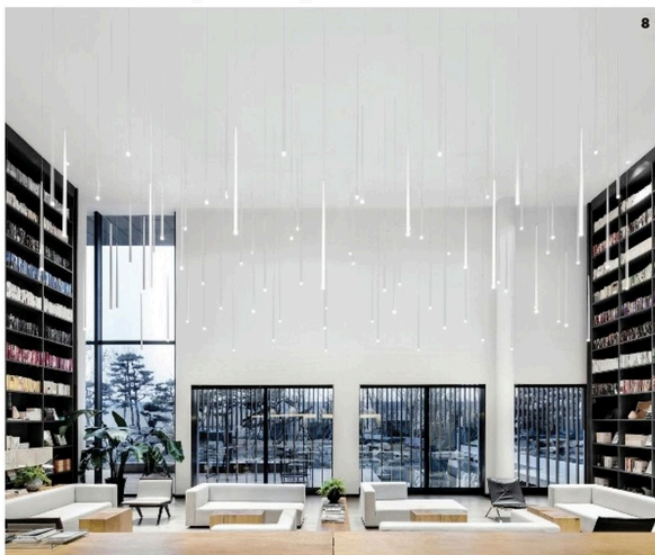
Where Wuhan, China

Designer CCD/Cheng Chung Design (HK) Ltd.

Located along the bank of the Yangtze River, the Wuhan Greenland Center expresses its connection with nature while the design of its interiors integrates influences from both the past and present of Chinese and Western cultures. According to a legend dating back more than 2,000 years that exemplifies the Chinese ideal of friendship, when Yu Boya played the harpichord for Zhong Ziqi, he could immediately tell whether the melody referenced high mountains or flowing water. The design team drew inspiration from this legend and aimed to showcase these harmonious expressions. The lobby integrates organic elements such as flowers, trees, landscape windows, gradual steps, and stone trails, and throughout the project, pavilions and corridors serve as functional support areas for rest, negotiation, and displaying art and models. Natural and artificial light sources alternate to create a rhythm, and circular elements reference traditional courtyards.



PHOTOGRAPHY: CARSON CHEUNG, COURTESY OF CCD/CHENG CHUNG DESIGN (HK) LTD (7), STONEVEI, ZHANG QILIN (8), AND COURTESY OF SHENZHEN DAE INTERIOR DESIGN CO. LTD. (9)



8

8 Institutional

Project Pick Up the Time-Heyuan Sales Center

Where Qinhuangdao, China

Designer Drawing Design Consultant Co. Ltd.

This library, located within a sales center, is designed to look like a gallery. It was conceived based upon the belief that every memory has a key, and under the right circumstances, one will retrieve it—even if it is buried deeply. The designers contemplated how to imbue the small space with beauty and comfort while referencing the innocence of childhood, such as wishes made beneath falling stars, the fun of a balloon, or the excitement of spotting a rainbow. Not unlike a black-and-white photo, memories can fade and even become fragmented. The designers of this library sought to capture these sentimental details and remind visitors of the fun times from their childhoods.

9 Sales Centers & Show Flats

Project The Piedmont

Where Dongguan City, China

Designer Shenzhen DAE Interior Design Co. Ltd.

The Piedmont is a residence that is designed to integrate with the landscape while reflecting the traditional culture of southern China. The sales office, reception, and business center are located on the lower two floors of the four-story building. The first floor contains a negotiation area, a tea bar, and a private banquet area. A large window frames views of a pond within the peaceful Lingnan garden outside. The second floor hosts other business functions as well as the reception space, another tea bar, and areas for listening to music and watching videos. There is also a museum, lecture hall, and a meditation space. A sunken courtyard draws natural light into the interiors, and the material palette includes black bricks and gray tiles that extend from the garden as well as wood beams and columns that reference traditional Chinese construction methods.



An evening of cross-segment design trends from the editors of:

contract



Paul Makovsky
Editor in Chief

design:retail



Alison Embrey Medina
Editor in Chief/Associate Publisher

**healthcare
design**



Jennifer Silvis
Editor in Chief

hospitality design



Stacy Shoemaker
Editor in Chief, Vice President of
the Hospitality Design Group

Join the editors of four top commercial design publications for a special evening highlighting design trends in their respective markets, followed by a Q&A panel discussion. Finish the evening mingling with colleagues, cocktail in hand. Truly an evening that can't be matched offering valuable insight and industry perspective with real takeaway content you can put into practice immediately.

Evening Agenda:

- 6-6:45 p.m. – Registration & Cocktails
- 6:45-8 p.m. – 15-minute trend presentations
by the editor of each brand
followed by 15-minute Q&A panel
discussion with all four editors
- 8-9 p.m. – Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres

Event Dates and Cities (venues TBA):

- February 12 – Dallas
- April 25 – San Francisco
- Registration link to be announced

For More Information:

Contact Contract Publisher Karen Donaghy at
kdonaghy@contractdesign.com

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COMPETITION: IIDA BEST OF ASIA PACIFIC

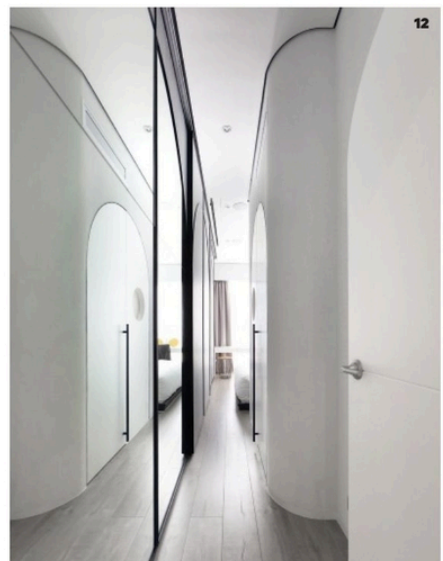
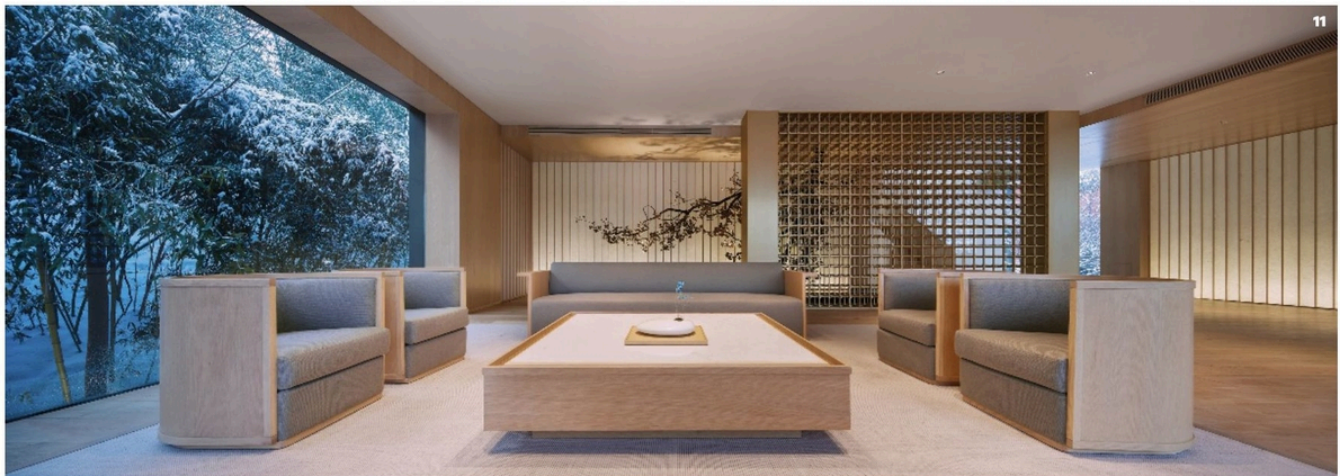
10 Restaurants, Lounges & Bars

Project **HEXA**Where **Hong Kong**Designer **Steve Leung Design Group**

Located in Tsim Sha Tsui, a bustling district of Hong Kong, HEXA is a contemporary restaurant where guests can enjoy authentic Cantonese cuisine with a modern fusion twist. Inspired by the sensual character of Hong Kong in the 1960s, the designers divided the rectangular space into two complementary lounge and dining sections that enjoy spectacular 270-degree views of Victoria Harbour through floor-to-ceiling windows. The cocktail lounge, which is defined by dark hues, features a bar made of green stone along with bronze metal cocktail carts in a nod to the traditional way of serving Cantonese food. The dining section is distinguished by lighter colors and beaded crystal curtains to create a romantic and luminous environment. The daring black-and-white pattern of the marble floor, floral wallpapers, and dramatic ceiling lighting offer a contemporary take on 1960s glamour.



PHOTOGRAPHY: VIRGILE SIMON BERTRAND (10)



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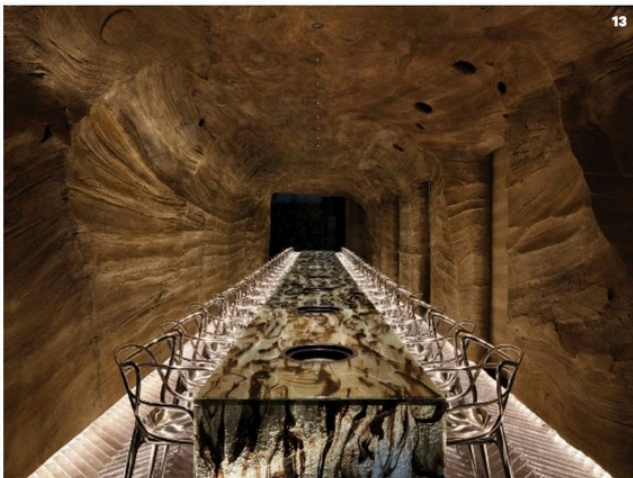
PHOTOGRAPHY: ZHANG JING (11), WESLEY LIU (12), AND NACASA & PARTNERS/SATORU UMETSU (13)



13

13 Restaurants, Lounges & Bars**Project Nikunotoriko****Where Tokyo****Designer Ryoji Iedokoro Architecture Office**

An unconventional take on a "yakiniiku," or "grilled-meat," restaurant, Nikunotoriko offers a variety of unique dining experiences. On the first floor there is a long table within a cave-like setting. The floor is made of glass inset with individually molded tiles to create a water effect, and the walls and ceiling are handmade from mortar and paint. The second floor offers semi-private seating with steel pipes mimicking trees acting as unobtrusive partitions, allowing patrons to feel as if they are enjoying their meals in the middle of a quiet forest. The floor and tables are made from OSB plywood panels with dynamic contour lines. A corner of the building was cut away and features large windows on both levels, allowing people to see the inside.



13

11 Residences**Project From Winter to Spring Clubhouse****Where Nanjing, China****Designer Shanghai Hip-Pop Design Team**

The building is conceived as a poetic imagination, and the project conveys a philosophy of confronting loneliness in stride through its minimal material palette. In order to imbue the interiors with warmth and create a welcoming atmosphere for guests to feel at home, the designers paid great attention to the use of color and the textures of the finish materials, which include light wood wall paneling and flooring, as well as translucent paper screens that provide soft diffused lighting. An especially large pane of insulating glass frames the scenery as if a large landscape painting. Further integrating the changing seasonal scenery with the indoors, 13 pieces of glass appear like 13 large scroll paintings.

12 Residences**Project Organic Symphony****Where Hong Kong South, Hong Kong****Designer PplusP Designers Ltd.**

For a four-bedroom apartment situated within the luxury residential estate of Bel-Air in Hong Kong, PplusP Designers created a fluid space that bridges contemporary and wistful. A playful color palette of teal and gold pops against a neutral backdrop of muted metallic panels, white walls, and desaturated wood floors. To accentuate the ceiling height, doorways are articulated as arches outlined in black. These curving forms are echoed throughout—in the detailing of custom furnishings, millwork hardware, and mirrors—to cultivate a cohesive sense of place and well-being.

IDEAS AND INFORMATION

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shapes of the city

A Belgian design studio has created a fascinating new bench—drawing influence from the materials and structures that make our cities what they are.

Design duo Jef De Brabander and Kathleen Opdenacker founded Antwerp-based studio and workshop Nortstudio in 2016. Though both were previously designers working on their own, the couple quickly saw the benefits of joining together as a team: Opdenacker has a knack for graphic design, details, and materials, while De Brabander's passion is rooted in industrial engineering and craftsmanship. Together, they are challenging the limits of product design, most recently with a new indoor-outdoor bench that definitely makes you look twice.

It's no mystery where the inspiration came from for Nortstudio's new Urban Shapes bench. Though as a society, we are often too busy running from one place to the next to pause and look up at the city around us, the truth is, the constant evolution of our urban jungles can be an ongoing source of inspiration. According to the studio, by taking these materials and forms out of their context and combining them in a completely different way, a special tension is created.

For the creation of Urban Shapes, Nortstudio looked to these forms—the various beams and pipes that are found at a building site as well as the continuous arrival and departure of one structure to the next. By combining three wooden primary shapes and linking them together with a grid-form made of steel, the bench was born. Yet just as our cities morph and transform, the bench can be easily reassembled into different configurations thanks to the removable grille that is placed flush into the groves of the three “legs.”

Thanks to an optional anodized-aluminum grille, the bench can also withstand the outdoors. According to the studio, by creating a defiant bench, they see their design as an enrichment of public spaces such as museums and parks, but the bench is also suitable for private use. —MEGHAN DWYER

Though the Urban Shapes bench is comprised of materials often seen at construction sites and aren't generally associated with comfort, when the grille is placed flush into the tops of the wooden objects, the pieces transform into a satisfying geometric sculpture of color and uniformity.

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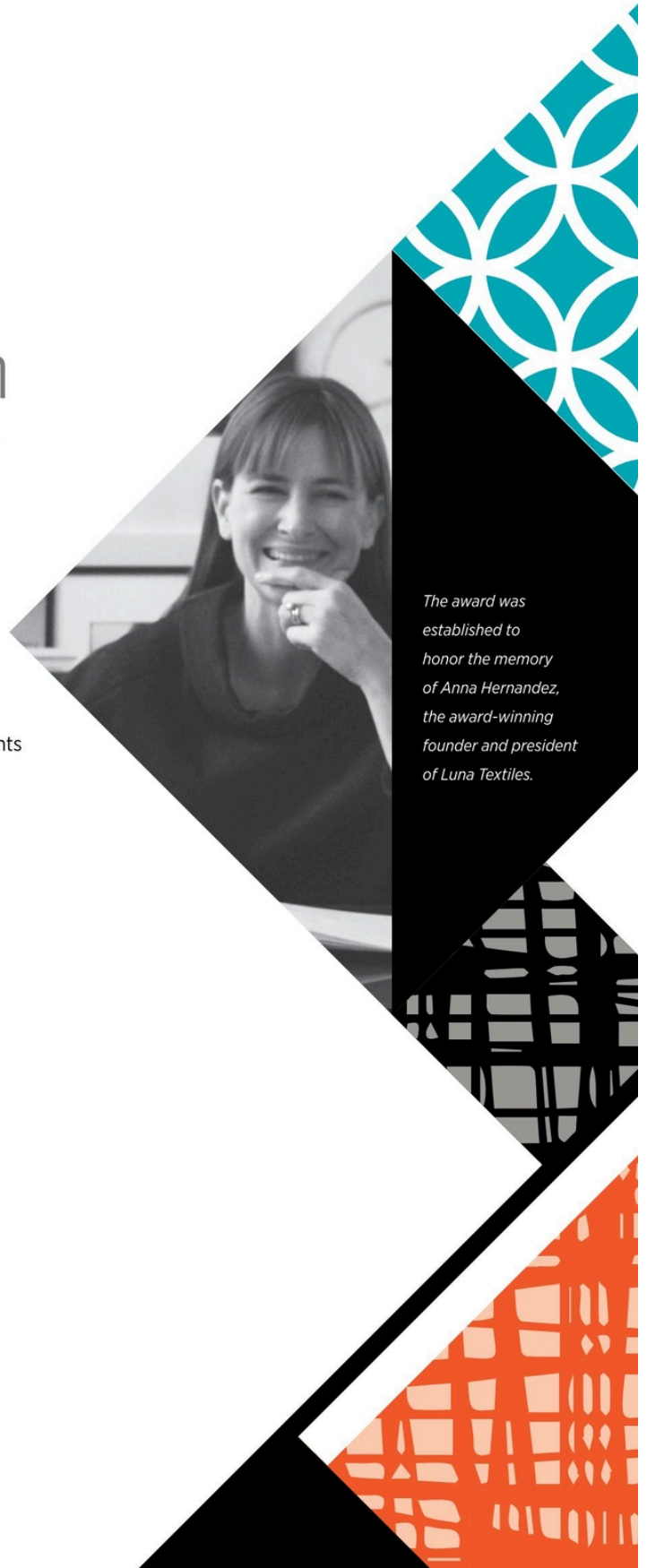
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