

contract

Planning for Change

The essential products and great ideas for your next commercial project

Industry Survey

25 interior designers on
how they're rethinking spaces

Design Solutions

More than 175
new-to-market products

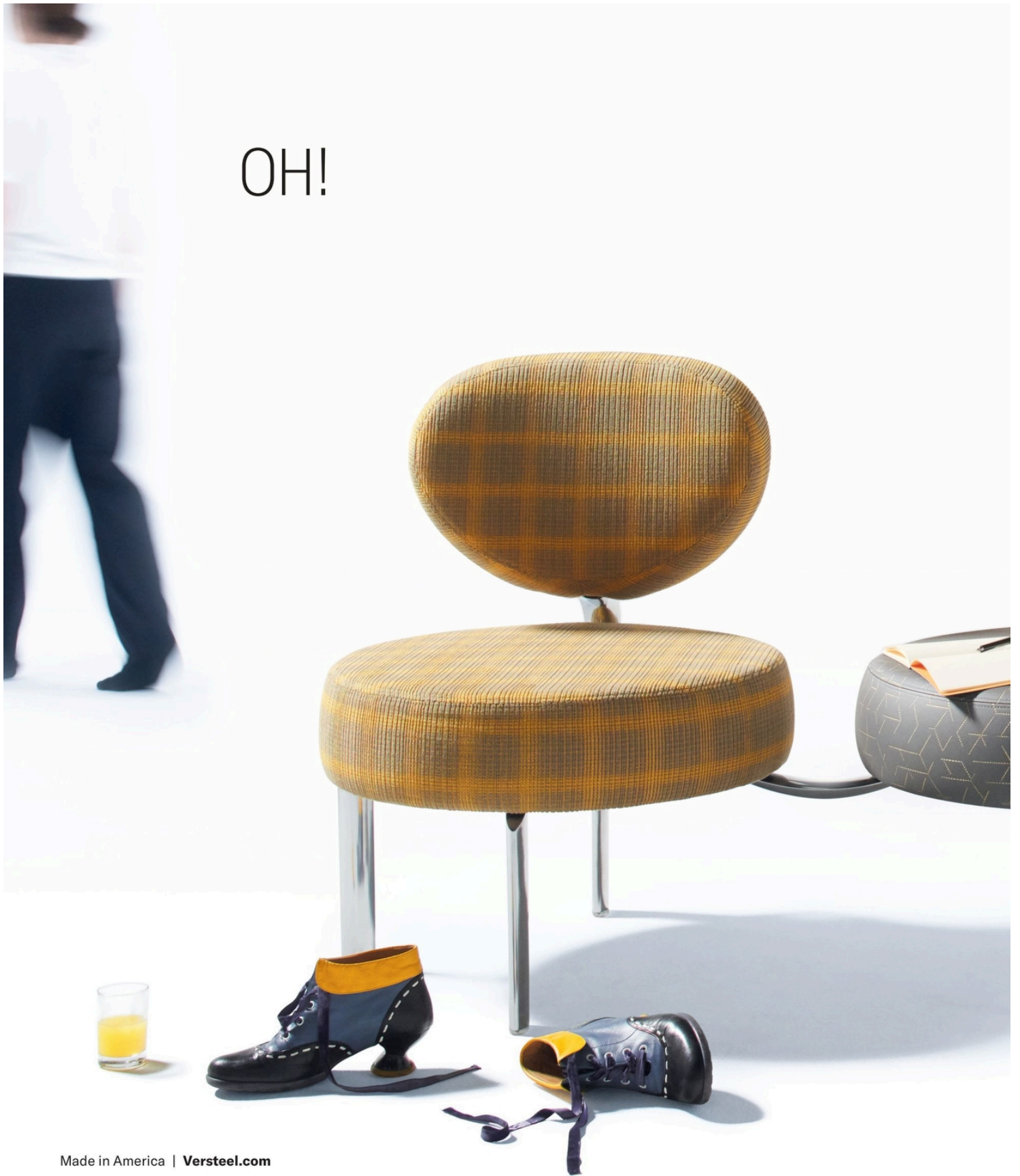
Soft Surfacing Focus

Insights from textile and
carpet directors

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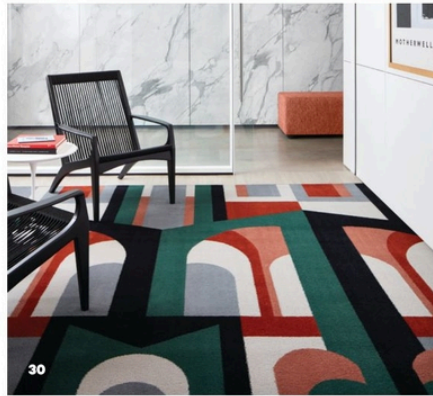
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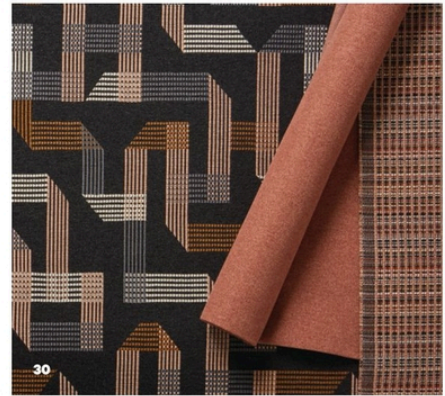
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EDITORIAL

Planning for Change

Despite the cancellations of commercial trade shows such as ICFF, HD Expo, Salone del Mobile, and NeoCon this year, designers and manufacturers are still producing and manufacturing game-changing product solutions. Here at *Contract*, we strongly believe that product is one of the most critical components of designing any good interior, which is why we make product coverage a key part of each issue. This month, we share some of the most innovative new products (more than 175!) for the workplace, hospitality, healthcare, and education sectors.

As architects and designers redesign commercial spaces to accommodate the realities of our post-pandemic world, they are working with their colleagues, clients, and communities to reconsider and reshape the places where we work and live. To take the pulse of the architecture and design industry, we surveyed 25 leading designers about how they are rethinking space design and product specification amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We also talked with more than a dozen design directors from various textile and carpet companies about their new collections and their perspectives as they all work from home.

Contract's Digital Platforms

As the design community continues to work from home and adjust to the "new normal," *Contract* has been upping its digital content game. We've offered thought-provoking and informative panels, during which we've engaged with designers on how they are responding to and designing for a post-pandemic world. We also just completed a great three-part series on health and wellness

that will make you rethink how sustainability needs to evolve. Our Associate Editor, Meghan Dwyer, has been heading up an Instagram Live series with designers and manufacturers on the state of the industry, and she's also profiling talented designers for *Contract's* new Multivitamin series. Additionally, our Managing Editor, Lauren Volker, who has been cohosting many of our webinars, has also been spearheading our On Our Radar blog series, sponsored by KI. There's so much content to enjoy! Visit contractdesign.com to learn more.

Interiors Awards Competition

Entries are now being accepted for the 42nd Annual Interiors Awards—a celebration of the best designs in the commercial interiors community each year. The deadline for entries is Sept. 10, 2020, and winning projects along with the Designer of the Year and Legend honorees will be recognized at the 42nd Annual Interiors Awards Breakfast in New York in January 2021. Learn more and enter online here: contractdesign.com/interiorsawards.com.

Sincerely,

Paul Makovsky
Editor in Chief



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INTERIORS
FROM SPAIN

Contract Names New Editorial Advisory Board Members



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Director of Design, Auberge Resorts Collection

Nina Etnier

Partner, FLOAT Studio

Alda Ly

Principal and Founder, Alda Ly Architecture

Margaret Sullivan, LEED AP

Principal and Founder, Margaret Sullivan Studio

Ming Thompson, AIA, IIDA

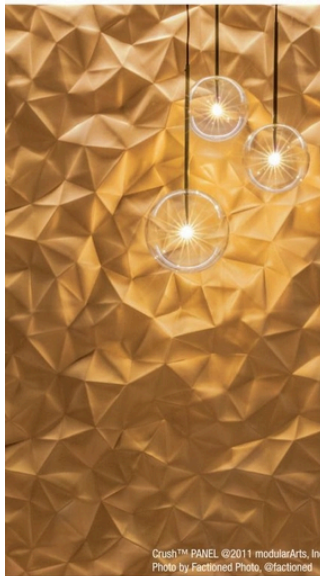
Principal and Founder, Atelier Cho Thompson

Contract magazine is thrilled to announce five additions to its Editorial Advisory Board: Nicole Campion, director of design, Auberge Resorts Collection; Nina Etnier, partner, FLOAT Studio; Alda Ly, principal and founder, Alda Ly Architecture; Margaret Sullivan, LEED AP, principal and founder, Margaret Sullivan Studio; and Ming Thompson, AIA, IIDA, principal and founder, Atelier Cho Thompson.

The *Contract* Editorial Advisory Board includes 41 designers, architects, and industry experts who advise the editorial team, providing insight into industry trends and emerging talent, and participating in *Contract* panels, webinars, and events throughout the year. Each fall, the board gathers in a different city for the *Contract* Design Forum—a three-day gathering for discussion, debate, and inspiration. —MEGHAN DWYER



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Designer: Eastlake Studio



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Ventanas™ w/sound absorbent PET
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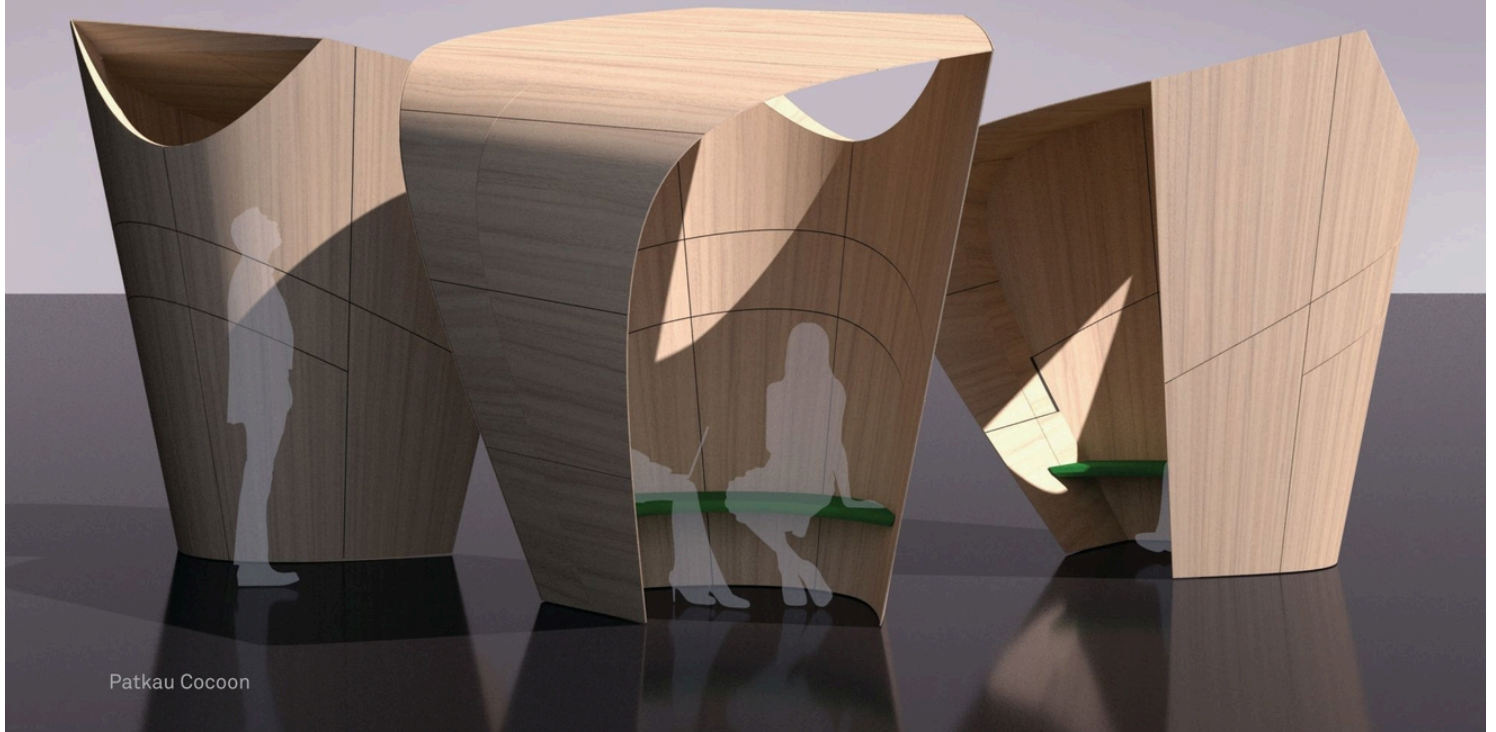
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PRODUCT FOCUS

designed to save your back— and our oceans

**The noho move chair fits our bodies, dynamic ways of life,
and values without negatively impacting our environment.**



The noho move chair features a clean, sleek design that suits a range of environments—not just the office. The chair is available in black or white, and seat toppers are available in six colors.

derived from fossils. ECONYL maintains the exact same performance quality as traditional nylon, yet it can be recycled and re-created infinitely without ever compromising quality.

As two companies that align perfectly in their mission to produce products that reduce harm to the planet, noho and Aquafil have a partnership that was a clear match. Noho is the first furniture brand to use ECONYL regenerated nylon in a chair.

Sustainability wasn't the only cornerstone of the noho move chair, which was designed over the course of five years, with discussions going back ten. The chair's ability to flex and flow with all bodies, supporting every move as well as one's posture, allows it to meet the demands of lives that are constantly in motion.

"The chair's unique blend of flex, rock, and forward tilt actually encourages movement, so you can freely shift, lean in, or kick back," Bonazzi says. "Built for all the demands of today—and every day to come—the noho move chair has your back. Its revolutionary design ensures correct posture and dynamic ergonomic comfort, supporting all of your activities, from dining to relaxing to working from home." —MEGHAN DWYER

Sustainability-focused, New Zealand-born and Boulder, Colorado-based furniture company noho has released an ergonomic chair that offers comfort without compromise. As the product of a company that believes furniture should both look and feel good, while doing good for the planet, the noho move chair was created to transform the traditional static nature of home furniture. It does this by integrating the dynamic, ergonomic comfort of a premium everyday chair with sustainable design.

"Made in Aotearoa, New Zealand, from upcycled waste plastic like re-claimed fishing nets and end-of-use carpets, the noho move chair is manufactured predominately from ECONYL regenerated nylon, helping turn the tide on what's possible for our planet and future," says Giulio Bonazzi, CEO and chairman of Aquafil.

By incorporating ECONYL regenerated nylon—launched by Aquafil in 2011—the chair reduces the environmental impact of nylon by up to 80 percent compared with materials



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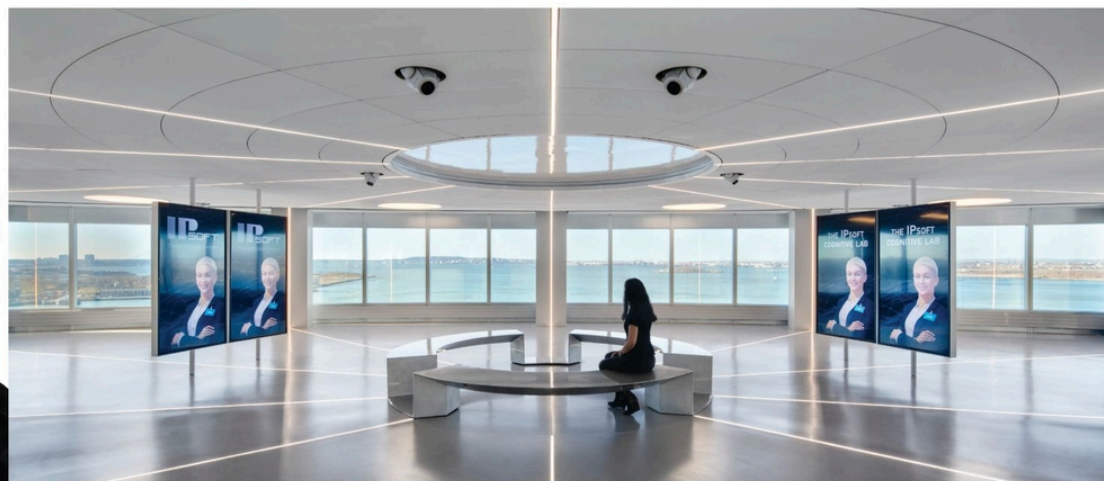
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Designer You Should Know Lois Wellwood



PHOTOGRAPHY: JEFF GOLDBERG (TOP); RAFAEL OLANO (BOTTOM)



Lois Wellwood, IIDA, is a director and global interiors practice leader for SOM. The Los Angeles-based designer's expertise is workplace design and strategy, with a focus on helping organizations efficiently and effectively adapt to change and support multiple functions throughout a typical day at the office. She also has experience designing innovative retail interiors, and conceiving precedent-setting hospitality and residential spaces for both private and public sector clients. At SOM, she has served as design leader and manager on projects for Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, IPsoft Inc., and JPMorgan Chase & Co.

How does your background in interior architecture inform the way you approach projects in your position with SOM?

In all our work at SOM, we seek an exceptionally deep, holistic view of our clients at the onset. We constantly try to push past any preconceived ideas to introduce goals that they might not otherwise have realized. This is true at the larger, urbanistic scale of architecture as well as within interior environments.

Our work is a constant process of pushing and expanding boundaries.

At SOM, architects, interior designers, structural engineers, and city planners work side by side, and collaboration between these disciplines means that interior architectural considerations are integrated into our projects from the start. There is still a misperception that interior architects come in at the end of a project and place furniture, and we have demonstrated that this couldn't be further from the truth. In our work, the entire design process is informed by the demands of the interior requirements from day one. Being able to toggle between the perspectives of all of these disciplines has made me a better designer.

What is unique about your overall design approach?

The way we challenge our clients to dream bigger and be bolder is very unusual. We begin every project by guiding them through a process that gives them permission to confront assumptions and experiment with new ideas until we reach a solution that exceeds their initial expectations. This process results in designs that are more resilient than they would

be otherwise, because we're anticipating the future as opposed to designing for today, or for the past.

Which interior spaces have you worked on recently? Was there something innovative that you feel you brought to the project?

When we began our work for the MetroTech Center, the client only asked us to renovate the cafeteria, but we recognized an immense opportunity to rethink food and beverage and how to make it a destination. The final design created a multifaceted social hub—with a robust food offering, coffee, a sushi bar, a library, and a game room—that is a whole new kind of hub, one that connects and inspires people, bolsters the client's brand and culture, and is authentic to its location in downtown Brooklyn. I also recently worked with our New York team to develop and implement IPsoft's global workplace strategy and design standards. At the company's New York headquarters in Lower Manhattan, we created their Innovation Lounge, where IPsoft's artificial intelligence agent comes alive on a moveable, 40-foot-long curved LED screen.

Currently, I am leading a large-scale government project in Northern California. We are working with

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JULY 2020



Lois Wellwood's latest workplace projects include JP Morgan Chase's Metrotech Center in Brooklyn (opposite, top); IPsoft's New York office (opposite, bottom); and the Hudson's Bay Company headquarters in New York (above).

the client to create a very forward-looking, highly functioning building with an objective for seamless technology integration and long-term resiliency planned into the design. We're also exploring ways to bring natural light into the building through the incorporation of skylights and internal courtyards—elements that improve the health and wellness of a building's inhabitants and that are not often found in government projects.

What are some interesting trends that you see in workplace design today?

Creating architecture that is bold, transformative, and profound is central to the ethos of SOM. Trends come and go, so what really interests us are the emerging influences that will have a lasting impact and value. Climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, are both issues that have caused a major shift across our industry in how we think about designing for the future. This goes well beyond the idea of trend and into something much more meaningful, impactful, and important.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing workplace design going forward, in this new era of social distancing?

As we start returning to our offices, there are a series of solutions—near-, mid-, and long-term—that will be considered through the filter of human health and safety in concert with policies, planning, and design ideas. Particularly for the “day one” changes, we will have to work within the parameters of the existing designs of our offices, which will be a challenge. I firmly believe, though, that the biggest challenges result in the most innovations. This is an incredible opportunity for us, as an industry, to think about how buildings—and cities at large—can be designed in a more human-centric, resilient way from every perspective.



BOB and weave

With 12 different shapes, this modular sofa has the moves to make any space a knockout.



scandinavianspaces.com

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FEATURE

Planning for Change

Leading designers share how they're rethinking space design and product specification amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

How will commercial spaces shift to accommodate the realities of a post-COVID-19 world? The design industry's wheels are turning as architects and designers work with their colleagues, clients, and communities to reconsider and reshape the places where we work and live.

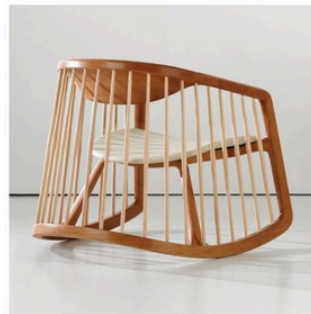
We asked 25 interior designers and architects to share how they're currently rethinking workplace, education, healthcare, hospitality, and urban environments. Across the following pages, they share their ideas and hopes for the future of space design—along with one go-to, tried-and-true commercial product, as well as one product that they're looking at more closely as they consider our post-pandemic society.

Workplace



Manuel Navarro, IIDA
Principal, Design Director
IA Interior Architects
Austin, Texas

"I have always preferred to live and design through rose-colored lenses—and these days, this is even more relevant. I don't believe that the workplace is going away, nor do I think the workplace needs to turn into a sterile lab—unless you are, in fact, working in a lab. We have an opportunity to rethink and retool the workplace. We can further examine how work/life integration can improve our lives and make the spaces we create more meaningful and humanistic. Over the past several years, we've focused on finding that magic formula for the perfect workplace density and flexibility, and I think recent world events have put that into overdrive. Lately, our planning has been focused on challenging the density agenda with an understanding that there will likely be an increase in flexible remote working programs. In addition, planning has involved more emphasis on circulation patterns and also incorporating home office solutions as part of our furniture specifications. We are now looking beyond physical spaces and designing different sensory worlds such as virtual meeting rooms. We are also realizing that this is an opportunity to communicate design in a different way, forgoing the traditional static design presentations and dabbling into cinematic storytelling with video space walk-throughs. At the end of the day, we are social beings and we need to be able to come together to share ideas, collaborate, and tell stories. I, for one, am ready to get back to the office!"



Classic

Bernhardt Design: Harper Rocking Chair

"I use this chair, designed by Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance, frequently in projects—from building lobbies to conference rooms to collaboration areas. It has a sense of nostalgia, a hint of sculpture, and the versatility to stand alone in a reception waiting area or in groupings to help support social behaviors."

bernhardtdesign.com



New need

Watson Furniture: C9 Desk

"The need for a home office setup is real—at least for now. A marriage of utility and design, the C9 desk features hidden motor mechanisms and slim legs that make it an approachable piece of furniture rather than a robust corporate machine. The accessory and finish combinations allow you to dial it up or down in terms of aesthetic or function."

watsonfurniture.com

Workplace



Kimberley O'Dowd, AIA,
IIDA, LEED AP
Director of Projects, Architect
Studio Blitz
San Francisco

"We were already designing with agility in mind since most of our clients have explosive and unpredictable growth. That agility is only a starting point for designing out of a pandemic. Now that we've experienced remote work, we're not going to give it up, and a decentralized workforce is going to become the new normal. The workplace will need spaces with the tools and technology to connect so that working remotely is a seamless and equivalent experience. When we do go to the office, it will be more for emotional or cultural reasons than for functional ones. We see the future of the office as a shared amenity space—an "on-site off-site," if you will. A place for teams to come together for the shared collaborative work. We need to change the design so it's not about being safe for work (because we're doing that from home), but safe for collaboration. For a lot of us, work is the only place to find focus, and there's a need for space that supports thinking with video, acoustics, writable surfaces, and furniture other than a living room couch. Let's not destroy the culture of a company by ripping out newly built spaces. Instead, let's augment the spaces to accommodate these new needs."



Classic

Hightower: Kona Laptop Table

"What's the point of alternative seating if you have to balance your laptop and coffee? You need a wide, stable surface that is also nice on the eyes. And with social distancing, our work area for the day might not be at our desk."

hightoweraccess.com



New need

Steelcase: SOTO Mobile Caddy

"I still need stuff. It still needs to live somewhere. We all have our personal work things and a friendly, small-footprint caddy seems ideal for stashing them below a desk or in a locker."

steelcase.com



Charlton Hutton
Associate Director, Design
M Moser Associates
New York

"We've challenged ourselves internally to think about why a workplace is important. What are the fundamental reasons people will want to come back? After many brainstorming sessions, it always came back to one thing: people. We are social creatures and need human connection to feel content, both personally and professionally. More companies will shift to a blended work-from-home-and-office policy, allowing employees to choose where, how, and when they work. This will give everyone a greater sense of purpose, which will foster happier employees and boost innovation. Prior to the pandemic, there was a lot of attention on creating open office environments with more places to focus away from office distractions. I think there will be a shift in design, facilitating more collaborative work and less individual work. Individual work will still be a component of the workplace, but people will come in specifically to meet and socialize with their teams. Canteens, multifunctional meeting spaces that are easily reconfigurable, and spaces with high-performing technology that people can't access at home will be in high demand. Also, the transition spaces will be a key consideration. If people are coming in to meet with their peers, the times between meetings and the spaces in which people find respite will take on new meaning. This is where we see more individual-focus work being done, but it will be less about everyone having a dedicated desk. We all really miss our colleagues. Those face-to-face interactions are invaluable and are the heart of a company's culture."



Classic

Davis Furniture: Sola Chair

"Sola is a great conference chair that has clean lines and is minimal yet functional. Its innovation lies in the timeless design and craftsmanship. The chair's thin profile is deceptive—it's actually very comfortable and provides enough individual adjustment without being complicated and clunky. It's a perfect balance of aesthetics and function."

davisfurniture.com



New need

Holmrís B8: IGLOO Workroom

"I've been wanting to specify this for a while and it has even more merit now. Its large, circular form, open ceiling, and multiple entry points make it a dynamic solution for informal meetings in an open-office environment. The physical form and acoustics are fantastic. It does a good job blocking out external noise and visual distractions, while allowing everyone inside to be seen and heard."

holmrís8.com

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FEATURE

Workplace



Mavis Wiggins, IIDA
Managing Executive
TPG Architecture
New York

"We have come to learn that any true design response to COVID-19 has to be a holistic one, especially when approaching the workplace. Our teams are examining the importance of signage and graphics to communicate new health and safety protocols—which begin in the building lobby and extend throughout individual workplaces—to staff and guests alike. This also helps identify high-traffic areas and hot spots throughout the building and office and gives another opportunity to enforce social distancing. Ensuring that all staff are prepared with personal protective equipment kits and that guests are aware of visitor policies will help control the possible spread of the virus to static surfaces. Incorporating sanitization stations and visible office cleaning cycles will reinforce ideas of cleanliness. De-densification, flexibility in furniture and desk configurations, and increased open meeting areas are smart planning strategies to consider. Motion and touchless sensor technology including hands-free retrofits of existing doors, faucets, waste bins, etc., will become increasingly useful. Additionally, a greater integration of technology, to bridge employees in the office with those still working remotely will be critical in streamlining team communication and reinforcing company culture."

**Classic****Knoll: Fence Workstation Spine**

"Clients are looking for smart planning solutions that accommodate flexibility, agility, and adaptability. Knoll Fence is a powered spine that allows workspaces to leverage furniture with behavioral solutions. It is a furniture option that liberates us from a rigid planning module and offers the workforce some choice in desk arrangement."

knoll.com

**New need****Wing Partners: Lucent Desk Enclosure System**

"This product is appealing because of its streamlined, minimal design. The use of glass and low-profile framing maximizes sight lines and visibility yet gives the occupant a sense of protection against transmission of airborne droplets entering their personal space. The materials provide ease of cleaning and maintenance. In future planning, this product could be used for both former office dwellers as well as open-plan occupants."

wingpartners.com



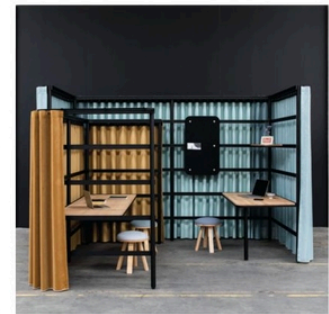
Alexis Kaloyanides, IIDA, CID, LEED Green Associate
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Huntsman Architectural Group
New York

"The COVID-19 crisis has forced us to reconsider work environments for ourselves and our clients. Although many of us are able to perform our day-to-day tasks in a remote environment, in-person collaboration is priceless. Technology has filled a lot of gaps, but it isn't perfect—and, in many cases, it is less efficient. We learn so much from eye contact and body language. While current social distancing guidelines can feel restrictive, I think designers also have a lot of opportunity to shift our clients' thinking about the way they work. For over a decade, we have been working toward breaking down physical barriers in the workplace. I don't think a post-COVID workplace is going to bring back the return of the cubicle farm—at least I hope not! Instead, I think we're going to see more generous proportions and less density so that people can still congregate and collaborate, but also maintain a healthy distance from one another. Instead of boardroom tables, meetings might become more dynamic, with team members spaced apart and leaning against perches around a central piece of smart technology. While we may be several months away from huddling together around the watercooler or coffeepot, the impromptu social interactions that take place in an office remain just as important as scheduled sit-down meetings. I think we will start to see more flexibility in determining when one actually needs to be in the office, but most of us want to be back in the office."

**Classic****Watson Furniture: Bahn Work Island**

"One of my current favorite products is the Bahn Work Island from Watson. It's versatile and functional as both a storage unit and a place for impromptu collaboration. Best of all, it's modular and mobile, so the options are limitless."

watsonfurniture.com

**New need****BuzziSpace: BuzziBracks Modular Wall System**

"Since we'll likely need to reconfigure existing workplaces for the foreseeable future, I think modularity and flexibility are going to be very important. With a variety of sizes, different acoustical options, and various levels of transparency, the BuzziBracks room-within-a-room system will allow for various workplace functions from heads-down focus work to small-group collaboration."

buzzi.space

Hospitality



Elizabeth Swallow, NCIDQ, IIDA, ASID
Interior Design Lead
McIntosh Poris Associates
Birmingham/Detroit, Michigan

"Hospitality design will continue to rethink itself in a fast but thoughtful way by paying attention to the well-being of the guest. Taking measures to impart a greater standard of cleanliness will help regain a sense of trust in the safety of public spaces. At least for the interim, properties may provide a screening area at the entry to check for temperature and symptoms, as well as cleansing thresholds that would include a station for washing hands and obtaining face masks. Once beyond the entry, the responsibility of social distancing will be largely left up to the individuals using the space, with floor graphics set as reminders for high-traffic areas. Employees will be trained to serve guests with a combination of calmness and awareness. Moving forward, designers will take into account finishes with highly cleanable traits. Restaurants will likely include take-out windows with walk-up service, as well as operable windows or garage doors to circulate fresh air. Many large gatherings will move outdoors this summer—so interior designers will be keeping busy by designing spaces such as rooftop decks, pop-up tents, and patios."



Classic

Stickbulb: Multiple Pendant

"The Multiple Pendant collection is based on a kit-of-parts with beautiful finishes and endless possibilities for configurations. We love the custom capabilities to create a stunning fixture for a large-scale public space. I appreciate that these fixtures are made in the USA, using reclaimed and sustainably sourced woods as well as energy-efficient LEDs."

stickbulb.com



New need

Extremis: Bistro Table

"We are intrigued by the innovative Bistro by Extremis. This outdoor furniture design is an all-in-one solution with well-considered aesthetics, minimalism, and function. Its small footprint would make it easy to specify in the smallest spaces and the setup is perfect for taking a break and catching up with a friend."

extremis.com



Krista Ninivaggi, Allied ASID
Founder
K&CO
New York

"As we learn more about virus transmission, it makes sense to focus on our HVAC systems. I have seen tracing studies that show how people have contracted the virus indoors. You can almost predict the duct layout and airflow of the spaces in the study where the virus spread. HVAC systems can be better designed to limit the amount of "shared air" in a room. We already know that negative air pressure is used in hospital rooms that require contamination control. I would challenge mechanical engineers to think about other ways of heating and cooling. Can we use radiant heat and large volumes of fresh air? Is it time to look back at natural ventilation? Stack effect cooling is used in certain climates and is touted for being environmentally friendly. I think it's time to go back to the basics and look at the physics behind these systems. I also expect to see more touchless functionality for everyday items that "move" such as doors, cabinets, plumbing, lights, and even HVAC. For example, most hotel-room doors are already key card activated. How hard could it be to add an automatic latch, so the door opens when you key in with your sanitized card? Copper popped up quickly at the onset of the pandemic, being cited as an alloy that has natural decontamination properties. It's rarely used for high-touch items in favor of stainless steels, brass, and aluminum. Right now, there are limited choices in the way of copper finishes. I am curious if we will see more."



Classic

Moen: STo Kitchen Faucet

"We have installed STo in nearly every type of project that calls for a kitchen-style faucet. We were initially drawn to the design: It's modern without being too minimal. I personally love how the pull-down spout is hidden in the goose neck. It's available in a range of finishes, as well as a touchless option."

moen.com



New need

Toto USA: Helix EcoPower Faucet

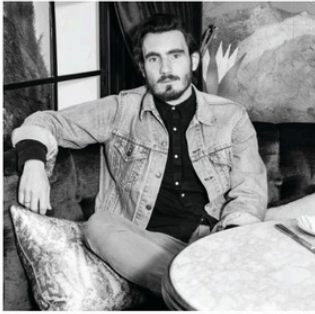
"I have always been a big fan of Toto's touchless lavatory faucets because they are hydro powered and do not require any external power source. Everyone will be looking to make things touchless, and it will be great to save energy, too!"

totousa.com

contract

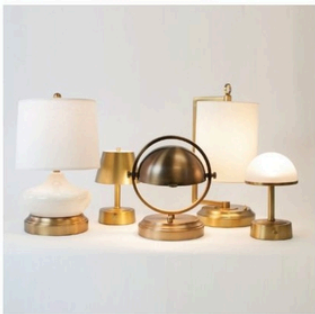
FEATURE

Hospitality



Tom Parker
Director and Co-founder
Fettle
Los Angeles

"As we talk with our clients, there seems to be a clear common approach in terms of procedure and design for existing and future hospitality projects. Obviously, few restaurants operate at the kind of profit margins that allow for a reduction in number of patrons, so the focus has really been on increasing safety and sanitization rather than simply stripping out half of the seats. Procedural changes include things like taking customers' temperatures upon entry, staggering bookings or splitting them between rooms, requiring staff to wear masks and gloves, and sanitizing surfaces. From a design perspective, clients are spacing out layouts more within existing venues, adding screens where possible, and reducing communal seating. Interestingly, we are also finding that clients want to offer more visibility in regard to food hygiene by opening up food-prep and storage areas. We have seen that the requirement for innovation and flexibility during this period has meant that hospitality venues and restaurants, in particular, are operating in completely new ways, introducing cafe, produce, grab-and-go, and takeaway menu options. Menu offerings, in particular, are going to be fascinating to monitor as many of the previous supply lines have come to a standstill. We expect lots of places to consider limited menus, or menus that change week by week, depending on what produce is available."

**Classic****Modern Lantern: Cordless Lamp**

"We love battery operated table lights. They generate lighting at the tabletop in a much more elegant and cozy way than a spotlight or pendant coming down from above. Modern Lantern offers some great options."

modernlantern.com

**New need****Vintage Deco Screen**

"One of the keys to the response to the sanitary requirement of restaurants is going to be how to keep spaces feeling well-designed and refined while implementing things like screens or barriers. For that reason, I have been looking into repurposing vintage screens and how we can utilize these to aid social distancing. There are many great pre-existing screens out there that could be used, depending on their materiality and dimensions."



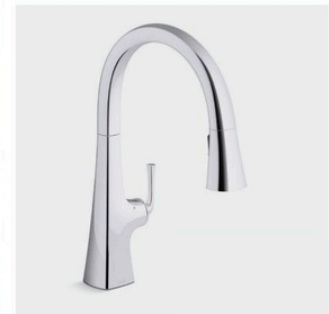
Casey Keasler
Founder
Casework
Portland, Oregon

"Portland is a big proponent of the counter-service restaurant model, where patrons order at a counter and either pick up their own food or have their food delivered to a table. I believe that is going to be a big trend moving forward. It helps small restaurant owners run their business with lower overhead (fewer servers on staff), and it supports the takeout model for COVID-19 or other related pandemics, which would limit in-restaurant dining. Moving forward, we are planning an order or take-out counter for the restaurants we are currently working on along with thoughtful ways to remind people to keep a distance, like patterning on the floors and more subtle barriers and spacing."

**Classic****Caesarstone: Fresh Concrete 4001**

"We use Caesarstone regularly for our hospitality projects. Not only is it incredibly durable and low maintenance (it can be cleaned with just soap and water), but it is also antibacterial because it is nonporous. There are loads of options, but I use the more subtle finishes like Fresh Concrete."

caesarstoneus.com

**New need****Kohler: Smart Home Collection**

"I've never been a fan of techie plumbing fixtures, as I've had too many bad airport bathroom experiences. Having fewer items in a public restroom that multiple people touch is incredibly important. Kohler has a smart home collection and I am hoping they add a bathroom faucet to this collection."

smarthome.kohler.com

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF KOHLER CO. (KOHLER)

Hospitality



Jaclyn Moser
Partner and Co-founder
Harken Interiors
Chicago

"The hospitality industry breathes because of the community and human relationships it supports. With social distancing and contactless points of service at the forefront of the discussion, it's so important for hotels and restaurants to be transparent in how their staff is serving guests, with the utmost preparedness and concern for health and safety. The increase in the communication regarding cleaning procedures is a start, but it will take consistent and visible displays of this to instill lasting trust. The staff and service (empowered and supported by ownership and brands) will begin to reassure travelers to visit and return. We are seeing a call for better back-of-house provisions since this is where service is generated. Technology is alleviating the need to interact with high-touch items, especially in the guest rooms (remotes, light switches, and faucets). We are looking at healthy, cleanable fabrics and hard surfaces. Properties are developing more multi-season outdoor spaces to support socialization in open-air environments. We're also considering how to adjust lobby designs to allow for more cloistered spaces for smaller groups or individuals. Right now, safety is leading—sometimes loudly and sometimes quietly—but right alongside of it is the beauty, warmth, and wonder that comes from travel and impeccable service. When we choose to be in a space other than our own homes, we want to feel like it goes beyond our own abilities to care for ourselves and others, to welcome—and to wow."

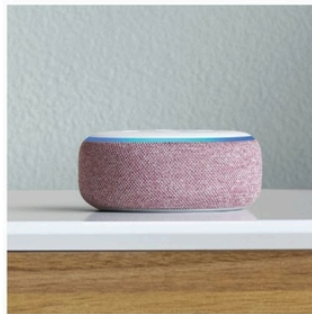


Classic

Applied Textiles: Alta Technology

"The Alta technology from Applied Textiles has been such an asset to Harken Interiors and the fabrics we specify. Because you can select the protection you need by the type of environment and application, it's easy for designers and procurement to achieve the right results from a headboard to food and beverage applications."

applied-textiles.com



New need

Amazon: Alexa

"Technology is always a sensitive subject when it comes to privacy, obsolescence, and investment; however, we are interested in how guest rooms could better rely on touchless ways of turning on the lights, ordering up more towels, or playing media. As this technology becomes more prevalent in our homes, it feels less confusing and impersonal when we travel."

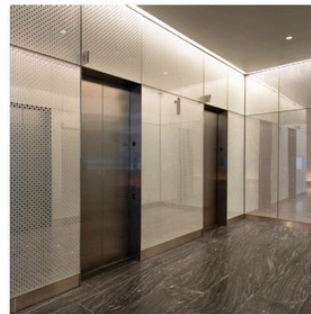
amazon.com/alexahospitality

Healthcare



Jeff Kabat, RID, IIDA, EDAC, LSSGB, LEED AP
Director of Health Interiors, Americas West
Principal
HKS
Phoenix

"HKS has researched and collaborated with our healthcare clients regarding the evolving considerations for the built health environment in response to COVID-19. We have examined volume returns, planning considerations, and additional considerations pertaining to patients, staff, the building itself, and operations. Regarding volume returns, we are examining spaces for lower densities, protecting staff, installing additional hygiene stations, and providing health screening and isolated/ventilated spaces near entries for patients exhibiting symptoms. Regarding space planning, HKS is studying traffic flows of patients and visitors and how to keep them distanced appropriately, implementing acrylic or glass dividers at reception areas, looking at how to control densities in elevator cabs, and encouraging use of stairs. We are also studying furniture placement that allows for appropriate distance and separation, as well as product solutions that promote safe distancing. In corridors, we are discussing ideas for one-way circulation patterns where possible, with demarcations at patient cross points. At nurses' stations, we are researching the installation of rapid UV-C disinfection stations, six-foot spacing between work areas, where possible, scrub kiosks, and changing stations for nurses. Regarding patients, there are considerations for reduced and limited visitation, provisions for virtual interfacing alternatives, room service and amenities delivered to the room, and increased hygiene measures."



Classic

Forms+Surfaces: LEVEL Wall Cladding System

"Whether it's an elevator cab fit-out, creative wall paneling, or glass-panel dividers at the registration desk, Forms+Surfaces has you covered. The LEVELr Wall Cladding System is a versatile system that allows designers to plug and play with the company's other offerings to create impact pieces that are durable and unique."

forms-surfaces.com



New need

Bed Techs Inc.: Self-Disinfecting Beds

"When the U.S. Green Building Council and other industry influencers led the push for environmental product declarations and earth-friendly materials, every company in our industry re-examined its offerings under this lens. The same must be done in light of what we are learning from the current pandemic—and Bed Techs is doing just that."

bedtechs.com

contract

FEATURE

Healthcare



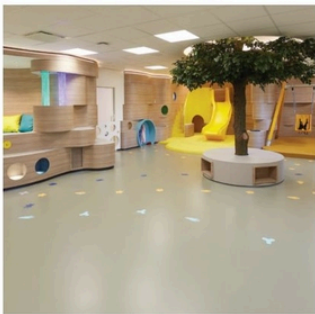
Alda Ly
Principal
Alda Ly Studio
Brooklyn, New York

"As we design healthcare spaces that help minimize the spread of COVID-19 to protect both patients and healthcare workers, we are also mindful that spaces need to remain inviting and reassuring. It's not enough for a space to be safe; it needs to feel safe and it needs to be attractive. Otherwise, patients will stay away. We want to help people regain their trust in healthcare spaces, so they aren't putting off preventative care and attention to overall well-being. To this end, we're trying to build in safety measures, such as six-foot distancing or easy-to-clean finishes, in a way that they feel purposeful and visible, but also beautiful. At the same time, we'll want to explain to patients what we are doing so that they understand, are reassured, and can learn and take best practices back to their homes and workplaces."



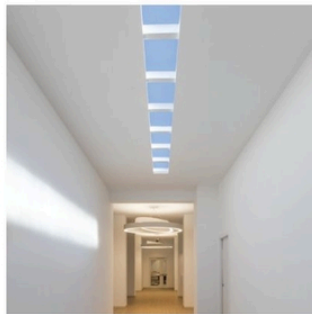
Amy E. Corneliussen Sickeler,
IDA, ASID, CHID, LEED AP
Design Principal
Perkins and Will
Atlanta

"There is so much that is still unknown about COVID-19 and every day we hear something a bit different, so I try not to be reactionary and to stay informed. Listen to your clients, patients, and caregivers. Learn from colleagues, thought leaders, and scientific communities such as the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as from writers, researchers, and communities. We are synthesizers through planning and design, analyzing and determining how spaces can be revised to meet objectives of surge, social distancing, and flexibility. We can help create a safe and resilient future for our healthcare environments. My belief is that the new normal caused by this pandemic will bring better safety and humane protocols for our patients, families, caregivers, and communities."

**Classic****Forbo: Marmoleum Walton Uni and Cirrus**

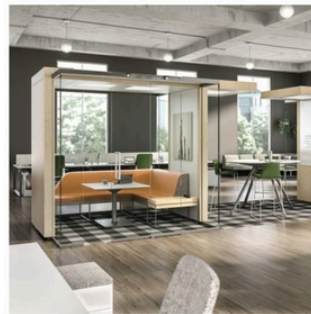
"Forbo Marmoleum Walton Uni and Cirrus linoleum flooring is great for healthcare. It's sustainable, resilient, and non-toxic. Available in a variety of really nice colors, it comes in a solid sheet for minimal seams and is easy to clean. Marmoleum products are also proven to inhibit the growth and spread of certain infections."

forbo.com

**New need****CoeLux: Faux Skylight**

"Bringing natural sunlight and a window into a patient room or doctor's office has been proven to enhance the experience of all parties. In some spaces, there isn't an option to add a window, either because of the building's original design or floor plan. We love this faux skylight for those applications. It mimics the effect of a real skylight, down to the sun pattern on the wall."

coelux.com

**Classic****Steelcase: IRYS Pod**

"Separate and self-contained from the structure of the building, IRSYS incorporates lighting, air treatment, and electricity networks for its users. The ease with which these pods provide supply and return of air sets it apart from its competitors. HVAC systems will be a hallmark of a healthy building as LEED, WELL, and Fitwell have guided over the years."

steelcase.com

**New need****Landscape Forms: GO Outdoor Table**

"I love the idea of the outdoors playing a bigger role in our healthcare projects. Many of our clients have promoted this idea for patients, family, and staff. I am happy to see more discussions about this, considering how important biophilia, views to nature, and open air is to our health amid this crisis."

landscapeforms.com

Healthcare



Sona Aroush, Assoc. IIDA
Associate, Interior Designer
CO Architects
Los Angeles

"The current pandemic has caused a lot of designers, including myself, to reimagine the future of healthcare design. For example, large waiting/public spaces will need to be reprogrammed and designed to ease the sense of fear people may now feel when in a healthcare facility. I don't think these public spaces will be completely eliminated. In order to minimize the interactions between people, technology and telemedicine will play important roles, and furniture layouts and administrative spaces will need to be sensitive to physical separation between the staff and patients. The standard quantities of isolation rooms required by code may need to be reprogrammed, and healthcare facilities will need to have the ability to convert rooms into ICU or isolation rooms with proper balancing of HVAC systems."



Classic

Nora by Interface: noraplan sheets

"Noraplan sheet flooring is free of PVC, phthalate plasticizers, and halogens. It does not require additional coatings and has excellent slip resistance and footfall sound absorption. The resiliency of rubber sheet flooring is also important to medical staff and patients, as the material eases the stress of walking and standing. Aesthetically, I like how the product has a seamless installation method and great style and color selections."
nora.com



New need

Futrus: Adaptz Table and Bench

"Futrus fabricates furniture, modular casework, headwall systems, wall panels, and door systems, and offers a range of solid-surface sinks and showers—all fabricated out of Corian. Solid surface material is non-porous, resists the growth of mold and bacteria, and can reduce the spread of hospital-associated infections."
futrus.com



Allison Gonzalez, NCIDQ, LEED AP
Associate, Senior Interior Designer
Stantec
Philadelphia

"We are standing at a precipice of change. It is hard to anticipate what lies ahead, but there have been trends beginning to surface in healthcare design—with adaptability, in particular, at the forefront of everyone's mind. The nimbler a space can be, the more it will thrive in uncertain times. This goes beyond providing extra medical gases for acuity-adaptable patient rooms, to potentially having outpatient services with provisions to care for higher-acuity patients in times of need. Moving forward, efficiency and interdisciplinary practices will need to plan health visits with general practitioners and one or two specialists in mind. Patients could remain in one room and the care team could come to them in a single elongated visit, reducing touchpoints and extraneous interaction. With patients spending extended time in these spaces, it is increasingly important to set the tone with thoughtful design elements, human-centric and dimmable lighting, curated artwork, and concealed clinical accessories. Offering a warm and less sterile room will put patients at ease. Collaborative care should be encouraged with a conversational exam room layout that still allows for social distancing. A spacious table and comfortable seating can be centered around a monitor for viewing records and a smartboard to capture notes. Comprehensive visits have vast potential to increase the efficiency of the healthcare system, and as designers, our role is to create a place where patients feel safe, comfortable, and well-cared for."



Classic

AD Systems: ExamSlide Doors

"This product provides efficiency where space is a premium while also providing acoustic separation, which is a fundamental concern for patient privacy, comfort, and positive experience. I have also specified AD Systems' OfficeSlide smoke-tight configuration to create a full-lite glass partition in an inpatient environment—a solution no other product could provide."
specadssystems.com



New need

Teknoflor: Naturescapes HPD

"By specifying a bio-based polyurethane flooring product, like Teknoflor's Naturescapes HPD sheet and coordinating Nature's Tile, we are using a product that has a cleaner manufacturing process, no wax maintenance, and reduction in harmful dust and VOCs in indoor environments. Clean air has never felt more important than right now."
teknoflor.com

contract

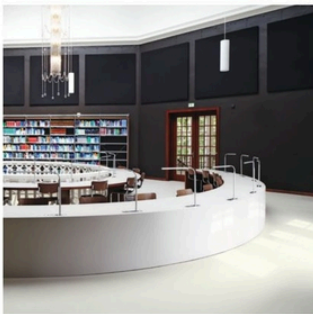
FEATURE

Education



James Simeo, AIA, LEED AP
Principal
CO Architects
Los Angeles

"For our higher education clients, we are not seeing an immediate rethinking of interior spaces, because they are typically designed with a lot of flexibility already. Classrooms have divisible partitions so two small rooms can become one; science laboratories have inter-connecting doorways for easy paths of travel from one room to another. This ability to flex up or down will allow universities to space students out accordingly. They may have to run more segments of an individual course, but that is a scheduling issue and not a space issue. In academia, the private faculty office is still the go-to office configuration that provides built-in social distancing—teachers in higher education never embraced the open-office concept to begin with. Even with more open-office configurations for graduate students or administrative staff, the norm is for 54-inch-high partitions for visual and acoustic privacy that now can provide separation to protect from COVID-19 as well. Where we see a greater need in the future is for equipment and spaces that are dedicated to distance learning. It may be difficult to get students to come back to campus, even if a vaccine for coronavirus is developed. Flexibility in when and how to attend classes will be in demand in the long term, and universities will have to adapt campus spaces to keep remote populations of students and academics engaged."

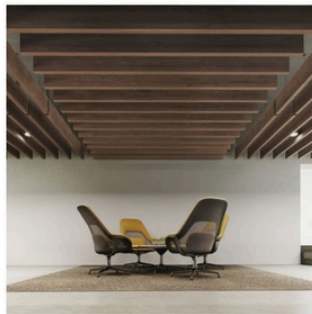


Classic

Forbo: Marmoleum Flooring

"Forbo Marmoleum has long been a go-to resilient flooring product for the education spaces that we design. We love its wide color offering, the range of visuals, and the ease in which you can create patterns. It has a good sustainability story and is easily maintained, making it a great choice for high-performance education settings."

forbo.com



New need

TURF: Beam Acoustic Solution

"TURF has a full range of products for ceilings, walls, lighting, and privacy screening for furniture. Acoustics has always been a concern for classrooms, public gathering areas, collaboration nodes, and social spaces. Designs by TURF not only account for this concern but go above and beyond by providing designers with many color, form, texture, pattern, and application options. The cutting-edge products made by TURF were designed to balance form and function with inspiration and innovation—and sustainability, of course."

turf.design



Margaret Sullivan, LEED AP
Principal
Margaret Sullivan Studio
New York

"Our approach to our work is rooted in human-centered design. We ask questions to identify community needs, hopes, dreams, and aspirations, and we create conditions that allow learners of all styles to flourish. During these times of rapid change, we have to rethink educational spaces and consider how they will be impacted in the future. We will continue to see an amplification of remote learning, e-learning, and connected learning, and we will have to create environments that can quickly adapt to support these needs. Singular educational spaces will expand to become adaptable learning environments designed to evolve and grow with the community and the ever-changing learning landscape over time. Educational support systems will include teachers and parents, as well as partner educators and librarians. The public library will be important to foster intentional educational experiences in new ways. We know that the future of learning for equitable education lies in project-based learning. The products that foster passion- and interest-based learning allow students to work both collaboratively and independently and problem solve in real time."



Classic

Milliken: Custom Carpets

"We love Milliken because they provide high-quality products with cushion backing and good acoustic properties, which provide amazing support to our clients and the flexibility of customization. We've used custom products from Milliken in almost every project that we've worked on as a way to reflect the cultural identities of the community."

milliken.com

New need

Visual Magnetics

"Visual Magnetics offers great tools for fostering our need for equitable education by promoting flexible and project-based learning, which nurtures passions and promotes problem solving, collaboration, and mentorship. Its modularity and flexibility allow for interactivity, customization, and intergenerational learning, and it is a great way to introduce play into any space."

visualmagnetics.com

Education



Britni Stone, NCIDQ, LEED GA
Senior Associate, Interior Designer
NBBJ
London

"At universities, life sciences are currently dominating the education sector. The COVID-19 outbreak highlights a crucial growing demand for lab spaces across our region—a direct response to vaccine production and testing. In our global review of the education market, we are employing our design strategies to meet the needs of this transformed landscape so educational environments are comfortable and safe, as well as inspiring and uplifting for users. We have solutions for the short term to help keep people safe, and also the long term that support the critical insights we've learned over the years about the way collaboration drives innovation and creativity. For example, we're utilizing social hubs to enable new modes of learning, teaching, and connecting—whether in-person or virtually. As we traverse what's next, design thinking needs to be all-inclusive and consider the holistic impact of planning models, materials, technology, behaviors, and protocols."



Dale Alan Greenwald, Associate IIDA
Interior Design Leader
CannonDesign
New York

"CannonDesign is currently engaged in numerous ongoing discussions around the impact of social distancing on the delivery of instruction and how our teaching spaces will reemerge in the short and long term beyond the pandemic. Just as we, as design practitioners, have rapidly adapted to new tools and techniques for collaborating, sharing, and learning, our clients are rethinking, too. They're rethinking their instructional methodologies to incorporate various forms of online learning and investigating changes to their physical spaces to enable students to safely, physically reconvene. The most persistent change we expect will be toward the combination of online and in-person instruction, and this will impact many things, including the types and sizes of space; the characteristics of spaces needed (density of populations, acoustics, lighting); a review of the MEP systems for short- and long-term enhancements (air exchanges, flow and filtration, and disinfection); and the functional and operational approach (furniture and material selection, replacement and cleaning protocols, student and staff movement criteria). We are fortunate our firm shares the knowledge and best practices of the different markets we serve. Our experiences from health and wellness programs continuously inform our education and commercial practices."



Classic

Corian: Solid Surface

"Now more than ever, we are challenging our teams to select materials that are non-porous and stain-resistant—but also beautiful. DuPont Corian has always been a great go-to for checking these boxes. Additionally, Corian is seamless in appearance and easily repaired."

corian.com



New need

Carnegie: Xorel Textile

"Carnegie Xorel has always been a leader in performance and sustainability. This bleach-cleanable product also has a hospitality aesthetic that brings in warmth and texture to educational environments."

carnegiefabrics.com



Classic

Steelcase: Node Collaborative Chairs

"Our clients continually ask for flexible, durable furniture that can be easily reconfigured to support a variety of instructional situations. The Steelcase Node is a popular selection for a movable classroom study chair with an ample tablet, a storage bin for backpacks, and a comfortable cleanable shell with arm support. It also allows people to keep all their possessions close, something that reinforces best practices for social distancing."

steelcase.com

New need

MCONTRAST: Personal Protection Kiosks

"As we work to support cleaner environments and encourage personal hygiene and health protection, personal protection kiosks from MContrast offer a clean profile and much-needed storage."

mcontrast.com

contract

FEATURE

Education



Shannon Noon, Associate IIDA
Associate, Senior Interior Designer
EwingCole
Philadelphia

"The design profession has been called upon to quickly evaluate campus spaces and objectively establish temporary methods to encourage the successes of student life while providing the support necessary to learn and socialize at a distance. Interestingly, we view these exercises as an opportunity to identify the best attributes of these spaces to carry forward as we design places for future learners. We're taking the time to collect, implement, and practice fresh ideas as we move into our next normal. The choices facing campus administrations and educators are challenging and complex. Our role is to identify design solutions that facilitate their need to make informed decisions and help them provide the safest possible environment for their students, faculty, and staff once they've settled on a particular strategy. To do this, we're actively reexamining standard education spaces like multipurpose rooms, lecture halls, and health centers, and coming up with ways to utilize them in new or modified ways for the immediate future while facing a pandemic. Looking forward, we continually stay focused on ways to create inspirational places for the success and growth of a campus community. We're truly testing the notion of flexible space."



Classic

Vitra: Dancing Wall

"Vitra's Dancing Wall is a fresh take on modular partitions; it brings more flexibility to environments that would benefit from products that could be reconfigured with ease. With options that include removable, writable, and tackable surfaces, power and TV monitor capabilities, bookshelves, plant walls, and even a hanging rail, this is a product that can support any learning environment."

vitra.com



New need

Steelcase: Thread Power Solution

"Many existing facilities that only offer perimeter outlets struggle to meet increasing power requirements and fully support flexible learning. Thread is a solution for those environments without the need to core-drill or trench existing spaces. The ultra-thin power track can be easily installed under carpet tiles, and the freestanding Power Hub brings outlets to wherever students are working."

steelcase.com

Urban Design



Roderick Wyllie, ASLA
Partner/Co-founder
Surfacedesign
San Francisco

"Social distancing adds new variables to the historical pattern of how people navigate their surroundings, particularly in dense urban areas. We're looking at ways to change narrow sidewalks that sandwich pedestrians between buildings and traffic into more expansive public rights-of-way so pedestrians can avoid the 'sidewalk dance' that occurs when people pass each other. Repurposing traffic lanes is one option. Particularly in times of stress, people seek refuge in the landscape. We are seeing a burgeoning collective recognition of the transformative potential of gardens and open space to be better integrated into the urban fabric. In addition, we're seeing the practices of collaboration in the workplace begin to shift: The need to have spaces to meet and work outside safely is emerging as a counterpoint to digital collaboration. Looking at a robust framework of materials and spaces that can be used for a variety of flexible purpose is key to reinforcing sense-of-place while designing for change. Integrating seasonal horticultural expressions into those spaces will ensure that places where people gather celebrate the potential of being outdoors, rather than trying to merely replicate the functionality of interior spaces. As office work transitions to remote and outdoor work, we are looking to architectural thinkers who we may have collectively neglected because we had the luxury of unencumbered use of interior spaces. One such theorist whose work we are looking to for inspiration is the late architect Yona Friedman and his manifesto on mobile architecture."



Classic

Escofet: Redes Permeable Pavers

"We love the beautiful design and functionality of Escofet's Redes permeable pavers, designed by Alfredo Arribas. They can be used to stabilize slopes as well as to increase water infiltration and permeability."

escofet.com



New need

Arborica: Custom Wood Furnishings

"With new products that use natural materials such as wood, we can leverage the natural anti-bacterial properties of the material to create safe places for people to engage. We are inspired by the work of artist Evan Shively at Arborica, who creates custom wood furnishings and sculptures."

arborica.com

Urban Design

PHOTOGRAPHY: BERND FEISTENHA (STREETLIFE); JON ENDOW (MACTAC)



Jason Newsome, ASLA, ULI
Urban Designer, Landscape Architect
Civitas
Denver

"Civitas always advocates and pushes for a more balanced design and layout of the public realm in the cities where we work. Our streets are public space and need to be designed to reflect the needs for equitable access, health, and safety in urban environments. Car-centric streets that dominate the urban environment can be redesigned with more space for trees, pedestrians, bicycles, scooters, outdoor dining, and retail. This allows for more active transportation options, more active street-level commerce, and more safety with the reduction or elimination of vehicle traffic. In many ways the public safety measures put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 have only exposed the urgency of making these types of improvements that prioritize space for people and not personal vehicles. Cities across the world have implemented temporary measures to allow more outdoor dining and have closed down streets to vehicles to open up more space for people to safely and simply be outside. Making these changes permanent could have a dramatic impact on bettering the physical and mental health of our cities."



Classic

mmcite: Blocq Bench

"The Blocq bench by mmcite is a substantial bench with generous proportions. You can vary the size, layout, and configuration of the bench to help create, delineate, and divide space with its clean lines and substantiality. Mmcite has also designed USB access and LED backlighting that integrates seamlessly into the design."

mmcite.com



New need

Streetlife: Surf Isles

"Landmark, seat, meeting spot, lounge, or unintended play feature all describe the Surf Isles from Streetlife. There needs to be more furniture in the public realm that lets you comfortably lay back and stare up at the sky."

streetlife.nl



Chazandra Kern
Program Manager
LA-Más
Los Angeles

"In the past we've partnered with city officials, local council offices, and community groups to support projects in the public right-of-way. Our goal has been to make public space accessible, inviting, and supportive of the lives of lower-income and working-class Angelenos. Up until this point, our approach has been to be deeply invested in listening and learning from residents who face numerous barriers in having ownership over their sidewalks, storefronts, and streetscape. In the face of so much change in the world and for our organization, we remain committed to supporting communities being able to shape the future of their own neighborhoods. Building off of that premise, we are rethinking urban design and our approach—especially when working in neighborhoods outside of our immediate community of Elysian Valley. Moving forward, we see design as an incredible agent for synthesizing values, discussions, and goals, but we don't see it as the point of our activities. We've shifted into a phase of work where the community (and not public agencies or organizations) identifies its needs, and we work to support and fill out scalable solutions based on that call to action. The nuance of when to do what and for whom has become crystalline for us during this period of COVID-19."



Classic

Mactac: Streettrap Stickers

"For temporary public realm projects, like Go Ave 26, we look for products that are affordable, removable, and adaptable. Mactac produces a sidewalk sticker product that can be adhered to concrete. We've used this product to provide wayfinding on sidewalks, communicating where transit stations are for pedestrians. We design the graphic and then collaborate with a local print shop, Printefex, who prints and cuts the patterns for us."

mactac.com

New need

Grainger: Thermoplastic Ground Paint

"Since we are commonly working with sidewalks, streets, and rights-of-way that are highly trafficked and get a lot of wear and tear, we have been considering alternative applications of thermoplastic ground paint. It's not something you can buy off the shelf, and it's a bit labor intensive, but it's incredibly durable and a product most cities use to denote striping and bike lanes."

grainger.com

contract

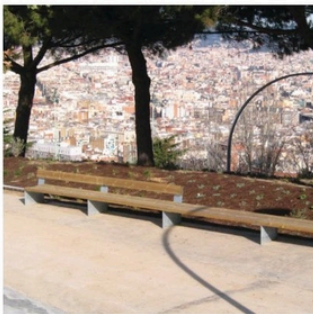
FEATURE

Urban Design



Ryan Losch, AIA, AICP
Senior Associate, Urban Designer
Page
Austin, Texas

"Throughout history, urban environments have been in a state of constant transformation. The best ones improve as they change. COVID-19 may present a particular point of inflection in that transformation. Regulations and restrictions related to COVID-19 have emerged in the last several months, and I anticipate they will evolve as we reengage public space and transition to a new normal. Amidst uncertainty, flexibility is key. We don't know how similar conditions will be to pre-COVID-19. Public plazas, parks, and other outdoor spaces will need to adapt so that groups can use them effectively and safely for a variety of activities. Our rights-of-way also warrant reconsideration. Urban designers were already working on how to reduce the dominance of cars in the public realm before COVID-19. Because of drastic reductions in traffic during stay-at-home orders, many cities gave key streets over to pedestrians. As we consider opening them up to cars again, there is a rare opportunity to decide whether some can be permanently transformed into people-first spaces."

**Classic****Landscape Forms: Bancal Bench**

"We love the clean, strong horizontal lines and durability of the Bancal bench. The standard catalog elements include fun configurations that allow for a variety of seating options. The manufacturer is also happy to customize pieces if your site requires a unique design."

landscapeforms.com

**New need****Fermob: Luxembourg Collection**

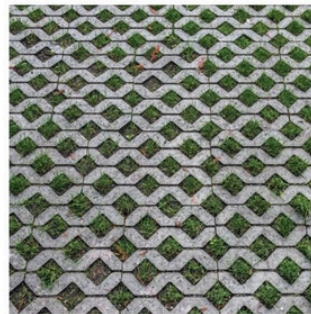
"In light of COVID-19, outdoor spaces need to be flexible to align with changing requirements, allow scaling and distancing as appropriate, and adapt to multiple activities. Products must be easy to clean and hold up under intensive cleaning. The Luxembourg collection by Fermob offers flexibility, durability, unique design, and ease of cleaning."

fermob.com



Claire Weisz, FAIA
Principal-in-Charge
WXY architecture + urban design
New York

"Our recent urban design collaborations extend to all aspects of life, from schools and businesses to mobility and outdoor access. The pandemic and the renewed drive for social justice are showing how urban design is fundamentally about planning for change—and for making buildings better, too. For example, we're working with schools and school districts to activate urban public spaces and adapt roadways and pedestrian areas to ensure equal and safe access for students and teachers returning to school. In other settings, the focus remains on making public spaces flexible and appealing. Outdoor environments are relatively safe and can better accommodate social distancing. Green roofs, courtyards and plazas in our buildings are poised for a renaissance. Longer-term, the principles behind our bigger works, such as The Peninsula and the plans for the Brooklyn Navy Yard, are finding a broader appeal in the light of health and equity concerns today. The Peninsula, designed with Body Lawson Associates, wraps a vibrant, 4.75-acre mixed-use campus with open spaces around hundreds of new low-income apartments. Residents will access an artisanal food hub, a health and wellness center, fresh grocer, and a new film production studio in this live-work community in the South Bronx. For the Brooklyn Navy Yard, jobs and access also enhance the city experience. We created layers of separating modes of mobility (such as walking and driving) and increasing production and economic capacity. For downtown Brooklyn, an entire district of shared streets with dramatically more planting both supports improving public health and equitable access."

**Classic****Mutual Materials: TurfStone**

"We are really excited about new permeable paving products and soft urban surfaces such as grass pavers, porous asphalt, pervious concrete, and wheelchair-friendly mulches. These ideas inform our expansion of Cooper Square and Astor Place in New York's Greenwich Village, for example, and help cool city neighborhoods."

mutualmaterials.com

**New need****Saris: Deluxe Public Work Stand**

"We need better amenities in public spaces. I love the DIY bicycle repair stands popping up along routes such as our proposed East River Blueway."

sarisinfrastucture.com

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FEATURE

Soft Surface Landscapes

By Paul Makovsky

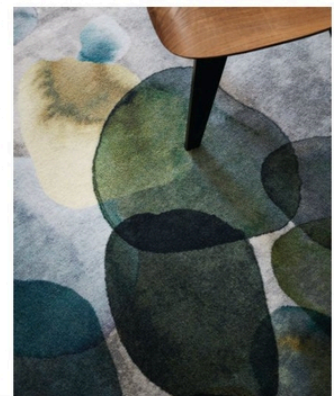
During NeoConnect, *Contract* interviewed leading textile and carpet design directors on their companies' latest collections, their inspiration, and what they are reading while working from home.

Inspired by the craftsmanship and rich tradition of classic tweed and made-to-measure clothing, Shaw Contract's Tailored (top left)—a woven LVT—weaves together hard surface durability with soft surface aesthetics.

Shifting Fields (top right) is a carpet tile collection that captures the importance of different environments while providing a biophilic flooring solution that helps define space through zoning, transitions, and wayfinding.

Dialogue (middle) features patterns that were developed with Shaw Contract's Tailor Tuft technology, allowing the company to create sculpted and defined designs unique to this innovative machine.

Shaw Contract's goal for its new Rugs program (bottom) was to create a variety of aesthetics and creative moments that capture personal experiences, from exploring textiles in Morocco, the beauty of the American Southwest desert, or a childhood memory of roller coasters.





Reesie Duncan
Vice President of Global
Design
Shaw Contract

What was the inspiration for your latest collections—Shifting Fields, Tailored, and Dialogue?

As landscapes shift throughout our natural world, a variety of environments that support different types of life are formed. Like these diverse environments in nature, the spaces we occupy need to support a range of functions in our daily routine. Shifting Fields is a carpet tile collection that captures the importance of these different environments while providing a biophilic flooring solution that helps define space through zoning, transitions, and wayfinding. The patterns draw inspiration from the natural transitions between earth, sky, and water to help create a safer, more balanced work environment—one that is as connected as it is defined.

Tradition meets technology in Tailored woven LVT, a combination of sophistication and practicality. Inspired by the craftsmanship and rich tradition of classic tweed and made-to-measure clothing, Tailored weaves together hard surface durability with soft surface aesthetics. Just as tweed has maintained its status over centuries as both hard-wearing yet stylish, Tailored blends performance and aesthetics for the places we work, live, and learn. Tailored is manufactured on a jacquard loom as a tightly woven flooring solution. The material composition is layered for strength and fused into a single solid surface and engineered to resist stains, scuffing, and wear from demanding conditions, making Tailored easy to clean and preventing fraying and edge wear.

Dialogue explores the power of communication through design and seeks to create spaces where people can engage in more meaningful ways with one another. The collection recognizes the importance of building environments that celebrate individual expression, creativity through design, and face-to-face dialogue. As the ways we communicate change, dialogue is becoming more important than ever. Design is the language of a culture, a community, a building, and meaningful design fosters dialogue. It can catalyze new ideas, collaboration, and innovation, and perhaps most importantly, good design builds relationships. The patterns of Dialogue were inspired by exploring the different types of spoken and unspoken communication, like writing, text, Morse code, and sheet music, and abstracting these to create personal and meaningful connections.

The Dialogue collection showcases Shaw Contract's newest constructions that push innovative design forward. Can you explain that?

Dialogue patterns were developed with our Tailor Tuft technology, allowing us to create sculpted and defined designs unique to this innovative machine. The designs range from four-color to one-color constructions, for interjections of color or tonal dimension. The collections portfolio of patterns also highlights our high-definition, dye-injection Canvas technology that produces gradient tonal hues of color that are unmatched in detail and quality of design. In addition to Tailor Tuft and Canvas, the collection is also available in MLCL and Colorpoint Tiles. Dialogue is a custom, high-end flooring solution, that we will be adding running line hard surface and soft surface products in fourth-quarter 2020 to continue the design conversation.

Can you talk about your new rugs program? What attracted you to collaborating with talented designers such as Adriana Jaroslavsky, Trish Andersen, and the Rockwell Group?

Rugs are a foundational piece that layer into the built environment, adding

the warmth and comfort of home, a much-needed space to retreat, or spaces for human interaction and vibrant interjections. Our goal for designing the new program was to create a variety of aesthetics and creative moments that capture personal experiences, from our inspirations exploring textiles in Morocco, the beauty of the American Southwest desert, or a childhood memory of roller coasters. By working with multiple designers, both external and in-house, we curated different creative visions and perspectives to reflect the unique identities of our varying clients.

We were attracted to working with several designers that we had always admired to bring some fresh perspectives. Originally from Venezuela, Adriana Jaroslavsky, takes inspiration from architectural spaces resulting in bold interactions of form and color. Trish Anderson, a Georgia native and fine artist who "paints" with yarn, lent her signature style of embracing color and texture in bold strokes to the collection. Rockwell Group was a natural choice and we had just collaborated on our seventh collection, Desert Lights, that elevates the natural processes in nature that are much larger than us.

Over the past few years, we have seen market shifts and the commercial and residential lines blurred. In the commercial sector, public spaces are the focus of creating impactful and engaging environments where people can thrive—and we see rugs becoming an important part of the layering of materials in these spaces. As hard surfaces are used more and more, clients are realizing there is a need for acoustic solutions and a desire to create more warmth and comfort. The goal of the running line rugs platform is to introduce a clear and simple program for selling competitively priced, ready-to-ship rugs. By making commercially durable rugs more readily available and easier to specify, we can continue to round out Shaw Contract as a single point of contact flooring provider. Specification will be simplified with 30 patterns that will come in standard sizes, and installation will be as easy as rolling out the rug.

Sadly, we aren't experiencing NeoCon in person this year, but I heard you wanted to support the Chicago community.

This year, we are not physically with each other at NeoCon but we are still together with the city of Chicago. A portion of the proceeds from our Shifting Fields collection will be donated to the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The impact of COVID-19 has created unprecedented need, and this is an opportunity for us to help with an organization that is doing impactful work.

While you've been working from home, what inspiration have you found for your future collections?

I've spent time learning and listening to so many great webinars with dialogue on where the future is going. I'm really interested in how we can use our flooring to impact the myriad evolving needs our commercial spaces demand—from sanctuaries we need to think and reflect to moments for creativity and optimism—and how flexible spaces can influence human interaction and connect us with nature.

contract

FEATURE



Amanda Eaton
Vice President of Design
Arc-Com

Can you describe your new collections?

Arc-Com is introducing two collections: Ensemble and Urban Muse.

Arc-Com's Ensemble collection is a lovely, color coordinated trio of Healthy Hospital Initiative compliant patterns that includes two high-performance polyurethane patterns—Arabesque and Cadence—and one privacy curtain—Harmony-X—woven with Arc-Com's proprietary antimicrobial yarn system, X-Static technology. The complete collection is compliant with the Healthy Hospital Initiative, is bleach-cleanable, and has been approved for use with a host of medical-grade disinfecting products.

Arc-Com's Urban Muse collection comprises three contemporary, beautifully woven textiles: Infrastructure, a pattern; Evolution, a texture; and Transform, a solid. They are all colored to be mixed and matched within a space. This collection will serve most markets as all three patterns are stocked with a stain-resistant finish, have been tested to Wyzenbeek, 100,000 Double Rubs, and are bleach-cleanable.

What was the inspiration for them?

Both of Arc-Com's new collections were influenced by a heightened awareness of the need to be connected to the natural environment for health and happiness. The Ensemble Collection was designed to be HHI compliant and to evoke a sense of the natural world without ever becoming too literal. The design flow in this group is gracefully stylized to evoke a sense of calming movement. The patterning and color selection deliver a mindfully coordinated grouping of organic design and texture.

The Urban Muse Collection was inspired by the ideas surrounding how existing urban structures and spaces can be transformed and repurposed to address environmental and social concerns. Projects like the High Line in New York, for example, are now being implemented in many cities. They are transforming traffic patterns to be less "car-centric" with the intent of giving pedestrian, bicyclists, and public transport users the same priority as motorists, resulting in positive impacts on public health as well as the environment. The integration of green spaces both indoors and outside in urban settings is being increasingly implemented in impressive new ways. The Urban Muse collection seeks to visually capture the ideas and imagery that are influencing modern urban planning.

One of the collections uses X-Static antimicrobial technology.

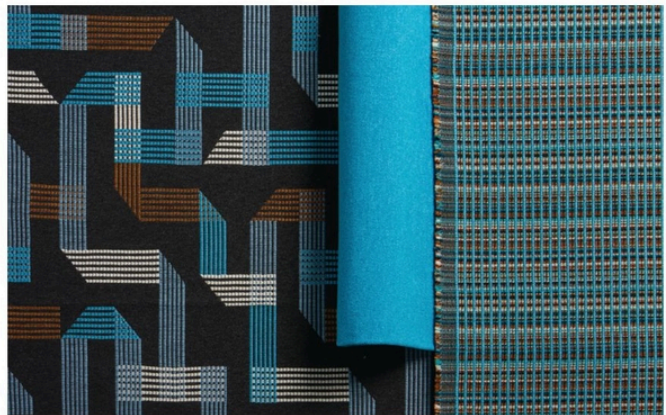
What's that about?

X-Static is our proprietary antimicrobial technology. It is not a surface treatment; it is a fiber that we weave with. X-Static fibers are permanently bonded with a layer of 99.9 percent pure silver. It is not nanotechnology or a complex chemical formula—just silver. The silver layer is the key to X-Static's powerful antimicrobial properties, as it creates an ionic shield that permanently inhibits the growth of bacteria and fungi. It has been our experience that the privacy curtains in hospitals do not get cleaned/disinfected at the same rate as the seating products. The goal, when we developed our X-Static technology, was to reduce the bacterial contamination on the textile material and the risk of cross contamination to humans.

While in lock down, what has inspired you that might find its way into a future collection?

During the lockdown, we have all had to reinvent our methodologies—the way we shop, the way we socialize, the way we work, the way we educate our children, the way we spend time with our families etc. The resilience and creativity that has emerged as a result, and the way in which we are overcoming some of these obstacles, is inspiring!

As we move forward, on a product development level, we will need to reinvent our material choices. The challenge for all will be to integrate health and safety measures with performance materials for interior spaces that will maintain a sense of beauty, normalcy and a connection to the past. Our goal for future collections will be innovative material development to address emerging performance needs with zero sacrifice in aesthetics. We know it can be done!



Arc-Com's Ensemble Collection (top) is a bleach-cleanable trio of Healthy Hospital Initiative compliant healthcare products. Comprising three patterns (two high-performance polyurethanes patterns, Arabesque and Cadence, and one privacy-curtain pattern, Harmony) this collection offers designers a beautifully coordinated grouping of organic pattern and texture. The Urban Muse Collection (bottom) was inspired by the ideas surrounding how existing urban structures and spaces can be transformed and repurposed to address environmental and social concerns.



Amy Jaekel
Creative Director
Tarkett Hospitality
in North America

Can you describe the new collections from Tarkett?

Our design team consists of a range of artistic talents, and we draw from our different styles and life experiences to create collections. Like most of our collections, Marieke, designed by Ann Matthews, is grounded in art. Ann experimented with techniques such as poured paint and sumi ink, creating canvases and layers that combined for the collection.

One of your collections uses state-of-the-art digital dye technology.

Can you elaborate?

Digital Dye Injection (DDI) is a new product platform offered by Tarkett. With this addition we can literally offer design at any price and meet any stylistic needs. DDI may be new for Tarkett but it's not new to our teams. We have some of the most knowledgeable and talented people, and we are excited to get to offer it with the rest of our product line.

Color and texture are important parts of developing a new collection.

What's your thinking behind this?

It absolutely is and since we do have so many tools in our box, we really have a lot of fun with it. When we start a collection, it usually develops from a stylistic trend or artwork we've done. From there, we get to create patterns that bring it to life. Each collection shows our designs and capabilities from Axminster, DDI, and Tufted Broadloom to custom LVT. We can have free range to create with any level of texture and two different yarn and color systems.

While working from home, what has inspired you that might find its way into a future collection?

We are a super close creative team and have a great time working together, so being at home and not all together every day was a bit of a bummer. We ramped up our communication and have supported each other by sending art postcards to each other. We all have a collection of eight postcards, each in a different style. It's possible something may come of that.

Are there any books that you are reading or rereading this summer?

I actually love to read but have been on a hiatus. I have been focused on weaving, stitching, and painting.

Like most of Tarkett's collections, Marieke, designed by Ann Matthews, is grounded in art. It is the result of experiments with techniques such as poured paint and sumi ink, creating canvases and layers that combined for the collection.



contract

FEATURE



Shantel McGowan
Vice President of Design
**Momentum Textiles
& Wallcovering**

Can you describe your new collections?

Silica Tao and Silica Bauble are designed to maximize digital print technology. Digital print capabilities allow for an expanded expression of our artwork; more color within each SKU and greater definition in printing and textural dimension. Silica Digital products communicate endless possibilities for the specifier; botanical motifs for healthcare; bold graphics for corporate, retail, hospitality, and higher education environments.

Can you talk about the sustainability and performative aspects of Silica?

Silica is the most sustainable highest performing PVC-free alternative to vinyl. This game-changing product is produced from three simple components: silicone, a colorant, and a polyester backing.

We view Silica as the premium product for all environments. It is made from silicone, which inherently has antimicrobial and antibacterial properties without added chemicals. It has a superior cleanability story for stains and ability to withstand harsh cleaners and disinfectants. As we face infection control with a new perspective, we are confident that Silica will meet the needs for performance and ease of cleaning. Silica is extremely colorfast, ink erasable with water, inherently antibacterial and antifungal, with durability exceeding 500,000 double rubs. Silica products clean easily with soap and water or with any one of more than 60 COVID-19-approved cleaners. Silica Digital products maximize today's newest technology while meeting the industry needs for safety, peace of mind and comfort.

What was the inspiration for the collections?

Looking for new ways to blend geometry and nature is what inspired us to create Silica Tao and Silica Bauble. Silica Tao is the exploration of a path or a route. We wanted it to feel soft but immensely powerful with its cyclical movement. Silica Bauble contrasts this with a set arrangement of circles and strong color. Both designs are accented by replicating natural textures in the ground, one having a more linen like effect and the other a silk slub effect.

While on lockdown, what have you been inspired by that might become part of a future collection?

Teaching my 9-year-old daughter to hand weave on a table loom has brought me back to a simple love of yarns, color play, and tactile dimension. These things can be so easily brushed aside when you are thinking of performance, cleanability, and durability for the market. It's nice to embrace weaving with new young eyes again.

Silica Digital, made of 100 percent silicone, is available in two patterns: Silica Tao and Silica Bauble. It comes in 16 colorways and is Greenguard Gold Certified.





Sina Pearson
Designer, Sina Pearson
Brand
Momentum Textiles
& Wallcovering

Can you describe your new collection?

The Light Collection was inspired by Norman Foster's glass dome above Berlin's Reichstag building that provides a light-infused experience for its visitors and symbolizes the importance of transparency in government workings. The four high-performance, bleach-cleanable geometric patterns in a variety of scales mimic the structure's light and dark contrasting shapes and play with texture and color-with-neutral colorways. Easily used together in a single space, they also work with solids to create unexpected combinations of pattern and color. Inspired, in part, by the hues found in the works of iconic Bauhaus artists and designers, the collection's 42 colorways include rich tones of classic red, blue and yellow, plums and greens mixed with blacks and gray, and warm/cool neutrals in dark and light values. Suitable for corporate, hospitality, institutional and healthcare environments, the Light Collection fabrics' high-performance features include 100,000 double rubs durability and, in the case of Light and Chameleon, increased lightfastness for outdoor application.

What was the inspiration for the collection?

I was inspired not only by the Reichstag Dome's stunning architecture, but what its transparency meant to the citizens of Berlin and Germany. I loved the ever-changing views within the space, adding and subtracting shapes and forms among the visitors. The collection's fabrics are eminently suitable for today's modern environments that demand high-performance features.

Travel has always been an important part of my life, and while I enjoy being able to visit countries like Iceland with stunning landscapes, I especially love visiting cities and experiencing each one's unique details: the architecture, street scenes, and, as I often say, their "moments." Paris is an example of that: A city that combines real human scale with endless vistas, an unmatched cultural energy, and spaces like parks for just sitting and enjoying life. Even its painted doors and narrow sidewalks make you feel you are nowhere else in the world. Kyoto is another one of my favorite places to visit, as it also has those "moments." Traditional Japanese wood buildings are part of the city yet are in tune with nature. The small bonsais along the house facades. The stone basins for a blessing. And of course, the gardens, which provide the perfect mix of nature and humans working to make it even more perfect. A totally different kind of city I love is Reykjavik, which has crisp, colorful houses tucked along its narrow streets and waterfront views to the distant wild lands. And finally, Tokyo is a city that has so much chaos and energy that at first it feels overwhelming, but with time and perseverance Tokyo's own moments emerge. Each of these cities is unique, original, and inspiring, and a privilege to visit.

While on lockdown, what have you been inspired by that might become part of a future collection?

My next collection was to be inspired by the dramatic landscapes and colorful houses of the Faroe Islands and Iceland. I planned to travel to both this summer but have had to postpone that visit until 2021. Now, instead of researching the "trip," I find myself thinking about family and tradition. I've been looking at the treasured crafts of my grandparents' Swedish homeland and especially love the sturdy handwoven rugs and textiles whose simple yet sophisticated patterns bridge tradition with modern design. Being the granddaughter of four Swedish immigrants, I am always "at home" with my ancestry. As I've said many times, one does not have to travel to be inspired.



The Light Collection by Sina Pearson, includes four patterns—Chameleon, Honeycomb, Light, and Sunbeam—in 42 colorways. Inspired by the Reichstag Dome in Berlin, the collection is bleach-cleanable and has a rub count between 90,000-100,000 double rubs.

FEATURE



Catherine Stowell
Design Director
Designtex

What was the inspiration for your new collections that launched during NeoConnect?

Raia and Encircle are two new upholstery coated fabrics designed to bring balance to our environments through the use of materials that reference the restorative patterns, forms, textures, and colors of nature. One of our guiding principals at Designtex is the symbiotic relationship between beauty and utility. We wanted material performance to be at the core of these collections and, from there, we explored many different materials and techniques to elicit the mood, feel, and colors we were after. There is an element of surprise with pattern Pixel Cloud, for example. Looking closely, you see an intricate woven construction with yarns and colors mixing in a complex way. But from a distance, an all-over organic pattern emerges. We wanted to see how we could push the limits of high-performance materials.

How do fabrics like Raia and Encircle perform?

Raia and Encircle were created to meet the most stringent needs of healthcare environments, which include constant use, high durability and the ability to withstand the usage of healthcare-grade cleaners and disinfectants, while still maintaining their organic, biophilic design aesthetics. In regards, to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, we have tested a range of our materials—over 180 of our designs, in fact—to withstand disinfectants on the EPA's N List.

How did you pick the colors for Plexus and Pixel Cloud?

When coloring a pattern, we often know the color formula for the pattern and likely have some colors in mind. The designer then writes up a color blanket which specifies the placement and color of each yarn. There is a little alchemy to color work, and it is essential to get a real sample woven. Not only should the colors balance well together in a pattern, but they have to feel right for the pattern. Pixel Cloud and Plexus share an underpinning of several cool neutrals balanced with strong primary color. We adjust the colors until we feel that they work—the heathered gray in the ground in Plexus complements the formality of the angled shapes and lines of the bold red, yellow, or blue. The slight luster of the neutral in Pixel Cloud is just dressy enough to embrace the pixelated forms in bright blue, yellow, and orange.

While you've been working from home, what have you been inspired by that might become part of a future collection?

This pandemic has turned the world upside down. It's a profound and heartbreaking disruption that the world is just beginning to comprehend. Beauty and utility are always central to our products and SARS-CoV-2 has us working hard for the utility. I am lucky to work with Sara Balderi who leads our healthcare efforts at Designtex. She and her team have a deep knowledge of material expectations in healthcare environments and we are working closer than ever to thoughtfully and appropriately apply that knowledge to materials for other spaces like corporate offices or hospitality.



Designtex's Pixel Cloud (top) is a large-scale, textural pattern inspired by cloud-like formations seen in both the neutral world and in our ever-expanding digital environment. It is available in six colors.

Raia (above), available in seven colors, and Encircle (left), available in six colors, are two new high-performing upholstery coated fabrics. They are designed to bring balance to our environments through the use of materials that reference the restorative patterns, forms, textures, and colors of nature.

Plexus (bottom) is a large-scale, geometric inspired by the shapes found in and human perspectives of architecture. Each of the five color options is composed of a warm or cool neutral ground with colored accents intended to play well with corporate palettes.



Ginger Gilbert
Vice President of Product
Design + Development
Bentley

Can you describe the new collections from Bentley?

Bentley has always been known for key product attributes: forward design, broadloom and tile formatting, and classic ColorCast piece-dyed options, just to name a few. However, Bentley has not necessarily been the go-to for specialty segment products. We've mainly had the reputation for having a beautifully made, higher-end corporate line. So, moving forward, we've decided to expand our offerings to include a greater amount of varied price points and aesthetic attributes that speak to a wider reach while still maintaining the quality, performance, and visual that keeps Bentley at the forefront. Providing our customers with options and still preserving the brand heritage is extremely important.

What was the inspiration for the collections?

Invisible Visionaries, a new carpet collection spotlighting the details—and the designers—that come together to give light and life to everyday experiences. It's inspired by all the behind-the-scenes masters of their crafts. Just think of how every day, architects and architects and designers work their magic to create beautiful functional spaces that inspire, inform and nurture productivity—often in the background of projects and often without the recognition they deserve.

For the Suitable collection, we were inspired by the "little black dress"—the idea that everyone has in their wardrobe—a proverbial uniform, that go-to, must-have, goes-with-everything garment, and completes the look no matter the occasion.

Color and texture are important parts of developing a new collection.

What's your thinking behind this?

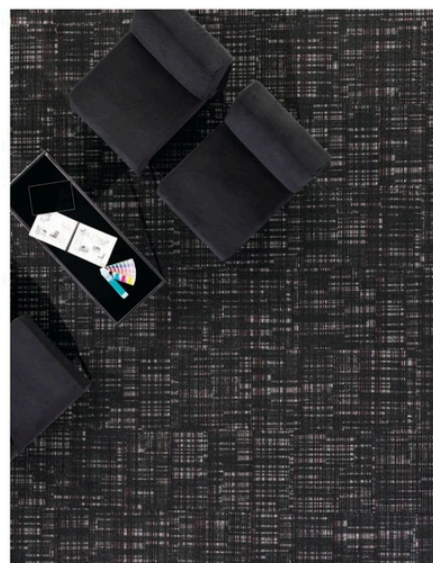
At Bentley color, pattern, and texture are considered a kit of parts that comprise the whole. Each affects the other and therefore must work in tandem. The idea that you design a pattern and then color it after the fact is not responsible. If we are building a product to meet the needs of large spaces, that's an opportunity to develop a large pattern/s. However, the use of color and pile heights must also come into play at the same time so that we are fully aware of how each component works so that one does not clash or overpower the other and weaken the design. Also, it's important for Bentley to have a strong color coordination story within our line, but we do not want to force color just for the sake of it. Color needs to naturally occur in order to be successful. Our customers seem to appreciate the fact that we focus on combining meaningful color/texture solutions and then pass to them to incorporate with the rest of the space. As hard as it is to admit—carpet isn't always the star of the show. Sometimes it is the foundation.

While working from home, what has inspired you that might find its way into a future collection?

Bentley has remained open and fully functional, so we have the unique perspective of viewing the new frontier firsthand - how we've had to adapt our space and functions. I feel like we'll be designing flooring to function in parallel with movable and morphing spaces. I think we've all seen how hard it is to transform our fixed environments and how much more flexibility there is when our environments are not as rigid and defined. Fluidity is key.

Are there any books that you are reading or rereading this summer?

I've actually been writing a book instead of reading one. Writing is my creative outlet. Taking characters on adventures that currently are not physically possible has been a huge escape for me. If I were reading right now, I'd probably resort back to something along the lines of Jane Austen or Henry James. Simpler, more romantic times.

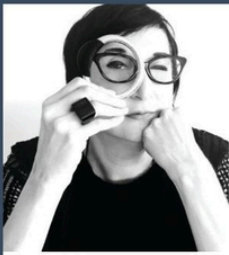


The Invisible Visionaries collection, is available in 12 classic colors and made with Antron Lumena Type 6,6 solution-dyed nylon (above).

Part of Bentley's Fast Track line, Suitable is available in 14 colorways, as well as 18-inch-by-36-inch and 24-inch square carpet tiles and 12-foot broadloom (left).

contract

FEATURE



Royce Epstein, LEED AP
A&D Design Director
Mohawk Group

Can you describe the new collections from Mohawk?

Mohawk Group is excited to share a new path forward, which includes our directions for summer and fall 2020, and a look ahead to 2021. Our aspiration is to connect people, products, and place. Even if we can't be together in Chicago at NeoCon, we can be together in spirit and purpose. New launches will include the Optic Reset Collection, featuring Field of View and Shifted Focus modular carpet planks that consist of a mid-scale pattern in two color values and coordinating texture, all of which have been created using elements from photography, illustration, and graphic design. Recent launches will include the Smart City Collection, featuring Urban Model and Urban Mobility modular carpet planks; Learn + Live Collection, featuring Accredited, Proficient, and Sabbatical modular carpet planks; and the Pattern + Symmetry Collection, featuring Patterned Past and Rustic Plaid, woven broadlooms. We're also doing a relaunch of Nutopia 2.0, which is a collection of recolored modular carpet planks.

Speaking about cities, what are your favorite cities to visit and why?

Last fall, I went to Berlin for a sustainable materials conference that also coincided with the climate strikes that were happening around the globe led by Greta Thunberg. Berlin had three strikes. I went to the family-oriented one and it was amazing to see kids and their parents all marching for a healthy planet. Berlin is one of the cities we used for inspiration in the design of Smart City, and I was surprised to see how walkable that city is. I loved all the public spaces that are accessible and act as anchor points for people around the city; it felt very connected. In Copenhagen—which was incredible for a design lover like me—I spent much time perusing the museums and soaking up the city's design legacy. Luckily, the 100th anniversary of the Bauhaus was happening, so both Berlin and Copenhagen had comprehensive exhibits related to the centenary of the school and movement. So those two cities are on the top of my list, but I have to say that I live in my favorite city—Philadelphia!

You designed Smart City as a sustainable product using the Living Product certification system. Why do you prefer that certification over other labels?

We found that the Living Product platform encompasses everything we want in a certification system. It covers material health, health and wellness, and manufacturing and operational strategies. It also covers responsible habitats and social equity, which we find goes beyond other certification systems. The most critical piece of Living Product Challenge (LPC) is called handprinting—a strategy where we practice net positive carbon and water use, and a reduced energy footprint. Prior to working in the LPC model, we were already engaged in healthy processes and Red List free declarations, as well as the commitment to designing with biophilic principles. We wanted to find a strategy that could align with our product development and distribution and support our design strategies as well as those of our customers. We are so committed to this that we turned our carpet tile plant in Virginia into the first Living Site, which means that all Red List free products from that plant are Living Products.

Are there any books that you are reading or rereading this summer?

I am always reading several books at once. I like to read about art and music mostly. I recently got the Bauhausmädel ("Bauhaus Girls") book, so that's been

fascinating learning about all the women from the school. I also just read the autobiography of Kathy Valentine, who was the bass player for the Go-Go's. I used to be in a Go-Go's tribute band, and they were influential to my own guitar playing style. I just ordered the Debbie Harry autobiography, so that will be next. And for a more serious book, I am still reading "Sapiens," which is a huge tome about how and why Homo sapiens have survived. Great stuff to think about especially in today's age of digital technology, climate change, and a pandemic.

I heard you're doing a Mohawk design festival in July. Tell me more!

Yes, we are having a three-day virtual summit July 15-17 called DesignFWD. It will be filled with panel discussions, networking opportunities, design features, podcasts—all sorts of cool interactive content around the theme "A New Path Forward," looking at people, sustainability, and product. We will also be launching our new Color + Design Vision 2021: The Visual Age, which is our trend discussion and forecast for next year and relates to our new product designs and development. It's an important topic driving design, which is how visuals have changed since the arrival of Instagram and smartphones. For the 2021 Color + Design Vision, we will explore this new Visual Age in context of both existing and emerging trends of how the visual arts affect our viewpoints on life. We will examine how color, light, and pattern affect our lives. We will visualize future shifts in aesthetics for design and art as well. Categories for further exploration include: Filter Fluency, Sensory Immersion, Rendered Reality, and Altered Images. (Full disclosure: *Contract* and Mohawk Group will be cohosting "The Path to Carbon Positive Interior Finishes and Urban Development" webinar on July 15 at noon EDT).





Smart City (opposite page), designed in collaboration with Gensler, is a carpet plank system inspired by some of the world's most connected places.

Pattern + Symmetry (this page, top) is a woven broadloom collection inspired by the tailored textiles of men's and women's clothing in the 20th century.

Optic Reset (this page, bottom) derives inspiration from an emerging cultural shift called "The Visual Age," which is Mohawk Group's Color + Design Vision theme for 2021.

Other Mohawk collections include: Learn & Live, an expansion to an existing collection, now with 12-inch-by-36-inch plank format tiles, and geared toward educational spaces; and Nutopia 2.0, a modular carpet system which is now freshly recolored for the new decade.



contract

FEATURE



Suzanne Tick
Creative Director
Luum

What was the inspiration for your latest collection, Second Sight?

Second Sight is a play on words, inviting you to revive your outlook for the future in the dawn of this new decade we're in. We focused on bold use of color and were inspired by visionaries of the past and present who have opened the doors for new ways of seeing, especially in the fields of art, architecture, and design.

Color is important to you. What is your approach to working with color in this collection, and in general?

For Second Sight, we really wanted to focus on using color as a medium. The "Hilma af Klint: Paintings for the Future" exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum had a big impact on our design team. Her ability to see color through the lens of emotion, geometry, and spirituality was incredibly formative as we developed this collection.

In general, we approach color at Luum as a long-term, ever-evolving project. With every launch, you can expect us to extend color palettes so new products coordinate with existing product, that way the whole portfolio is integrated and works together holistically. We also spend a lot of time researching and listening to the voice of our customers in our design process. From there, we start from scratch with fiber, we twist the fiber, and weave structures on our loom here in the studio and work with our mill partners to test dyes, which helps us synthesize the best results based on our design goals and what's the best match for each weave structure.

This collection has a particular focus on responsible materials like wool, silicone and recycled polyester.

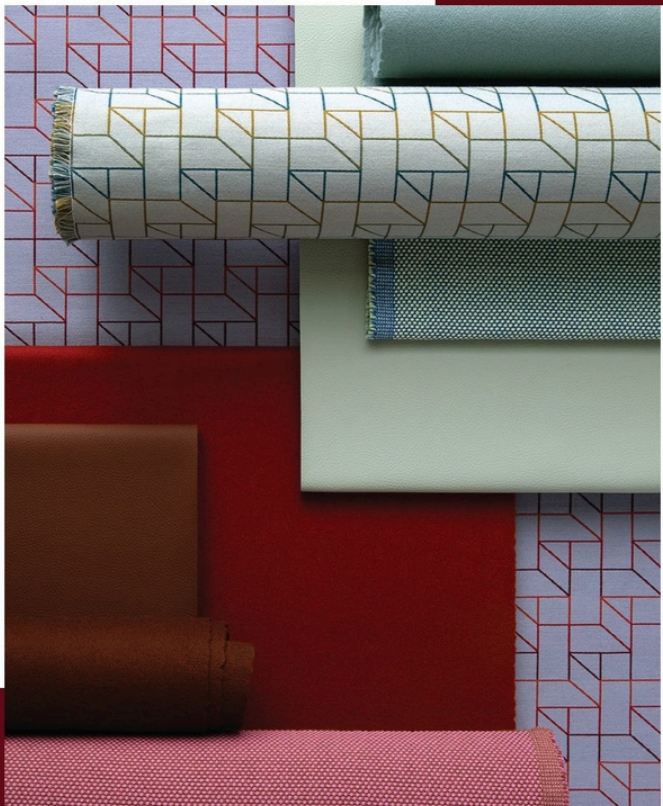
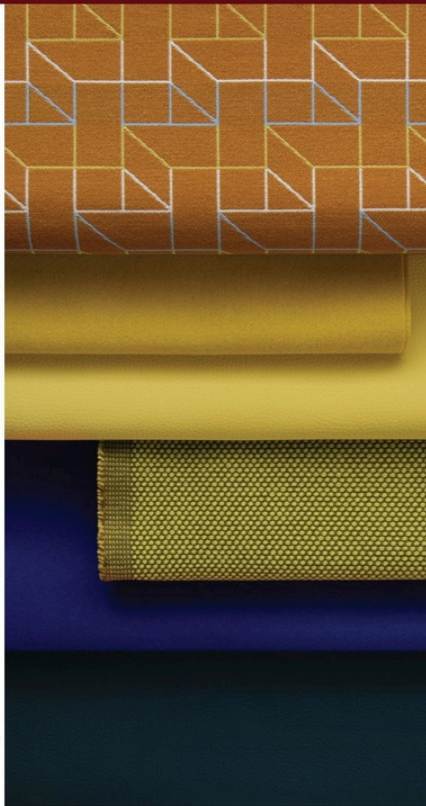
Can you talk about your approach to designing sustainable textiles and how you want interior designers to use your products sustainably?

I think our approach comes from a deep understanding and awareness of materials, manufacturing and the issues of waste in the textile industry. We deliver very focused groupings of textiles that we feel answer a need within the industry or a gap in our portfolio. The idea of high-performance can sometimes equate to unattractive. Where we excel is harnessing our expertise of weaving, color and structure with recycled and renewable fibers to yield textiles that are unexpected and beautiful to the eye and the hand; or aesthetically durable. We are currently in the last stages of development on a biodegradable polyester textile, furthering our commitment to user wellness and the environment.

You recently spent a few months in India. What inspiration did you find there?

The time in India allowed me the time to step away from the day to day and realize the moment to moment. To understand the need of the time. To feel what pulls me. To follow what nature offers. We changed our direction upon my return to reflect what is needed now. We clarified our color even deeper. We dropped patterns that no longer seemed relevant for the product plan. When things flow it's a good sign. We are going with that.

Luum's Second Sight, by Suzanne Tick, is a collection of four upholstery textiles that exudes optimism, reflection, and a focus on responsible materials like wool, silicone, and recycled polyester. Spirited use of color is seen throughout, offering vivid and nuanced palettes that when integrated into the materials, refresh our perspectives with playful simplicity.





Marie Moore
Design Manager
for Kinetex and LVT
J+J Flooring



Laura Holzer
Design Manager—
Carpet
J+J Flooring

What was the inspiration for your new collections?

Marie Moore: Make Your Mark (LVT) was inspired by the thought of having an LVT with color as a bold option. It is paired with a simple horizontal and vertical pattern with the color ombre across each tile. This allows for a versatile array of color on each tile.

Downtown (Kinetex) was inspired by the horizontal and vertical lines of the building in the downtown/urban city. The lines and blocks of colors created a look in flooring that replicates the simplest of architecture.

Laura Holzer: Developed mainly for Senior Living, Modern Repose started with the idea creating a collection that combined many of the interior influences in designs for this category, traditional to modern and beyond. It takes inspiration from natural textures and materials, graphic patterns, from rustic to clean lines. We really wanted it to have a calm inviting appeal—homey hospitality, you could say.

For Convergent, we began with the exploration of our patent twisting technology, Precision Color Technology (PCT), which creates shades of color and beautiful striations within individual strands of yarn. Convergent is a fusion of organic striation of dark and light, matte and metallic, met with varying texture.

The trio of products for our Meridian, Skyline and Elevated collections are inspired by the beauty of cityscape and urban living. The geometry of the architecture along with the modern symmetry of structure. We have adapted a more abstract spin on this urban outlook by overlaying geometric elements onto gentle ombres of color and pattern.

Kinetex is innovative from a technological design and also from a performance point of view, can you explain?

Moore: Kinetex is an advanced textile composite flooring that combines key attributes of soft-surface floor covering with the long-wearing performance characteristics of hard-surface flooring. In addition to its human-centered qualities and highly functional design, Kinetex offers a reduced environmental footprint compared to traditional hard-surface options.

While working from home, what has inspired you that might find its way into a future collection?

Moore: Working from home has allowed me to slow down and enjoy my life and family. Design should reflect this with simpler and functional patterns—deliberately undefined and understated designs that complement a wide range of commercial furnishings and finishes.

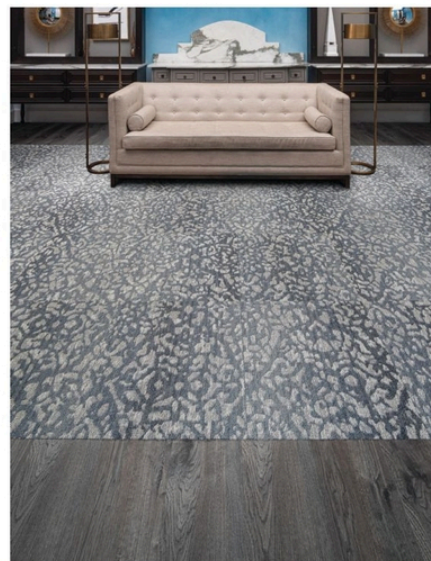
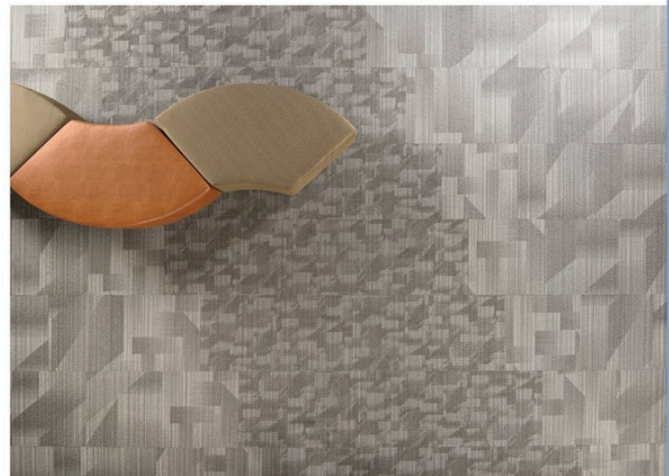
Holzer: Taking the time to slow down and appreciate more of what is directly around me has really helped motivate and inspire me. And if I can figure out a way to turn my favorite coworker Molly—my Boston Terrier puppy—into a design, I will definitely make it happen.

Are there any books that you are reading or rereading this summer?

Moore: I'm been really busy with my kids, so when I do slow down to read it's mostly cookbooks for new recipes.

Holzer: My reading will mainly include books like "Pete the Cat," "Curious George,"

and Dr. Seuss stories. I'm doing my best to keep our six-year-old twins on track for whatever first grade looks like in the fall. We miss and appreciate our teachers so very much. Then, if time permits, I will dive into the stack of design magazines that have accumulated over quarantine.



J+J Flooring's Convergent carpet (top) is offered in both broadloom and 12-inch-by-49-inch planks.

The trio of coordinating carpet tile (middle)—Meridian, Skyline, and Elevated—visually translate the beauty and geometry of urban architecture.

Modern Repose (bottom) is a carpet collection specifically designed for senior living and hospitality environments.

Other new introductions from J+J Flooring include: Make Your Mark, which features an abstract wood grain pattern that delivers an organic and energetic feel to commercial spaces, and Kinetex Downtown, which features a layered linear texture and subtle pattern striations that mimic the silhouette of architecture in the heart of a city.

contract

FEATURE



Dorothy Casonas
Creative Director
KnollTextiles

Because of COVID-19, how do the fabrics and wallcoverings from the new collection perform??

We design collections 12-14 months in advance of a launch and spring is when we typically focus on high-performance products. The Destination Collection is timely in that it includes four high-abrasion, bleach-cleanable upholsterys, two of which are suitable for outdoor use. Bleach-cleanable upholstery has gained importance during COVID-19 because sanitizing or disinfecting textiles with a bleach solution is an EPA-approved method of killing bacteria and viruses. There has also been an increased interest in domestically manufactured products because of COVID-19. The Destination Collection has three upholsterys and two wallcoverings that are made in the U.S.

How did you pick your colors for the collection?

In general, I follow fashion carefully and also look to Europe for color movements. Additionally, my team and I constantly evaluate the current color offering within the line to see where we might expand the palette. For the Destination Collection, the palette is quite nuanced. We took color direction from nature by adding a soft sage, neutral blush tones and rich browns.

What was the inspiration for your new collections?

For example, the pattern Stripe It, a full repeat indoor/outdoor stripe, is inspired by the structure and linework seen in modern architecture and by the precise rows of colorful tulip fields, while the organic pattern Retreat was developed through a study of the rough and varied textural layers of tree bark. Trek wallcovering has a deep emboss inspired by the appearance of stacked stones within architectural facades and the layout was carefully designed to feel organic while maintaining a geometric rhythm.

Knoll has a long and rich legacy with its textile collection, how does the archive inspire you?

We are always aware of our heritage and we have a special bond with Florence Knoll, who started the KnollTextiles business in 1947. Her motivation for creating the division was out of the necessity to have modern textiles for modern furniture. Continuing in that mindset, we design the line based on the necessities and requirements of today's market. And, it goes without saying, that aesthetically we adhere to the tradition of classic modernism.

While you've been working from home, what inspiration have you found in developing your future collections?

Working from home has given me the opportunity to revisit books (including ones on the work of Irving Penn) that I have not looked at in a while. I spend a little more time reading the design/trend sections of newspapers. I've also made a concerted effort to educate myself more on the complex aspects of performance textiles for future designs. We have been having discussions with mills considering ways to create high performance products utilizing both natural and manmade fibers with sustainability and recycling as important criteria.

The Destination Collection, from KnollTextiles, includes four high-abrasion, bleach-cleanable upholsterys, two of which are suitable for outdoor use.





Shannon Cochran
Vice President of
Creative and Design
Patcraft

Can you describe the new collections from Patcraft?

Our observations and experiences shape how we see design, and the heart of a product comes from exploration and perspective. Our newest collections have all been created considering market insights that we've gathered over the past year or so. They include Inspired Connection, a colorpoint carpet tile and broadloom collection designed for connected, cohesive spaces that feel like home. Anew, which features modern wood visuals and the incorporation of a stone look for unique installations, is a 7.75-inch-by-48-inch resilient collection directly inspired by designers' requests for a widened plank format. Crafted Surface, inspired by the distressed visuals of overdyed vintage rugs, is a three-style collection of 18-inch-by-36-inch carpet tiles. Gemscape, inspired by the surface formation of gems and minerals, is a carpet tile and broadloom collection that embraces pure structural form accentuated with brightly lit hues. Natural State, boasting a versatile color line with both wood and stone visuals, is a rigid core flooring collection of floating and glue down resilient planks.

What was the inspiration for the collections?

When we develop a new collection, we think about customer needs and current trends, consumer drivers, and market influences. Our recent collections are driven by this process, and while each collection has a different inspiration—either inspired by an artistic process or a market-driven need—at the core, they were all inspired by a connection to our customers, market insights, and our focus on a collaborative design process. Listening to the market is so important and gathering these insights helps shape our creative vision. We think about the impact of our physical space and its role in creating connections, sparking collaboration, evoking a sense of comfort, or enhancing wellbeing.

Color and texture are an important part of developing a new collection, what's your thinking behind this?

This is a great question that directly relates to our Inspired Connection collection, where the aesthetic is reminiscent of home and designed for comfort and connection—a trend that will be accelerated within the coming months. Within design, a desire for connectivity and a prioritization of wellness, mindfulness and balance will be increasingly important as we embrace our changing situations and design both existing spaces and the spaces of the future.

When we think about new collections, from the start we consider scale, contrast, texture, pattern, and color and how these elements will influence the feel and aesthetic of the final design. Biophilic design, for example, is familiar to all of us. It's an important part of our process, as there is great power in connecting people with nature. The patterns and textures that are rooted in nature ground the space and create a natural sense of place for the people who use these environments.

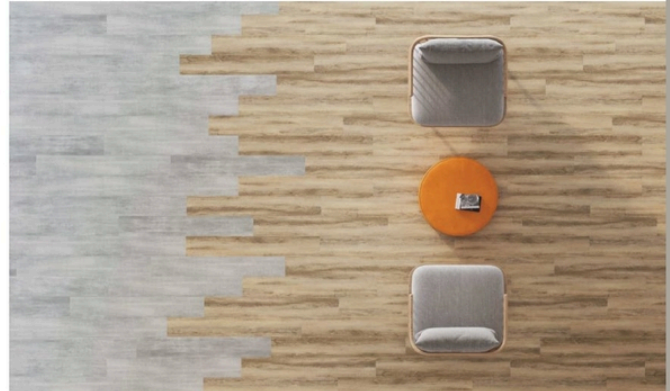
While working from home, what has inspired you that might find its way into a future collection?

One of my favorite ideas to come out of working from home was a recent creative project from one of our designers. She started using her own home for inspiration, looking at her surroundings for interesting textures and surfaces. She decided to create pencil rubbings from these textures, leading her to design these really

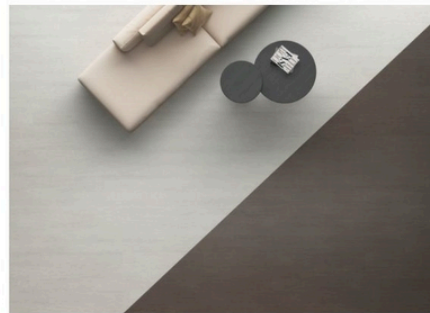
beautiful, natural patterns. It goes to show that we can find inspiration everywhere, even in the things we have seen a thousand times and likely would have overlooked before.

Are there any books that you are reading or rereading this summer?

I've taken this time to explore many of the webinars and CEUs that have become available recently. I'm currently reading *Radical Candor*, and I've also immersed myself in podcasts. I have a pretty long list of those that I love, but some of my current favorites related to design are *Creative Confidence*, *Clever*, and *99% Invisible*.



Designed to expand SPC (Solid Polymer Composite) platform offerings, Natural State (top) is a high-performance, resilient collection. It features an innovative, high-density core construction with dimensional stability, no telegraphing, and resistance against indentation.



Anew (middle) features modern wood visuals and the incorporation of a stone look.



Patcraft's Inspired Collection (bottom) includes bold patterns with textural, luxe-inspired creative design to enhance connectivity and enliven the spaces that surround us.

Patcraft's other new collections include: Crafted Surface, which features textural patterns and a variety of colors with neutral and bright accents that can aid in branding, wayfinding, and colorblocking, and the Gemscape collection, which features texture and abstract geometrics with vibrant accent stripes for further customization of space.

contract

FEATURE



Courtney Brooks
Design Director
Unika Vaev

As Unika Vaev's new design director, can you tell us a bit about yourself and your approach to designing textiles?

As a teenager, my parents would send me to New York City to spend my summers with my aunt and uncle who lived in the West Village. They enrolled me in various art classes including painting, pottery, and drawing. I was also exposed to the museums of New York City at a very young age. It was these experiences that led me to choose to major in interior design at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

I worked as an interior designer specializing in contract interiors for more than 18 years. I then went on to pursue my passion for surface design and worked for Tri-Kes Wallcovering Source, Pollack, and Luna in sales roles. While I do not have a textile design background, nor do I consider myself a textile designer, it is my extensive interior design background and passion for textiles that inspire me to develop textiles for the Unika Vaev brand.

What was the inspiration for your latest collection of high-performance textiles?

The Disc-O collection was inspired by the use of color, textures, and bold patterns, in fashion and New York nightlife in the 1970's and early 1980's. The continuation of the "hippie style" during the Polyester Decade was also instrumental in developing this collection.

In light of COVID-19, there's a demand for more performance-based products, how does your new collection perform?

The new Disc-O collection is all about high performance and ease of cleanability. The blending of high-energy dyed nylons and polyester yarns allows for added performance while also providing a lustrous hand and tactile texture. The collection includes the pattern Bubbly, which is bleach-cleanable. Our pattern Suede Plush is easily cleanable by using alcohol swabs.

During lockdown, what inspired you that you think might be the basis of a new collection in the future?

During the lockdown, I was able to spend three months in Sullivan County, surrounded by rolling hills, creeks, and the sounds of nature, which allowed me the opportunity for reflection and inspiration. As I move forward to develop my next collection, nature and solitude will play a major in terms of color, texture, and pattern.

The Disc-O collection, from Unika Vaev, was inspired by the colors, textures, and bold patterns of fashion and New York nightlife in the 1970's and early 1980's. It includes patterns such as the bleach-cleanable Bubbly and Suede Plush.





David Oakey
 Founder
 David Oakey Designs

Can you describe the new collection from Interface?

The Thread Story carpet tile collection features a total of six products: Drawn Thread (eight colors), Tangled & Taught (eight colors), and Yesterweave (eight colors) offer a stunning woven aesthetic in warm and cool neutrals, while Loom of Life (four colors) and Social Fabric (four colors) introduce bold patterning. Future Woven (four colors) showcases different but complementary neutrals and amps up the volume with a precise, woven construction combined with striking high and low dimension accentuating the pattern.

What was the inspiration for the collections?

The resurgence of interest in contemporary handcraft using unexpected materials and genuine sustainable philosophies inspired the Thread Story collection. To start the design process, we studied craftsmanship, which gives attention to intricate details seen in the design weaves of the past. With this in mind, the collection celebrates weaving as an artform, paired with the beauty and handcrafted nature of woven textiles. All this coincided with the 100th anniversary of women weaving in the Bauhaus workshop.

Are there any sustainable messages for the new product?

As Founder of David Oakey Designs, I continually advocate for businesses, designers and educators to learn from nature and live by the principles of sustainability. Similarly, Interface is committed to its Climate Take Back mission, inviting others to join as we commit to running our business in a way that is restorative to the planet and creates a climate fit for life. Thread Story carpet tile is made with recycled nylon, and like all Interface products globally, is part of the company's Carbon Neutral Floors program that zeroes out the carbon emissions associated with the lifecycle of the product. By specifying a collection like Thread Story, designers lower the carbon footprint of their project without sacrificing their design's integrity. And, to ensure a holistic approach to carbon neutrality, Interface's ReEntry program provides an avenue to reclaim and recycle vinyl backed carpet tiles.

Color and texture are an important part of developing a new collection, what's your thinking behind this?

When developing the patterns and color palettes for Thread Story, we struck a balance between the past and future. As the texture and scale of pattern increases within the collection, so does the use of color, ranging from low contrast neutrals to higher contrast blended neutrals, and fresh but muted color that adds a sophisticated punch to the boldest pattern in the collection. The color and texture choices of this collection unifies the current trends of modern spaces with timeless woven techniques and Bauhaus-inspired graphic patterns.

While working from home, what has inspired you that might find its way into a future collection?

Although we have all had to learn how to design from a distance, I often rely on nature-based design principles for our collections. By using biomimicry to lead much of my design work, inspiration is easy to find while at home.

Interface's Thread Story carpet tile collection features a total of six products: Drawn Thread (eight colors), Tangled & Taught (eight colors), Yesterweave (eight colors), Loom of Life (four colors), Social Fabric (four colors), and Future Woven (four colors).

Are there any books that you are reading or rereading this summer?

Jeremy Gutsche's "Create The Future" is a very inspiring and uplifting book as we go through the current crisis.



contract



Teius

inspec

A division of Sandler Seating

inspecfurniture.com

Workplace

As we continue to work from home, the newest products are not just for the office. They are designed to provide comfort and flexibility in any environment. Furniture is lightweight and stackable, while privacy screens and flooring are easy to keep clean and germ-free.



2020: 2020 Office v2020
2020spaces.com

This release features updates to 2020 Cap, 2020 Cap Complete, and 2020 Worksheet. With customer requested upgrades to navigation and product selection, designers have the tools to work more efficiently.



9to5 Seating: Sol Task Chair
9to5seating.com

This task chair was designed to support a range of working postures. The pivot back technology enables torso rotation and movement necessary when using cell phones, tablets, and laptops at the office.



ERG International: Ozark Lounge Collection
erginternational.com

The signature piece in this lounge collection has a barrel back and plush, upholstered seat. There is a fixed or 360-degree swivel single seat for mobility, and a two-seat version.



Bernhardt Design: Becca Modular Lounge Collection
bernhardtdesign.com

Designed by Terry Crews, the popular Becca family has been expanded to include modular pieces. The interchangeable elements are available in various lengths and can rotate 45 and 90 degrees.



Louis Poulsen: Keglen Lamps
louispoulsen.com

Designed in collaboration with BIG Ideas, Louis Poulsen introduces Keglen lamps. The distinctive cone-shaped shades ensure glare-free downward light. Available with energy-saving LED lights, and in black or white colors.



Arcadia: Iso Work Lounge
arcadiacontract.com

Combining the comfort of a lounge chair with partitions for privacy, Iso provides a quiet space to sit or work. Elements can be configured to create stand-alone modules or expanded into multi-user settings.

contract

MATRIX



CARVART: glassSCREENS Line
carvart.com

This line of screens has been expanded to include framing and benching styles. Made of non-porous, tempered glass, the screens offer protection while still allowing people to interact with one another.



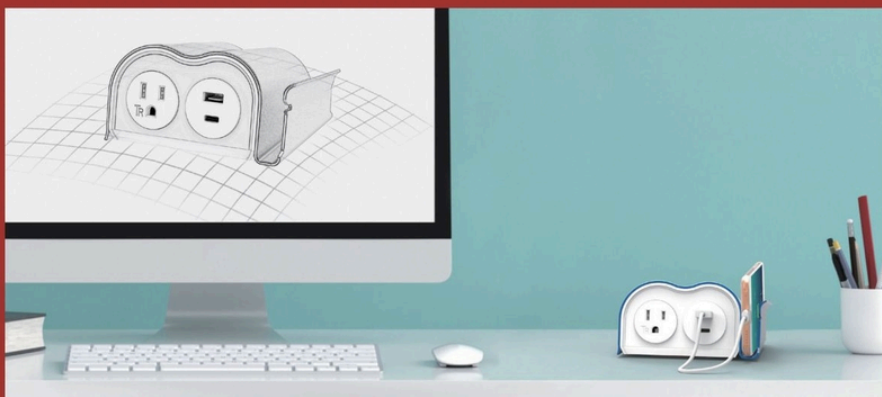
Focal Point: Nivo Acoustic Tiles
focalpointlights.com

These tiles address both noise and lighting needs and are suitable for standard grid or cloud ceilings. They can be paired with Nivo luminaires or used with or without troffers to create patterns.



Corona Group Inc.: Intersection Stack Divider System
coronagroupinc.com

This flexible sliding divider system features individual panels that can pivot and stack against each other along a track. Panels can be used individually or hinged in groups of two.



National Lighting: Mesa Power Dock
nationallighting.com

This desktop power supply can be moved as needed and offers three charging options. The optional cover provides a convenient resting area for phones or tablets while they are charging.



Humanscale: Summa Executive Chair
humanscale.com

With an enveloping shape and sculpted materials, this chair has a single height-adjustment lever designed into the seat. It features Humanscale's signature recline mechanism and integrated armrests for support.



Coalesse: Enea Alto943 Collection
coalesse.com

Coalesse has expanded the Enea family with this new chair and stool collection. With engineered polypropylene seat shells and solid oak oval-turned legs, each piece blends sculptural refinement with comfort.



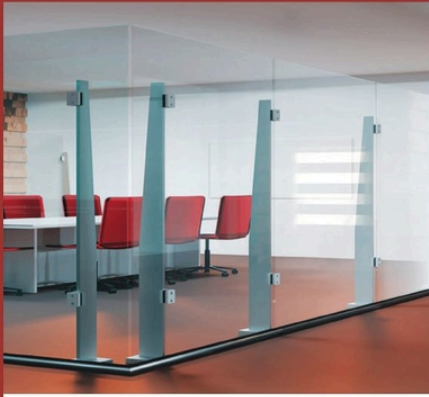
Fräsch: Waffl Baff Fixture
frasch.co

This acoustic fixture with diagonal shape dampens noise in the workplace. Ideal for exposed industrial ceilings, it can also be paired with a linear LED light to illuminate any space.



ANP Lighting: Oversized Shade
anplighting.com

This stylish shade brings maximum visual impact to conference rooms or employee break areas. It is available in a range of sizes, unexpected shapes, and finishes that complement modern or traditional interiors.



C.R. Laurence: Klarity Partition
crlaurence.com

This glass partition offers protection, transparency, and daylight diffusion inside the workplace. It features low-profile posts, offered in a variety of heights, which creates unobstructed views and seamless transitions.



Inscape: Rockit Bench
myinscape.com

This linear bench from Inscape now has freestanding mobile capability. The core can be unlinked from the surfaces to become an adaptable spine, and accessories like privacy screens or storage can be added.



Keilhauer: Swurve Chair
keilhauer.com

Keilhauer introduces its first carbon neutral chair, verified to produce net-zero carbon emissions. Offered in 22 colors of mesh, this lightweight chair can easily be moved and rearranged in all types of workspaces.



Koncept: Acoustic Panels
koncept.com

Compatible with Z-Bar models, the panels are an attractive sound absorption solution. They are available in ten different finishes, and they can be mounted flat onto the pendant or upright along the suspending wires.



Teknion: hiSpace Quick Connect Tables
teknion.com

Teknion presents these newly redesigned tables that can be easily adjusted from one position to another with the push of a button. Available in two table depths, and three base finish options.



Dauphin: Dialogue Acoustic Pod
dauphin.com

From the Bosse Series 2 line, the Dialogue pod is ideal for reducing noise while working in an open-plan office. It features a magnetic door closure, felt ceiling, and carpeting on the floor.

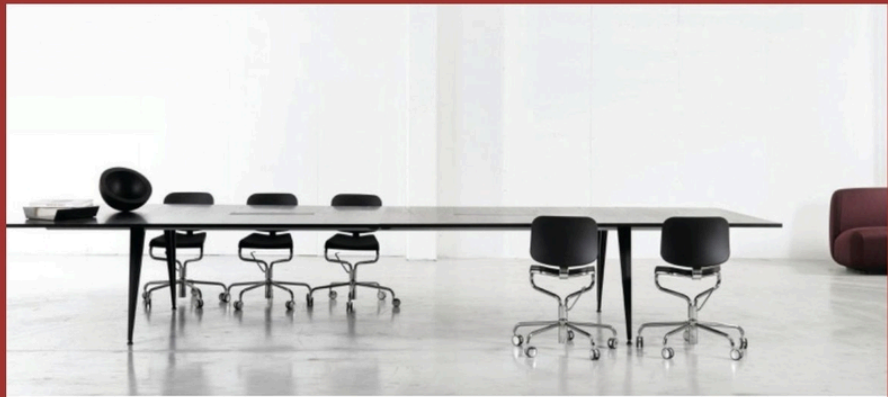
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Dfm: International Collection
dependablefm.com

Designed in collaboration with Gensler, this new collection has versatile desk components that can be used in single, benching, or enclosed configurations, with features such as integrated electronic functionality.



Sandler: Inspec by Sandler
inspecfurniture.com

A new division of Sandler, Inspec features Scandinavian furniture designed for the corporate market, including conference tables and seating. The pieces are ideal for public spaces, offices, and education environments.



Nienkämper: Metronome Trestle Collection
nienkamper.com

This collection of less formal tables are suited for meetings or collaborative work. Each table has a metal foot rail, top in either wood veneer or plastic laminate, and a central wood chimney for wire management.



AIS: Clip Supported Screens
ais-inc.com

The clip supported screens from AIS are available in clear glass or Lexan polycarbonate. With metallic silver frames, they offer a variety of mounting methods to complement different tables and desks.



Pair: Olli Workplace System
madebypair.com

This new workplace system allows users to choose from a range of flexible elements. Accessories can be attached to the power and data beam, like a pivoting privacy screen, coat rack, or side table.



Stylex: Dela Chair
stylexseating.com

This chair from Stylex has an industrial, tubular design that provides a visual contrast to its plush surfaces. There are seven variations, from lounge chairs to stools, each suitable for a range of tasks.



American Biltrite: Sonata Elements Collection
american-biltrite.com

This new LVT collection features a striated textile visual inspired by modular carpet tiles. With an aluminum oxide polyurethane treatment that provides superior scratch and stain resistance, this flooring is suitable for high-traffic areas.



Okamura: Drape Privacy Pod
okamura.com

Drape is a new privacy and acoustic pod constructed to absorb sound, perfect for touchdown work or making phone calls. Three configurations are available, along with two different work-surface heights.

**Scandinavian Spaces: iQseat**scandinavianspaces.com

Flexible and comfortable, this seat has a backrest that doubles as a laptop table. Wheels allow this compact piece to be moved from space to space, for meetings or learning sessions.

**SurfaceWorks: Dax Training Tables**surfaceworks.us

These new flip-top training tables have aluminum legs and casters to allow them to be moved easily. Six top shapes, as well as power and wire management options are available.

**Poltrona Frau: Grant De Luxe Poufs**poltronafrau.com

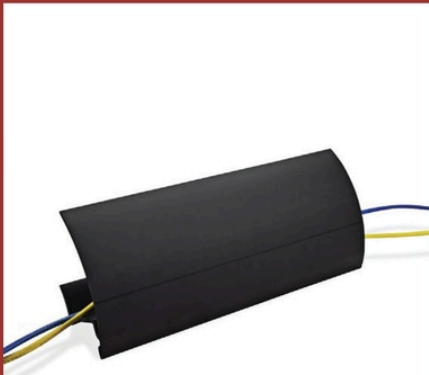
The line includes a round, oval, and rectangular poufs with a storage compartment. Fine lattice work decorates the external edges of each piece, and they can be used on their own or in combinations.

**Davis: Rho Ottoman**davisfurniture.com

This ottoman boasts a casual yet sculptural design, with a unique open chain stitch detail at the center. It is available in a variety of heights to accommodate a range of users and tasks.

**Usona: Desk 10116**usonahome.com

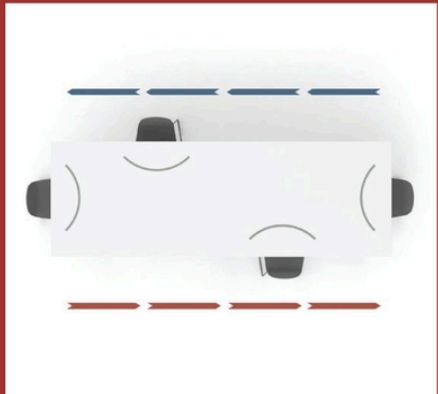
With a body crafted of wood, this desk is a statement piece that can be used in the workplace or home office. The three leather-lined drawers feature fully synchronized slide technology.

**Mockett: Floor Wire Manager**mockett.com

This product shields a power strip or other cabling against a baseboard or under a desk. Users can run cables through the slotted channel underneath as needed, and it can double as a light-duty footrest.

**Martin Bratrud: Lido Series**martinbratrud.com

Designed by Brian Graham, this line features a flexible mix of seating and surface products. Lightweight and mobile, the poufs can be used as accent pieces or to anchor a space.

**Poppin: Social Distancing Decals**poppin.com

These decals designed for social distancing can be used to visually define work areas, personal space, and seating at communal tables. They can also serve as visual markers to define walkways, creating a safer environment.

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StyleWorks: Tokyo Task Chair
styleworks furniture.com

With a nylon frame and mesh back, this task chair brings a sporty look to the office. The tilt-locking mechanism, height adjustability, and seat slider give users ergonomic comfort throughout the workday.



Kimball: Whittaker Collection
kimball.com

Kimball introduces this collection of modular lounge seating that combines flexibility and durability for office and healthcare environments. A variety of sofa and bench components, as well as different cushion types are available.



Aceray: Unico Privacy Seating
aceray.com

This seating features inviting proportions that provide comfort in office or lounge settings. With turned wooden legs, optional bolster pillows, and a shelter style privacy frame, these pieces suit a range of work styles.



Loftwall: Split Panel
loftwall.com

The Split panel allows users to divide spaces without having to sacrifice natural light. It features an aluminum interlocking frame, and the panel is offered in acrylic or Twinwall plastic options.



Nathan Allan Glass Studios: Iceberg Textured Glass
nathanallan.com

Crafted using intricate production methods, this glass looks as if it has icebergs floating within it. It brings texture and artistry to office environments and can be used in full panels or as accents.



National Office Furniture: Screen Collection
nationalofficefurniture.com

This new collection offers screens in a variety of sizes and attachment methods. With these versatile partitions, workspaces can be retrofitted to increase protection for office staff.



Vitra: Citizen Lounge Chair
vitra.com

Designed by Konstantin Greic, the seat of this chair is suspended on three cables affixed to a steel frame to facilitate a swinging movement in all directions. Available in highback or lowback versions.



NanaWall: Copper Handles
nanawall.com

In response to concerns about COVID-19, NanaWall is offering antimicrobial handles as an option for all of its glass wall systems. The handles bring antiviral properties and a sophisticated look to each product.



Haworth: Resonate Collection
haworth.com

Designed in collaboration with Gensler, this new collection of modular lounge furniture brings a light-scale, modern look to the workplace. The pieces feature uniform platform structures and formed wire bases.



Andreu World: Status Conference Table
andreuworld.com

This sleek conference table features an oak top, available in a range of light or dark finishes to suit any interior. It has a polyethylene base, and injected aluminum or galvanized steel fittings.



Moss Walls: Verdure Moss Wall
mosswalls.com

This live moss wellness wall brings nature into the workplace. It not only provides a sense of calm, but also cleanses and oxygenates the air, contributing to a more healthy environment for employees.



SnapCab: Meet 2 Home Office Pod
snapcab.com

This new pod was designed with the home office in mind. With a smaller frame, it gives users a quiet, comfortable space to work, and the variety of finish options complement any residential interior.



Ethnicraft: Bok Cowork Desk
ethnicraft.com

The wider design of this table allows two people to sit opposite each other with plenty of legroom. Three sets of power outlets are integrated into the table to keep devices charged.



BuzziSpace: BuzziPlanter
buzzi.space

This planter is also an acoustic room divider, with a thick layer of sound-absorbing foam to decrease reverberation. Available in six heights with optional wheels, this piece helps foster a calmer work environment.

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Dialogue

We seek environments that foster communication. Dialogue explores the language of culture through design. Freehand writing, typography, unspoken codes, and sheet music are brought together to form new ideas, expressions and points of view. Dialogue can transform culture. It can free creativity and open minds. And that's a beautiful thing.

Explore Shaw Contract's new custom hospitality collection, Dialogue, at shawcontract.com

ShawContract®
hospitality

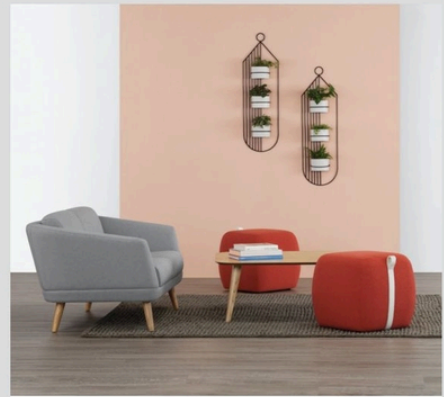
Education

These products for education spaces are designed with flexibility in mind to support a range of learning styles. Desks and chairs can be configured in a variety of ways to accommodate group study sessions or individual work. As we continue to social distance, screens can be used to create separate spaces and offer added privacy.



Bradley: Next Generation WashBar
bradleycorp.com

The Next Generation WashBar combines a touch-free soap dispenser, faucet, and a dryer in a sleek fixture. It features icons and LED lighting to visually orient users as they clean their hands.



Encore: Popover Poufs
encoreseating.com

These lightweight poufs are ideal seating options for use in a range of education spaces. Available in two sizes and four standard colors, they can be easily moved from room to room.



Kl: Ruckus Activity Tables
kl.com

With a variety of shapes and colors to choose from, these activity tables can be configured to support group or individual work. Available in three base options: glides, casters, or both glides and casters.



Peter Pepper Products: Protection Systems
peterpepper.com

These systems allow users to create separate space in open-plan interiors. They offer protection and privacy while permitting efficient workflow, and can be customized with signage, racks, or monitor mounts.



SitOnIt Seating: Qwiz Chair
sitonit.net

The flip-up seat and interlocking system of this chair allows high-density nesting. With a bleach-cleanable mesh back and three shell and frame colors, Qwiz is a fun and flexible option for study sessions.



Versteel: Acrylic Privacy Panels
versteel.com

These panels can be used for space delineation and privacy. Constructed with frosted or clear acrylic screens, they come with easily attachable mounts that allow users to create individualized areas for work or study.



Trinity: Savoye Collection
trinityfurniture.com

With Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye as inspiration, this collection embodies many of the same modern characteristics. Pieces have clean forms proportioned for a minimalist aesthetic that suits a range of interiors.



VS America: Stakki Chair
vsamerica.com

The Stakki chair from VS America has a minimal three-legged design and a basic triangular shape. Easy to clean, they can be used indoors or out, and are stackable for efficient storage.

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Welcome Back

Spruce up every space—from guestroom to cafe—with new hospitality finds. Here's a selection of the latest and greatest products to consider—just in time for the return of travel and restaurant dining.



Duravit: Happy D.2 Plus C-Shaped Washbasin
duravit.us

Duravit launches its patent-pending technology, c-shaped, with its expansion of the Happy D.2 Plus series by sieger design. C-shaped is an evolution of the brand's c-bonded process, which seamlessly fuses the sink to the countertop.



Arper: Adell chair
arper.com

Nature and serenity inform the gentle, rounded curves of this indoor/outdoor chair designed by Lievore + Altherr Désile Park. It features an 80-percent-recycled polypropylene shell and customizable options.



Room&Board Business Interiors: Silva Chair
roomandboard.com

A cross between a club and barrel chair, Silva exudes both comfort and sophistication with its generous 35-inch-deep seat and coordinating ottoman. A variety of upholstery fabrics are available.



Lacava: Linea Vanity
lacava.com

Linear metal frames envelop and secure bath storage and vessels or undermount sinks to create a sleek minimal aesthetic. The frames come in four finishes, while the cabinets sport glossy, textured, matte, or wood fronts.



Astek: Ephemeral Wallcovering
astek.com

Paint smears of an artist's palette are photographed, enlarged, and digitally printed onto mylar (Type II) to dress up walls in drama. The large-scale mural is Class A fire rated.



JANUS et Cie: Elio Outdoor Seating
janusetcie.com

Designed by Yabu Pushelberg for Tribù and available through JANUS et Cie, Elio chairs and love seats present sleek shell-like forms that hug the sitter. The outdoor series features teak frames and handwoven Tricord rope.



Emuamericas: Como Collection
emuamericas.com

Both elegant and robust, the Como outdoor collection sports a recurring motif of spot-welded and angled steel wires. The line includes side-, arm-, lounge-, and high-back chairs, a loveseat, and dining and low tables.



Beaufurn: Serene Modular Seating Collection
beaufurn.com

Minimalist, squared tubular frames and legs, and generous proportions define this outdoor series, which comprises side chairs, corner chairs, and tables. Units can be pushed together or combined with coordinating tables.



BD Barcelona: Dino Armchair
bdbarcelona.com

Jaime Hayon designed the Dino wingback armchair to embrace the sitter—and evoke a dinosaur. It's constructed with polyether foam cushioning, painted cast-aluminum legs, and customizable fabric or leather upholstery.



Emeco: 2-Inch Table with Flat Base
emeco.net

Jasper Morrison designed this new table collection that, with its clean lines and universal appeal, easily fits within cafe settings of varying aesthetics. The table is available in cafe, counter, and bar height with three top sizes.



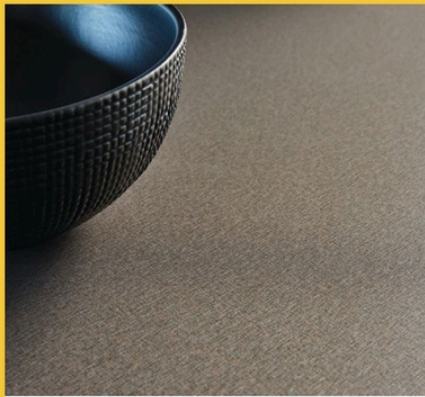
Krskadecor: Gradient Metal Fabric
krskadecor.com

This chain-mail fabric is made of anodized-aluminum links in a range of colors with gradating patterns and effects. It can serve as a wallcovering, space divider, screen, curtain, focal point, and more.



Tuuci: Ocean Master MAX Nautical Teak Parasol
tuuci.com

Tuuci developed this sturdy, handsome umbrella with a proprietary gear system that enables the mast to telescope, a marine-grade aluminum super-structure clad in teak, and reinforcements to battle high winds.



InteriorArts: Bisect Laminate
laminates.com

One of 20 designs in the Fresh Data collection's 2020 launches, Bisect features a diagonal crosshatch-reminiscent pattern with subtle metallic undertones. The 0.31-inch-thick laminates are offered in three deep neutral colorways.



Holly Hunt: Sonoran Outdoor Collection
hollyhunt.com

Inspired by the Sonoran Desert, the eponymous collection presents intricate layered and airy designs. The handwoven series comprises 15 pieces, including lounge chairs, dining tables, and a modular sectional.



Stylmark: Axia Flexible Surface
stylmark.com

Created to enhance surfaces and walls, this decorative extruded-aluminum panel (shown here on the registration desk fronts) comes in five designs ranging from sinuous to stepped. Each unit measures 4-inches-by-144-inches.



Sancal: Click Sofa
sancal.com

Introducing luxury in a flat-pack sofa, Click boasts an easy-to-use attachment system that was inspired by adjustable automotive interiors. The lounge series is modular and can be outfitted with power sockets.



Santa & Cole: Cestita Alubat Lamp
santacole.com

The latest addition to the Cesta family of capsule-shaped luminaires, this outdoor lamp has an aluminum frame—which forms a handle at the top for easy toting—a sealed plastic diffuser, and a rechargeable lithium battery.

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Clean Bill of Health

Designed for the next generation of healthcare spaces, bringing comfort and style, and enhancing well-being, the latest solutions are durable, cleanable, and on a mission to beautify medical facilities.



Art Addiction: Stand By Me Acrylic Panels
artaddictioninc.com

Art Addiction recently launched imagery-embazoned barriers made of either clear or white acrylic panels, secured by simple stands and hook-and-loop strips. More than 25,000 visuals are available.



Armstrong Flooring: MedinPure with Diamond 10 Technology
armstrongflooring.com

MedinPure boasts a PVC-free formulation that's also free of Red List Chemicals of Concern. Coated with Armstrong's proprietary Diamond 10 Technology, it provides resistance to scratches, stains, and slippage.



AVA: 2DSGN Alpine and Tuscany LVT
avaflor.com

Alpine and Tuscany are but two phthalate-free vinyl collections that simulate wood grain through printing and embossing. The product comes in 6-by-48-inch glue-down planks and a choice of 22 colors, including timber finishes.



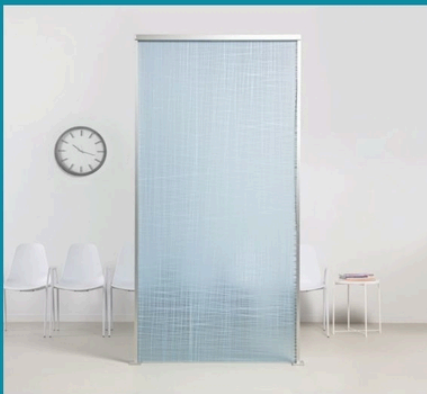
CF Stinson: Patty Madden Software Fabrics
cfstinson.com

The Software collection's four newest patterns recall social media and internet imagery. Hashtag, for example, sports a crosshatch resembling the widely used symbol. The coated fabrics are stain resistant and bleach cleanable.



Kwalu: Modena Lounge Seating Collection
kwalu.com

Featuring subtle faceted edges on simulated-wood frames, Modena is offered in lounge, love seat, and sofa versions. It features a clean-out cavity behind the seat cushion and frames in a choice of 18 finishes.



3form: Curated Varia Resin Palette
3-form.com

Varia resin, offered in 4-by-8- and 4-by-10-foot panels, can be used in healthcare settings for privacy partitions, signage and wayfinding, and decorative elements. The collection includes 43 patterns and 14 colors.



Kravet Contract: New Privacy Curtains
kravet.com

This collection comprises five sophisticated patterns rendered in soothing hues and subtle ombre effects. The easily washable privacy curtains meet NFPA 701—the stringent textile fire-retardancy standard.



Atlas Masland: The Living Series Carpet
atlasmasland.com

This series features two collections—Blossoming and Achievements—that bring modernity, added comfort, and cleanability to senior-living environments. Together, they encompass 16 coordinating patterns in 13 colorways.

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You and your client will be honored at the 42nd Annual Interiors Awards Breakfast in New York January 2021. Your project will also be published in the January 2021 issue of Contract magazine.

Categories

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Public/Civic
Restaurant
Retail
Showroom/Exhibit
Small Office (Up To 25,000 Sf)
Spa/Fitness
Sports/Entertainment
Student

Innovative Materials

Fabrics, panels, and flooring bring texture and color to commercial interiors. Performance and durability are key, as materials withstand high traffic and meet strict cleaning requirements. Designers continue to look to nature for inspiration, with styles that echo icebergs or wood grain to decorate surfaces.



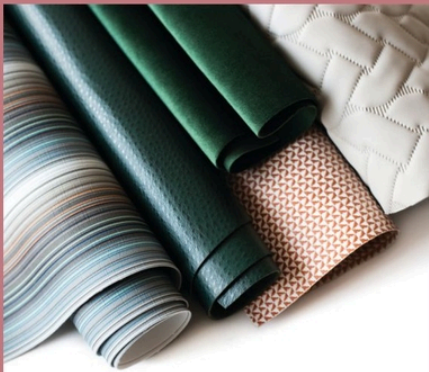
Mannington Commercial: Amtico Signature Collection
manningtoncommercial.com

This collection of LVT flooring now has an extended range of contemporary wood, stone, and abstract styles. Specifiers can choose from tile or plank options, and custom design services are available.



Milliken: Social Factor Flooring
floors.milliken.com

Milliken introduces this modular tile flooring, an ideal zoning solution as we continue to follow distancing guidelines. These tufted, textured loop modular tiles can be used for wayfinding or to section off areas.



Concertex: Warp Collection
concertex.com

This collection showcases the beauty of performance fabrics. The Tekloom materials in the line feature a technology that chemically bonds a woven product with the durable components of a coated fabric.



Arktura: SoftScreen Acoustic Panels
arktura.com

Made from Arktura's signature Soft Sound acoustic material, these screens were developed to bring modular space division to environments. They can be directly wall-mounted, suspended, or used as operable dividers.



Innovations: Glider Wallcovering
innovationsusa.com

This mural wallcovering features the application of rich coloration on unique material. It combines the durability of a Type II vinyl with the texture of a fabric, bringing an artistic touch to offices and lobbies.



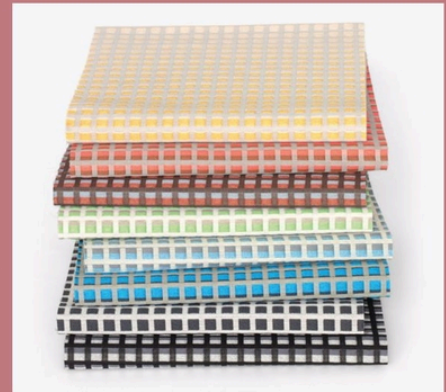
Luna Textiles: Metro Fabric
lunatextiles.com

Inspired by New York subway tiles, Metro features a durable woven structure that can withstand high traffic. Engineered for both panel and upholstery applications, Metro is bleach cleanable and offered in 25 colors.



LightArt: Coil Collection
lightart.com

These light fixtures are made from upcycled waste, with a matte finish that has the look and feel of handcrafted pottery. The monochrome black and white palette complements a range of workplace interiors.

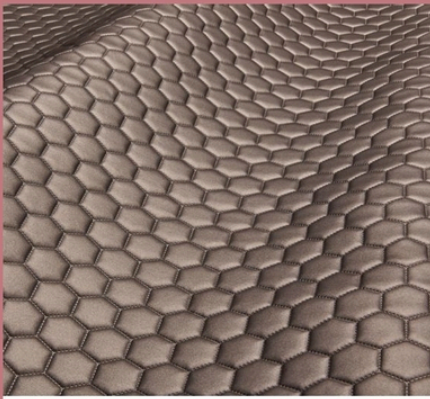


Maharam: Shift Upholstery Fabric
maharam.com

Designed by Scholten & Baijings, this upholstery fabric was developed using hand-cut paper models to experiment with the impact of layered color. The dimensional matelassé construction has enhanced tactility and depth.

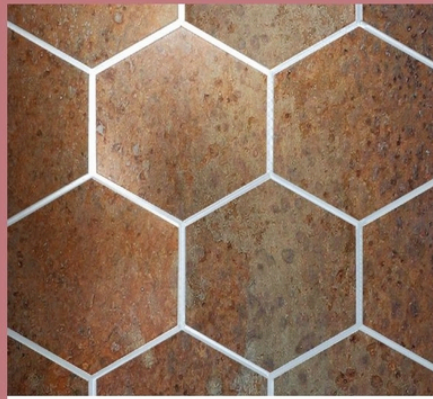
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Mayer Fabrics: Molecule Fabric
mayerfabrics.com

This polyurethane coated fabric features a hexagon motif in a quilted construction, suitable for a wide range of seating styles in commercial environments. Colors are metallic, with a beautiful matte finish.



Móz Designs: Engravings Collection
mozdesigns.com

This collection of three-dimensional decorative metal includes six new patterns designed to enhance surfaces. Crafted of durable and textured aluminum, these panels can be added to walls, columns, and partitions.



Pallas Textiles: Pinch Pleat Fabric
pallastextiles.com

From the new Backstitch collection, this textile is a modern interpretation of the tightly stitched pleats at the top of decorative curtains. The dimensionality of the folds is captured with a woven matelassé construction.



Panolam Surface Systems: Yesteryears Collection
panolam.com

This collection of 20 laminates includes woodgrains, abstracts, and solids. Several of the retro designs are based on those found on a chain set of Nevamar samples from the 1950s.



Crossville: Swatches Wall Tile
crossvilleinc.com

This line consists of 16 hues grouped into three color sets. Specifiers can choose from five calibrated field tile options, and between a satin or gloss finish for 10 of the 16 colors.



Sherwin-Williams: Emerald Design Edition Interior Latex
sherwin-williams.com

This latex paint boasts a smooth, uniform finish designed to bring a sophisticated look to interiors. Users can choose from a selection of 200 hues, available in flat, satin, and gloss finishes.



Trove: Swoon Wallcovering
troveline.com

From the Brilliant collection, designed specifically for the contract market, Trove presents the Swoon wallcovering. It depicts how wind curves curves and textures within a landscape. It is available in four colorways.



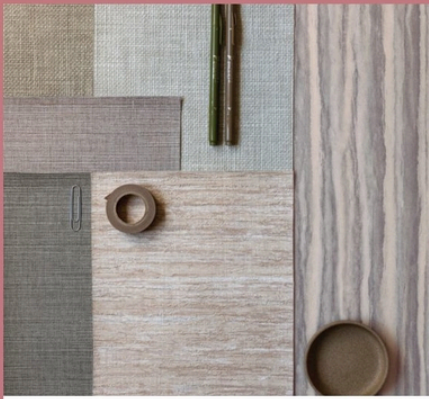
EF Contract: Spectral Drift Carpet Plank
efcontractflooring.com

This modular carpet plank mimics the look of fractured light on surfaces, and how it breaks into individual colors and changes over time. Made from Encore SD Ultima, and available in 16 colorways.



Walker Zanger: Harper Tile Collection
walkerzanger.com

Made in Spain, these ceramic tiles are crafted of white body dry press bisque and finished with a rich gloss glaze. They can be stacked in a variety of pattern and color combinations.



Wolf-Gordon: CLAIR Wallcovering
wolfgordon.com

Wolf-Gordon introduces CLAIR, a PVC-free commercial grade wallcovering. Made with a proprietary olefin composite technology, this durable material is impact- and scratch-resistant.



B+N Industries: Iconic Panels
bnind.com

These carved relief panels are available in more than 50 patterns, or they can be customized with unique designs. They exceed rigorous cleaning standards, so they are ideal in healthcare facilities, offices, or hospitality settings.



Brentano: Dorado Fabric
brentanofabrics.com

From the Traveler collection, this fabric has metallic hues that are emphasized by textural light-to-dark gradients. With a superior durability of 100,000 double rubs, it is ideal for high-traffic environments.



ASI: Concrete Contract Wallcoverings
archsystems.com

This flexible finishing material can be applied on straight or curved feature walls. Available in two sizes and four colors, from gray to black tones, to give surfaces an industrial look.



Formica: SurfaceSet Collection
formica.com

The lines between humanity and technology are blurring, yet nature remains a grounding factor. This idea served as the inspiration for this new collection of 30 wood grain, solid, and patterned laminates from Formica.



Valley Forge Fabrics: Scratched Storm Collection
valleyforge.com

This new collection of upholstery fabrics features cracked and scratched effects. The materials are noted for their smaller, more delicate weave, which provides a softer hand that is perfect for chairs or decorative pillows.



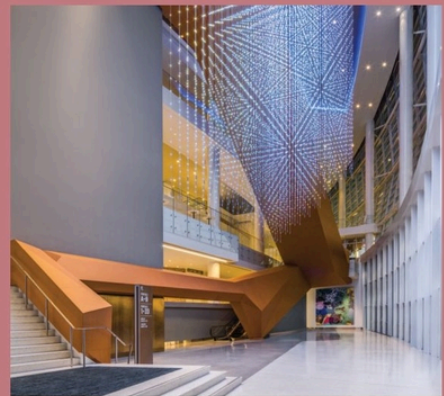
Karndean Designflooring: Lutum Flooring
karndean.com

From the Opus line of LVT flooring, the Lutum style is based on a batch of limestone found at an English quarry. It features darker charcoal tones that allow the pearlescent veining to show through.



Stone Forest: Elemental Collection
stoneforest.com

Metal, stone, and wood are celebrated in this modular collection that allows users to pair sinks, drawers, and shelving in unlimited combinations. Legs are available in polished nickel, matte black, and custom or aged brass.



Pure+FreeForm: Mission Grain Aluminum
purefreeform.com

This single-skin aluminum is finished with organic inks and natural resins. It mimics the look and feel of wood grain, giving the metal, which is traditionally smooth, a warm, tactile quality that enlivens surfaces.

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INNOVATION

the COVID shield

CannonDesign unveils a new testing solution to combat COVID-19

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF CANNONDESIGN



The COVID Shield, CannonDesign's solution for virus testing, can be assembled as a single unit or connected to others to form a modular pavilion of testing stations. Each unit allows individuals to be tested without direct contact with healthcare staff.



Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, virus testing is now a part of our everyday lives—and will be for the foreseeable future. CannonDesign has made it its mission to design new solutions that can help make testing more accessible, reduce stigma, and ultimately keep people safer and healthier.

The firm recently unveiled its COVID Shield—a modular, scalable, customizable testing solution that can be placed on college campuses, outside workplaces, in community areas, and numerous other settings.

The COVID Shield can be assembled as a single unit or connected to others to form a modular pavilion of testing stations. Its flexibility allows it to adapt to fast-changing testing protocols and a variety of site footprints. Additionally, the units allow individuals to be tested without direct contact with healthcare staff; can be easily assembled by two people; and

feature an add-on wheels option that allows for greater flexibility for drive-through testing models and testing sites where full mobility is required.

The shield is also designed to display printed art and advertising to enliven a space and offer economic benefits. Made up of polycarbonate sheets, its panels are durable and can withstand years of cleaning cycles, allowing organizations to customize messaging for staff, students, or community populations.

Created by a team of design, health, and engineering leaders at CannonDesign, the COVID Shield is being licensed to organizations to provide them with a fast, flexible solution for local, pop-up testing. —MEGHAN DWYER

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