Highlights of the year’s great products
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Photographed at the Postcard Inn, St. Pete Beach, FL.
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cover: Decameron showroom in São Paulo, Brazil, designed by Studio MK27.
Photo by Pedro Vannucchi, courtesy IIDA.
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contractdesign.com/nouvelsaloni

AIA Develops Case Studies on 2030 Commitment Program Participating Firms
Five design firms provide insight into the challenges and successes of helping to advance AIA's goal for carbon neutral buildings by 2030
contractdesign.com/2030commitmentcasestudy

The Statue of Liberty Renovated for Improved Access to Crown and Observation Deck
Mills + Schnoering Architects reconfigures the interior pedestal, making the monument wheelchair-accessible
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Natasha Selhi Joins Kitchen & Bath Business
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The NewSchool of Architecture and Design Launches New Global Design Education Initiative
The collaboration between the Media Design School in New Zealand and Domus Academy in Italy will be celebrated with presentations from global design firm IDEO
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Tile of Spain Opens "Passport to Creativity" Competition
U.S.-based architects and designers are invited to enter for the chance to win a trip to Spain and partake in a week of design related events
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DECEMBER 2012
Raising Awareness of the Origins of Product

As designers, you specify a wide range of products, from furnishings to accessories to fabrics. And you’re more ecologically conscious than ever, which means you are more aware of the materials in a given product as well as the origin—where a particular product is produced, and how it is manufactured. That has great implications for both the interiors you design and the thoughtful longevity of projects for your clients. In this issue, we both highlight products we think you should know about across a range of product types, and we examine changes in the product supply chain, particularly in fabrics, and the impact that has on your world.

In an important step related to healthy and safe materials, the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute announced the release of version 3.0 of its Cradle to Cradle CertifiedSM Product Standard certification program at Greenbuild last month. The Institute, co-created by William McDonough, FAIA—1999 Designer of the Year—and Michael Braungart, was initiated to make the standard available worldwide and to inspire innovation based on the Cradle to Cradle principles. More than 100 companies have adopted the methodology and 400-plus certifications have been issued for Cradle to Cradle CertifiedSM products since certification began in 2005. The standard evaluates products in five categories: material health and reutilization, water stewardship, social fairness, and renewable energy and carbon management. Learn more about this at c2ccertified.org.

A shrinking supply chain

Specifically when selecting fabrics, or furnishings covered in fabrics, are you fully aware of where the fabric is made and the significant changes in the textile industry in this country? The supply chain to bring fabrics to market has severely shrunk in the past 15 years—662 textile mills have closed in the U.S. in that time, according to the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)—and that has wide ramifications for the fabric industry.

In her story, “Far Fewer Mills Impact Textile Design and Production” (page 44) Contract contributing editor Murruey Bernard sheds light on the dramatic changes that effect how fabric companies bring product to market. Read the story to learn more and to gain insights from national leaders in the fabric industry, including Dorothy Cosonas, Susan Lyons, Sina Pearson, and Marybeth Shaw.

Nearly 400,000 Americans work in textile and apparel manufacturing overall as of 2012, but that is less than a quarter of the 1.6 million people who worked in apparel and textile factories in 1990. Textile mills in this country are mainly concentrated in the Southeast—232 mills closed in North Carolina alone in the past 15 years—often in smaller rural communities. Mills are a major source of employment and economic livelihood for a town, and primarily employ women and minorities. So when a textile mill is shuttered, the economic ramifications are vast and have a ripple effect throughout the region. Textile companies that thrive do so with fewer workers. According to the Department of Labor, U.S. textile mills boosted their output per hour of work by about 49 percent from 1998 through 2008. That increased productivity is driven by automation through technology as well as basic cost cutting.

With fewer mills, this impact reaches companies that produce the fabrics you specify, like KnollTextiles, for example, which now works with only about 25 different U.S.-based mills, about half of what it could rely on a decade ago, Cosonas says. She and others in the fabric industry that Bernard spoke with feel strongly about continuing to work with U.S.-based mills, though, because the long-standing relationships have developed over time, the workmanship is strong, and those factors overall contribute to the product quality.

I urge you to learn more about the origins of the products you select. That knowledge will only strengthen the design professions in this country. Finally, check out our 2012 Contract Brand Awareness Survey (page 69), in which Contract readers named their favorite manufacturers across 32 categories. Which company inspires readers to design their best interiors? Find out in the annual Brand Report.

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John Czarnecki, Editor in Chief
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The winners of the 2012 Nightingale Awards, which recognize the best products for healthcare environments, were presented at the 2012 HEALTHCARE DESIGN Conference in November. Sponsored by Contract magazine in conjunction with The Center for Health Design and HEALTHCARE DESIGN Conference, the awards were presented at the conference by Contract Editor in Chief John Czarnecki and Rosalyn Cama, chair of the board of The Center for Health Design.

The Best of Competition Award went to Humanscale Healthcare for its ViewPoint V6 Technology Wall Station. The category winners included:

**Technology Support**
- **Gold & Best of Competition** Humanscale Healthcare for ViewPoint V6 Technology Wall Station (1)

**Architectural Products**
- **Gold** Futrus Solutions with DuPont Corian for Futrus Casework System (2)
- **Silver** Amri Studio for Fine Art Crystal Plaque and Mural Signage (3)

**Carpet**
- **Gold** Tandus Flooring for Novo Collection (4)
- **Silver** Patcraft for Cultural Layers Collection (5)

**Fabrics & Textiles**
- **Gold** Pallas Textiles for the Freehand Collection (6)
- **Silver** C F Stinson for the Big Sur Collection—Sunbrella Contract with Defiance (7)

**Flooring: Hard Surface**
- **Gold** Nora Systems for noraplan sentica (8)
- **Silver** Armstrong World Industries for Striations Biobased Tile (9)

continued on page 16
MAKE A VIBRANT DISCOVERY
Experiments with color extracted from rust, logwood and onion skins yield a palette of raw sophistication. Naturally dyed weavings of exquisite fiber inform the patterns.

DESIGN IS PROCESS
2012 Nightingale Awards
continued from page 14

The winners were selected through a jury process just prior to the conference's opening. A group of healthcare architects, interior designers, and facilities managers visited the participating exhibitors and rated entries on functionality, quality and durability, aesthetics, pricing, innovation, and contributions to the healing environment. The 2012 judges were Michelle Acosta, HDR Architecture; Donald Cremers, HOK; Cindy Flinchum, University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics; Courtney Johnson, Perkins+Will; Janet Kobylka, Health Design Source; Marie Lukaszewski, Interior Design Solutions; Karen Muraoka, Karen Muraoka Interior Design; and Marjorie Sobylak, New York–Presbyterian.

Seating: Guest
Gold Nurture by Steelcase for Regard (10)
Silver Nemschoff for Valor (11)

Window Shading & Treatments
Gold Vistamat for Vista–Slide (12)
Silver MechoSystems for EasyLift (13)
From left to right: Pint Urinal with EcoPower® Flush Valve, Gooseneck Wall-Mount EcoPower Faucet, Clean Dry™ Concealed Hand Dryer, and Wall-Mount High-Efficiency Toilet with EcoPower Flush Valve

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January 9–12
Messe Frankfurt
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heimtextil.messefrankfurt.com

imm Cologne
January 14–20
Colognemesse Fairgrounds
Cologne, Germany
imm-cologne.com

Maison et Objet
January 18–22
Paris Nord Villepinte
Paris
maison-objet.com

The 34th Annual Interiors Awards Breakfast
January 25
Cipriani
New York
textcontracts.com/awardsbreakfast

FEBRUARY 2013

Cevisama
February 5–8
Feria Valencia
Valencia, Spain
cavisama.feriavalencia.com

BUILDEX Vancouver
February 13–14
Vancouver Convention Centre West
Vancouver, Canada
buildexvancouver.com

MARCH 2013

ecobuild 2013
March 5–7
ExCel
London
textcontracts.com/awardsbreakfast

cobuild.co.uk

APRIL 2013

Salone Internazionale del Mobile
April 9–14
Milan Fairgrounds
Milan, Italy
cosmit.it

Globalshop 2013
April 16–18
McCormick Place
Chicago
globalshop.org

KBIS
April 19–21
New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
New Orleans
kbis.com

Coverings
April 29–May 2
Georgia World Congress Center
Atlanta
textcontracts.com/storefinder

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**Rex-Ray Analysis**

B+N Industries translates the cool, multifaceted aesthetic of artist Rex Ray for walls and furniture.

Crisp silhouettes, bold palettes, and decoupage-like layers define the artwork of Rex Ray (4), whether it's a gallery piece on canvas or an album cover for David Bowie. His creations lie somewhere between handmade craft and digital graphic design, and impart a retro-modern aesthetic à la Alexander Girard that speaks to architecture and design, but also the masses. It's only natural that B+N Industries, a wall panel and display manufacturer, would tap him for its first artist collaboration.

"We're lucky we make product lines that Rex Ray's medium melds perfectly with," says Kevin McPhee, creative director at B+N. "We have great respect for designs that stand the test of time, such as modernism, so his art dovetails wonderfully into our own design vision."

Ray's art was customized for the manufacturer's Iconic Panels and Infused Veneer lines, as well as a furniture collection. Iconic Panels (1) depict the artist's signature shapely compositions in carved wood reliefs finished with formed laminate. Meanwhile, the Infused Veneers, measuring 48 by 96 inches, sport groovy Ellipses and Waves (2), stick-and-stone-like Type and Ovals (3), and bridge-evoking Arches and Bumps (not shown). Logically, B+N incorporated the veneers into furniture, resulting in a plinth table, nesting tables, credenzas, cubes, and a bench. The furniture and veneers capture the essence of the artist's collages that blur the boundaries between computer-generated and handcrafted, fine art and graphic design, and flat and dimensional.

"Initially, collage work was a personal exercise in reductive thinking to clear my mind, so I began cutting up magazines and gluing pieces on paper for hours every day," Ray says of his distinct style. "It was only later that I realized I'd carried all the aesthetics and principles of computer graphic design with me: hard edges, flatness, layering, and bright solid colors." —SHIsla Kim

bnind.com
Reader Service No. 210
Anything is possible with a new state of mind.
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Select No. 66 at ContractDesign.com/readerservice
Interior designer Christine Hart of VOA selects recent products that coincide with the changing face of the workplace

1. IdeaPaint: Clear IdeaPaint

ideapaint.com
Reader Service No. 260

"I love the simplicity of an idea that offers such a wide range of opportunities for useful, writable space. No longer are we limited by a few neutral writable surface options—every color of the rainbow can be that backdrop."

2. Buzzispace: BuzziSwitch

buzzispace.com
Reader Service No. 261

"Clients frequently request multipurpose, flexible working environments, and these mobile and multiuse pieces offer that versatility without compromising style. I would use these for teaming and lounge spaces."

3. Allsteel: Beyond Architectural Walls

allsteelooffice.com
Reader Service No. 262

"Beyond gives you those crisp glass corners and acoustical privacy while still allowing light transfer and creating an open space. Even in more traditional offices, we are seeing fewer solid partitions and more transparency between spaces."

4. Armstrong: WoodWorks Linear

armstrong.com
Reader Service No. 263

"It is a beautiful wooden ceiling without the extensive cost, engineering, and lead time associated with millwork ceilings. It can even be used in areas that would not have been previously considered because of economic challenges. WoodWorks opens up new possibilities."

5. 3M: FLEX

3marchitecturalmarkets.com/lighting
Reader Service No. 264

"This is not your standard horizontal lighting. Flex runs continuously both vertically and horizontally, offering graphic style and alternatives to typical office lighting. It's best used in an open area where a large run with multiple twists and turns can be accommodated for enhanced visual interest."

6. Coalesse: Hosu

coaless.com
Reader Service No. 265

"Now more than ever, my clients are looking for creative, alternative work styles to engage their teams and encourage inspired thinking. Hosu offers more than a conventional lounge piece would, with a fold-out chaise, cord pass-through, and storage. It can easily be a mini office or comfortable teaming area."
Teramo Collection

Classic Look. Modular Function.

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Ottoman
Armless Chair
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An expert in healthcare design, Christine Vandover names her favorite recent introductions to the healthcare market

1. Carnegie: Xorel Printed Wallcovering
carnegiefabrics.com
Reader Service No. 266
“Xorel is excellent for healthcare with its cleanability, and with the development of printed Xorel, it can be brought into areas where you need pattern with a beautiful woven look such as a consultation room.”

2. Carolina: Silvr Ion
carolinabusinessfurniture.com
Reader Service No. 267
“Hospitals are requiring durable metal legs on patient chairs with ease of cleanability, and this chair meets those requirements but also features silver ion technology. This antimicrobial finish sets it apart from others in the market.”

3. Takeform: Purify Sanitizer Station
takeform.net
Reader Service No. 268
“Hand sanitizers are sometimes difficult to work into designs, and are often overlooked. I hate to see the sanitizers sitting haphazardly at a reception desk; it really affects your first impression, and looks cluttered. This is a simple accessory that could be set in a niche in a desk or wall to keep the design intact and the space neat and tidy.”

4. JANUS et Cie: Serenna Low Back
janusetcie.com
Reader Service No. 269
“For labor and delivery rooms, public areas for family members, and staff lounges, we usually search for a good rocking chair that doesn’t look institutional, since rocking motion can reduce anxiety and create a sense of calm. With its cleanable polypropylene webbing and low-back design, this one really meets those points.”

5. Hightower: Xhibit Magazine Rack
hightoweraccess.com
Reader Service No. 270
“Magazine storage needs to be considered for staff lounges, waiting areas, even exam rooms. Piled up on top of tables, they can really look unkempt, which affects a patient’s perception of cleanliness. Hightower has really great displays that meet functional and durability requirements, but have a lighter, modern look.”

6. Humanscale: Pony Saddle Stool
humanscale.com
Reader Service No. 271
“It has a clean and minimal design, and it works well from a safety point of view. Stools without a back have the chance of sliding away from underfoot but, with the shape of this one, staff can straddle it and keep it in place.”
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Rockwell Group’s Shawn Sullivan handpicks 2012 finds fit for hospitality settings

1. BCM&T Co.: Joshua Vogel Wooden Vessels
blackcreekmt.com
Reader Service No. 272

“Each piece is handmade, unique, poetic, and a one-of-a-kind sculpture. In a world of machine-made products, those who create timeless pieces in the old ways should be celebrated. The vessels would be great on a natural stone countertop anywhere.”

2. Azadeh Shladovsky: Torre Stool
azadehshladovsky.com
Reader Service No. 273

“The contrast of the open wood grain top against the high-polished black finish with inlays has a very contemporary feel. The attention to detail is truly incredible. Put these stools next to any side table and people are sure to notice them.”

3. Lina Nordqvist Design: Family Chairs
linanordqvist.com
Reader Service No. 274

“These represent a contemporary twist on a classic Windsor back chair. It might be interesting to pair these chairs with some marble tables for an urban cafe bar.”

4. Collected by Jason Koharik: Lamps
collectedby.com
Reader Service No. 275

“The simplicity of these lamps is great. The two-tone metal finish—bright brass on the inside against a dark exterior patina—really makes the interior pop. They would create unique accents on a hotel reception desk.”

5. Henrybuilt Furniture: Split Seat Chair
henrybuiltfurniture.com
Reader Service No. 276

“The unique contours of the seat and back, along with its simple details and style, make this solid wooden chair a favorite. Like a Donald Judd sculpture, these minimalist chairs become striking pieces in large quantity. They would be great as the main chair in a cafe.”

6. Lindsey Adelman: Clamp Light
lindseyadelman.com
Reader Service No. 277

“These hand-blown glass fixtures have an industrial vibe to them. With more New York restaurants requesting a more casual setting, it would be great to feature a single piece over a communal table or several covering the entire ceiling of a restaurant.”
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Education planner Carrie Perrone shares insight into the year's best products for learning environments

1. Allsteel: Gather Collection
   allsteeloffice.com
   Reader Service No. 278

   "The collection meets current trends in active learning environments with its flexible family of products. We look forward to seeing View, All Around, Scooch, and Hedge installed in the Learning Center at Central Arizona College, Maricopa Campus."

2. 3form: Exteriors
   3-form.com
   Reader Service No. 279

   "3form brings ease to the design process with its Ready To Go solutions. The integration of color, visual texture, and light allowed us to specify product in multiple configurations for wayfinding and entry identification on a recent project."

3. Momentum Textiles: Silica
   themomgroup.com
   Reader Service No. 280

   "We just installed three shades of this high-performing upholstery for lounge units at Gateway Community College's student services area. It's PVC-free, perfect for public use, and a durable alternative to vinyl and polyurethane."

4. Finelite: ICLS
   finelite.com
   Reader Service No. 281

   "ICLS (Integrated Classroom Lighting System) is zoned and stepped lighting made easy and functional for classrooms."

5. Steelcase: Verb
   steelcase.com
   Reader Service No. 282

   "Verb results from Steelcase's extensive research and understanding of educational needs. This accessorized table meets a variety of learning and teaching styles allowing for multiple classroom configurations. It offers a clever integration of tools that facilitate the interaction of students and engagement of instructors."

6. Knoll: Toboggan
   knoll.com
   Reader Service No. 283

   "We think a slogan for the versatile Toboggan chair could be 'surprising comfort meets surprising function.' This simple and playful form has the potential to be the reformed version of the standard and very utilitarian classroom tablet armchair."
Bringing the height of luxury to commercial carpeting, the Illumine Collection is a series of rich textures that radiantly appear to be lit-from-within. This timeless grouping incorporates lustrous fibers, subtle textural nuances, high ounce weights, and varying loop and tip shear constructions to create patterns that are subtle yet intriguing, lush and luminous.
Editors’ Choice: Highlights of the year’s great products

For this year-end issue, the editors of Contract reviewed several categories’ worth of industry products launched in 2012 to present this special, expanded resource guide to more of our favorite items. These eye-catching and innovative materials, fixtures, and furnishings stand out as highlights of the year.

furniture

A versatile desking system, Manifest from Agati Furniture responds to the need for open and collaborative workstations with light-scale components. The collection consists of mobile tables in straight, pod, or zig-zag shapes for creative configuration, and optional accessories include pedestals, as well as dividers in wood, laminate, or 3form panels.

agati.com
Reader Service No. 215

The Maya Desk looks like it came straight out of a Danish modern archive, but it’s really a new piece by British design firm Dare Studio. Its frame is made of solid black walnut, white oak, or ash, and its top is finished in a choice of timber or Corian. Hidden storage areas and a central drawer are integrated into the frame to offer practicality without ornament or bulk.

darestudio.co.uk
Reader Service No. 216
Winner of a 2012 Nightingale Award, the Regard System from Nurture by Steelcase is a collection of coordinating modular seating, casegoods, tables, power outlets, and space division components that allow patients and their guests to choose their level of privacy within the waiting area, from open seating to booths and computer zones.

nurture.com
Reader Service No. 217

Though not new to the European market, the Contrast Collection of furniture by Spanish interior design studio Ubica-id is relatively unknown to the U.S. audience. The line consists of seven pure geometric volumes such as the cubic Aline occasional table. All of the pieces combine warm wood grain with smooth, cool lacquer in turquoise, white, yellow, black, and shades of gray.

ubica-id.com
Reader Service No. 220

Geared toward office and higher education markets, the Tonic bench system from Watson is a freestanding series that offers flexibility and easy transitions between individual and group work for the mobile and digitally empowered workforce. Designed in collaboration with Mike & Maaike, the line features a central deck that holds screens, storage, LED table lamps, and a support module for video conferencing.

watsongurniture.com
Reader Service No. 218

A cross between Isamu Noguchi's organic forms and an Alexander Calder sculpture, the Macao Desk, designed by Francois Champaloup for Pouenat, flaunts lush curves and a glossy red varnish. As a final luxurious touch, Macao's tabletop is covered in red leather.

pouenat.fr
Reader Service No. 219
Quilted all over, **Gentry Sofa** hints at the cushy comfort one will experience sitting on it. Designed by Patricia Urquiola for Moroso, it features polyurethane foam over a steel frame, with goose-feather stuffed cushions. Non-quilted leather and fabric versions are also available.

moroso.it
Reader Service No. 221

Toronto duo Deborah Moss and Edward Lam (of studio Moss & Lam) apply a whimsical design sensibility to **Mr. Owl and Night Owl** for Avenue Road. Composed of smooth cement-based hydrostone, the owls are finished with flattops for use as level table surfaces, and are available in white or black. The side tables are also suitable for outdoor use.

avenue-road.com
Reader Service No. 222

Egyptian manufacturer Mobica launched its new work solutions brand Mobica+ at Orgatec this year, and to make a splash at the debut, the company exhibited furniture lines that were developed with designer Martin Ballendat. One such product is **Nomado**, a mobile desk that provides work surface, shelving, task lighting, and power outlets, but takes up 75 percent less space than the standard workstation and doubles as a space divider when not in use.

mobicaplus.de
Reader Service No. 223
Vim & Vigor has designed aesthetically appealing, cutting-edge consumer products such as the Barnes & Noble NOOK tablet and a revolutionary snowboard lock with digital display. Now they turn their attention to furnishings that also require technical know-how and skill to create. Enter SF Lamps. Vim & Vigor's spun, die-cut, and folded metal pendants, possessing a futuristic feel, the fixtures look different from various angles.

Though not immediately obvious, Doll table lamps from Foscarini are informed by traditional Japanese kokeshi dolls whose stylized shape consists of a round head and simple body. At the same time, designer Ilona Vautrin drew on camping lanterns and their portability. Thus, Doll was born with a plastic body compact enough to carry from room to room, and a bluglass and plastic head that produces a warm glow.

Steel wire loops outline the base of Blu Dot's floor lamp—appropriately named—Perimeter. Powdercoated in blue, yellow, or white, the piece is topped with a gray-fabric lampshade and fitted with a socket for incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs. Perimeter measures 18 inches in diameter and stands 67½ inches high.
Several years in the making, Benjamin Moore's Chalkboard Paint product can now be tinted in colors other than the nostalgic black and green of old schoolroom slate. This development in customization gives architects and designers a broader range of surfaces that they can apply the paint to, turning virtually any surface—from objects and furniture to walls—into a writable chalkboard.

benjamnmoore.com
Reader Service No. 231

Eco interior designer Kelly LaPlante of HGTV fame has collaborated with Fireclay Tile for the manufacturer's first-ever designer series. This inaugural line, the Runway Collection, includes four patterns that are based on fashion motifs. Cravat (shown), for instance, is a bold interpretation of classic houndstooth with blue or red accent colors. All four styles are offered in either stoneware clay or a 60-percent recycled material blend.

fireclaytile.com
Reader Service No. 229

While a selection of wood covers for radiators are available on the market, Jaga Climate Systems goes the distance by producing the first wooden radiator. Knockonwood radiators boast top-quality veneers and minimalist grilles that help them blend into well-appointed environments. Eight finish choices are offered, ranging from exotic zebrano to traditional oak.

jaga-usa.com
Reader Service No. 230
Centro, an architectural glass from Joel Berman Glass Studios, is a bold, fragmented pattern that depicts spotlight illumination for a stage, and the intensity of being in the limelight. The glass is manufactured using a permanent ceramic frit printing technology, and is suitable for applications ranging from privacy screens and walls to sliding doors.

Architectural Systems looks to Expressionist, Abstract, and Futurist art genres as inspiration for the three patterns offered in its InterMix panel collection. Combining colored laminate with wood veneer inlay, the patterns include overlapping rings, gently waving lines, and pill shapes that evoke computer circuitry. All are fully recyclable.

Metallica, a wall tile collection from Surfaces, is created by combining glass with aluminum. Two styles are offered: a linear pattern with staggered stripe and a square grid that also incorporates stone mosaics. The linear tile sheet measures approximately 12 by 13 inches, while the square version comes in a 12-inch-square sheet.
Following the success of its digitally printed wallcoverings, Vescom revisits the technology for upholstery textile application. Its Java+print technology can reproduce photography, graphics, and branding on contract-grade and lightfast upholstery fabric. vescom.com
Reader Service No. 238

The vibrant District by KnollTextiles resembles paintbrush daubs and short strokes in color against a neutral ground. The twist is the movement the pattern evokes with its ombre effect and subtle metallic accents. The polyester-nylon fabric is suitable for drapery.
knolltextiles.com
Reader Service No. 235

The latest introductions from Knoll Luxe include two upholstery fabrics and drapery. The latter, Aranya, is a soft linen, cotton, and rayon blend sporting large, embroidered leaves. Meanwhile, upholstery fabric Abington features a lattice-like pattern with tricolor warp. Zimba, the second upholstery, is a houndstooth inspired by an archival pattern.
knoll.com
Reader Service No. 236

Edelman Leather's soft and plush lines are just in time to combat the winter chill. The company has introduced its aniline-dyed Supersoft calfskin in San Francisco-inspired hues for the West Coast Color collection, as well as new complementary sheathing product Kashmir.
edelmanleather.com
Reader Service No. 237
Originally designed by Alexander Girard for Herman Miller in 1964, Palio still resonates today with its graphic motifs and vibrant colors. As a continuation of its Textiles of the 20th Century series, Maharam has reissued the design in a nylon and cotton blend. Four colorways are available.

Spinneybeck doesn’t let anything go to waste by collecting its own production scraps and trimmings and using a rubber adhesive to reconstitute them into Novus, a recycled leather ideal for vertical surfaces and tabletop inlays. The product is available in a variety of textures, including this exclusive flower pattern by Genevieve Bennett.

DwellStudio has collaborated with Robert Allen to produce the Modern Color Theory series, which takes cues both from abstract art and early modernism. A standout within the collection, Zebra Geo puts a graphic twist on zebra-stripe animal prints and adds a layer of sophistication with its jacquard construction. It is available in three colorways: Currant, Copper, and Ink.

Connect with the world of tile + stone design at Coverings, the ultimate design resource attended by more than 20,000 tile + stone professionals and 900+ of the finest suppliers from around the globe. View magnificent vignettes to inspire your next project, seek technical advice to ensure proper specifications, and attend nearly 70 FREE educational sessions qualifying for valuable certification credits. Coverings is an AIA/CES Provider, an NKBA CEU Provider Partner and your absolute connection to free education and CEUs.

Connect with the most inspirational tile + stone design event of your year.
The geometric patterning of Checkers evokes Cubist art, but this wallpaper from Graham & Brown's Superfresco Easy line boasts three-dimensionality and a fashionable hot-pink hue. Checkers is also available in subdued tones such as putty, black, white, and cream. superfrescoeasy.com
Reader Service No. 242

The scientifically minded designer might deduce that Chroma, a new pattern from Trove, is actually depicting a strand of DNA. And like DNA, Chroma is more complex than the naked eye can detect. Each blurred color in the pattern is a photograph that has been distorted until it's lost its detail, metaphorically and visually speaking of life's moments. troveline.com
Reader Service No. 243

Designer Carla Weisberg drew on the art-making processes of block printing, collage, and pen and ink when creating the Techniques Collection for DesignTex. Weisberg reworked her original drawings using both old techniques and newer technology, resulting in modern patterns with a hand-drawn quality. The coverings are 100 percent clean vinyl. designtex.com
Reader Service No. 244
With high-design bath fixtures that blend into their settings, TOTO continues to raise the bar. This fall it launched the Washlet G500 toilet, which offers sophistication and ultimate creature comforts: sensor-activated open, close, and flush functions, built-in warm water cleansing and air drying, and SanaGloss nanotechnology glaze that reduces the need to clean.

totouusa.com
Reader Service No. 246

Swiss company Laufen struck gold with the Polomba ceramic bath collection in 2005. Its designers, Ludovica + Roberto Palomba, have returned this year to build on the elegant, sculptural line. Additions include the pillar-like menhir floorstanding washbasin, the 72-inch-long solid surface tub, and organically shaped and asymmetrical washbasins.

laufen.com
Reader Service No. 245

Quick Drain has added two new sizes to its inventory of ProLine channel drains to cater to standardized lengths. Now offered in 27½ inches and 63 inches, the drains can be fitted with stylish 18-gauge stainless steel strainers perforated with waves, dots, diagonal dashes, hash lines, or horizontal slots.

quickdrainusa.com
Reader Service No. 247

Project: Venti
Photographer: David Azevedo
Location: San Francisco, CA
Architect: AECOM, Los Angeles

www.cascadecoil.com
Using an advanced weaving technology, Bolon has developed a carpet series with a three-dimensional appearance. Called Create, the line includes color shifts and gradations, patterns, and plain grounds that offer architects and designers high customization to achieve looks ranging from patchwork and undulating stripes to grids and geometric circuitry.

bolon.com
Reader Service No. 251

Inspired by gravel on a riverbed, Leedstown from MasonHime features a highly dimensional design that resembles pebbles but with a soft touch. Textured, colored dots form the nubby surface of this 100 percent wool rug, which comes in a 94 3/4-inch or 118 3/4-inch length.

Reader Service No. 247

This NeoCon® Interface launched Urban Retreat, a modular line that explores the juxtapositions of the natural and manmade, such as where a concrete sidewalk meets grass. Very recently at Greenbuild, the company introduced its latest addition to the collection, UR501. Influenced by and speaking to biophilic design, the product features a textural pattern that evokes rough-hewn wood.

interface.com
Reader Service No. 250

Shaw Contract Group expands its successful No Rules collection with four new patterns that, once again, can be installed in any direction for a randomized appearance. Infinite and Vast tiles sport striated designs and are available in eight colorways while Tangle and Tempt possess a light and shadow effect and come in 12 colorways. All are 100 percent solution-dyed Eco Solution Q nylon, which contains 45 percent recycled content.

shawcontractgroup.com
Reader Service No. 248

Japanese stencil drawings of clouds inspired the ornate, free-flowing pattern of Plums from Brintons. Part of the company’s newly launched Fringe collection, the carpet is composed of wool for a luxurious look and a touch of nylon to handle heavy traffic.

brintons.net
Reader Service No. 249
HexBins, Wing Bench, Icon Signage, Ricchio Racks, Info Boards, PepperMint Display Cases, Slalom Modular Partitions.

PETER PEPPER'S PICK OF PERFECT PRODUCTS
for Healthcare, Corporate, Education, and Hospitality environments.
The cheery Phoenix indoor/outdoor stacking side chair from Source Contract is constructed from lightweight injection molded resin, and comes in five quick-ship colors of green, blue, red, white, and orange, though custom colors are also available. It measures 17 inches wide by 18 deep by 31 high and stacks six chairs high. sourcecontract.com Reader Service No. 252

Inspired by his passion for working with wood, Gati founder Mark Singer was compelled to design an outdoor fabric collection that would abstractly depict wooded landscapes. Dubbed the Canopy Collection, it consists of four patterns and is composed of solution-dyed acrylic that is guaranteed to resist fading, peeling, or cracking for up to five years. gati.com Reader Service No. 253

The Boardwalk Bench by Forms+Surfaces is named for its look, as well as its composition of recycled, reclaimed wood removed from Atlantic City's historic boardwalk during a renovation. Following Hurricane Sandy's destruction of parts of the boardwalk, the manufacturer is giving back by donating five percent of proceeds from Boardwalk sales made through April 30, 2013 to the American Red Cross. forms-surfaces.com Reader Service No. 254

Fedro is a line of fun beach chairs by fashion and textile designer Lorenza Bozoli for Dedon. Its legless body invites the user to rock back and forth, and facilitates stackability and portability. Three eye-catching color palettes are offered, and each features a coordinating headrest cushion of quick-drying foam. dedon.de Reader Service No. 255
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MANUFACTURED IN THE USA
Far Fewer Mills Impact Textile Design and Production

The supply chain in the American textile industry severely contracts as demand for product grows

By Murrey Bernard

When specifying a fabric, or a fabric-covered product, do you know where the textile was produced? What is the supply chain for that fabric, and how has it changed in recent years? Despite growing demand for fabric, the number of mills that produce textiles in the United States is far fewer now than at the start of this century. And that has an impact on the product you specify as a designer.

The textile industry in the U.S. was hit hard by the recent recession like many other industries, but the closing of mills and loss of jobs began years before and a domino-like collapse has trickled down the textile supply chain. The chain begins with yarn suppliers and dye houses, and when they close shop, the mills that weave and finish textiles are crippled and often succumb to the same fate as their suppliers.

Since 1997, 662 textile mills have closed in the United States, and 232 of the closures were in North Carolina alone.

Contract textiles are a smaller niche within the larger textile industry, which encompasses apparel and products for the military and the automotive and medical fields. While the apparel industry in the U.S. has particularly suffered since the 1990s—when trade agreements relaxed import limits, allowing more production overseas—a significant amount of contract textile manufacturing still occurs statewide. Most contract textile companies prefer to work with U.S. mills, many of which are family-owned businesses concentrated in the rural Southeast. When a mill closes, and mill workers lose their livelihoods, the impact is devastating to a community.

A look at the numbers
Since 1997, 662 textile mills have closed in the U.S., according to the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO). And while closings occurred during the recession and continued through this year, the majority of closings were years earlier when 124 mills closed in 2001 and 82 shuttered in 2003. North Carolina alone was home to 232 of the 662 mills that have closed since 1997.

Employment numbers in mills also dropped precipitously. According to NCTO, the average annual employment in textile mills dropped from 379,000 in 2000 to 120,000 earlier this year, and the average annual employment in textile product mills fell from 230,000 in 2000 to 117,000 in 2012. Those numbers do not include apparel mills, by the way, which also saw a similar decline in employment from 484,000 in 2000 to 150,000 in 2012.

American textile designers and furniture manufacturers make it a priority to work with U.S.-based mills, but with so many mills shutting down, designers are competing with one another to secure relationships with those that remain. Textile designers and contract jobbers—companies who order large runs of textiles—view their relationships with mills as long-term collaborations. Unlike their counterparts in the fashion industry, who release new collections each season, textile designers hope to have their collections available on the market for decades.

Given the upfront investment—typically a yearlong process from design to development, testing, and production—it can take years to reap rewards. When a mill shuts down, designers are often forced to discontinue products and face a loss in profit. For example, KnollTextiles recently received a call from a mill that it had been working with announcing that the mill was closing in only three days. KnollTextiles Creative Director Dorothy Cosonas had to then scramble to bring that product to market as planned. “We
ended up taking the product to another mill,” Cosonas said. “But it’s never a seamless process as the fabric never looks exactly the same.” While KnollTextiles had worked with 45 to 50 different U.S.-based mills a decade ago, the number has dropped to approximately 25 today.

American mills as innovators
The U.S. mills that have weathered the recession are innovators—both in business model and product—constantly developing new fibers, yarns, and finishes to inspire designers. But these successful mills are inundated—their machinery is thwacking and thrumming to keep pace with orders. “The mills that have remained in the U.S. have become incredibly creative in how they bring new solutions to the market,” observes Susan Lyons, president of DesignTex, a Steelcase company. “While there has been quite a bit of contraction, it’s made everybody who is remaining stronger.”

The largest growth areas in the contract textile industry are hospitality and healthcare, which benefit from the creation of new high-performance textiles that can stand up to harsh cleaners like bleach. “For high-end, quality product, the American mills are doing better and they are running more shifts than one would imagine because of the demand for higher performance fabrics,” says Sina Pearson, founder, Sina Pearson Textiles.

In choosing a mill with which to collaborate, designers first decide the type of fiber they want to use, which might lead them to explore mills within a particular locale. European mills, for example, have honed their craft for centuries in working with natural fibers like wool, while American mills are known for innovating with synthetic fibers. Designers also evaluate a mill’s loom set up and the color palette of yarns offered. Once the designer chooses a mill, he or she works closely with the mill’s in-house design team to bring bright ideas to fruition.

Marybeth Shaw, chief creative officer, design & marketing, at Wolf-Gordon Inc., says that she often chooses which mills to work with based on the talent within their design departments. “We get to know who we need to be
“People are hungry for quality, artisanal products again. And they want to understand where and how they are made, and know that it was done lovingly.”

Susan Lyons, president of Designtex

working with, whether it’s a textile designer or a colorist at a wallcovering mill,” Shaw says.

U.S. mills compete with mills in other countries more regularly than in the past. The U.S. mills quote prices that are competitive with mills overseas, according to several textile designers, and while cost is arguably a big consideration, it’s not always the bottom line. Cosonas, for instance, is a big proponent of continuing to work with U.S.-based mills even if an overseas option is cheaper. “In the end, if the headache [of working with a mill in another country] is greater than the cost, I’d rather pay the difference in cost,” insists Cosonas.

Lower minimums as a benefit
Designers also consider the uniqueness in yarn and consistency in mills’ production, explains Pearson. However, one benefit to working with U.S. mills, she points out, is that they often offer one-piece minimums, whereas minimums are typically much higher when ordering from mills overseas. The lower minimum in this country allows textile designers and distributors to stock less material and lower their overhead while providing a wider selection of products.

The textile industry—requiring large amounts of energy, water, and chemical dyes—is not an inherently sustainable one. Mills must make significant financial investments to create more ecologically friendly work environments and produce greener products. The Association for Contract Textiles has outlined performance guidelines NSF/ANSI 336 for mills, and many have readily chosen to comply. “We are huge supporters of the NSF/ANSI 336 standard and we’d like to see it become a common platform to communicate the level of sustainability or environmental merits of products,” explains Blake Millinor, president of the contract division of Valdese Weavers in North Carolina. Setting a baseline for compliance creates a more level playing field among domestic and imported products, which helps reduce green washing, he believes.

Incentive to select locally made textiles
The continued demand for American-made textiles does have a positive, sustainable impact, though. The demand is partially due to the increased desire for materials originating or produced locally, or within a short distance from mill to end product. Sustainable certification programs such as LEED offer incentives such as locally sourced material credits. “People are hungry for quality, artisanal products again,” Lyons says. “And they want to understand where and how they are made, and know that it was done lovingly.”

The textile industry is rooted in old-world craft. While textiles for commercial interiors are no longer made by hand, supporting textile manufacture at home in the U.S. benefits the economy, saves jobs, and helps to preserve a craft that is woven into the fibers of this country’s history.
"In the end, if the headache [of working with a mill in another country] is greater than the cost, I'd rather pay the difference in cost."

Dorothy Cosonas, creative director, KnollTextiles

“We get to know who we need to be working with, whether it’s a textile designer or a colorist at a wallcovering mill.”

Marybeth Shaw, chief creative officer, design & marketing, Wolf-Gordon Inc.

“For high-end, quality product, the American mills are doing better and they are running more shifts than one would imagine because of the demand for higher performance fabrics.”

Sina Pearson, founder, Sina Pearson Textiles
IIDA Best Interiors of Latin America Award Winners

Contract is pleased to publish the winners of the first annual International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Best Interiors of Latin America Competition. Seven projects were named Best of Category and an additional 13 projects received Honorable Mentions from more than 100 projects from Mexico and Central and South America. The winners were recognized—and a Best of Competition project was named—at an awards event with IIDA board members, IIDA Executive Vice President and CEO Cheryl Durst, Hon. FIIDA, and Contract Editor in Chief John Czarnecki, Assoc. AIA, on December 10 in Miami.

IIDA presented this design competition with Bang & Olufsen, internationally recognized for its exceptional quality and award-winning product designs. The panel of judges were Diego Burdi, creative partner at BURDIFILEK, Toronto; Nestor Santa-Cruz, IIDA, senior associate and design director at Gensler, Washington, D.C.; and Jaime Velez, FIIDA, director of interior design at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in Chicago.

"The outstanding caliber of submissions to the IIDA Latin America competition stands as a testament to the fact that high design is thriving in that region of the world. This year's entries were highly creative, culturally appropriate, and displayed a considerable degree of innovation," says Velez, speaking on behalf of the panel of judges.

"In recent years we've seen an increase in projects embodying originality and design excellence from the Latin American region, which is why we wanted to place a greater focus on those projects through this competition," says Durst. "We know Latin American culture is rich with exceptional design and the projects submitted exemplified the diversity of design vernacular. The competition judges were impressed with the notable degree of innovation, and we look forward to continuing to celebrate the creative talent in this region." —John Czarnecki
Arquitectura e Interiores applied a custom approach to the JWT offices in Bogota, Colombia—from the design process to the finishes. Just past the entry, a large red staircase punches through natural finishes like stone flooring, bamboo walls, and blonde colored pine while providing access to floors above. Public areas are vibrantly accented whereas company work areas feature softer tones of blue and gray. In this way, color is also used as a wayfinding tool to identify space use.

Materials and finishes were selected for their durability. Seating is upholstered in textured leather; walls are lined in brick that will age beautifully over time; carpet tiles trap dirt and can be updated and replaced as needed; and lighting is made from glass for easy maintenance. The floor plan is configured for functionality that maximizes square footage. Open meeting spaces define circulation, while staff programs such as office supply areas, cafe counters, and boardrooms are cozier for more efficiency in the company's daily activities.

The jury selected the project for its innovative use of materials, blend of individual and collaborative spaces, and sophisticated color palettes. “I loved the bold use of materiality and refreshing use of color in this project,” says Burdi. “The stair also acts as a striking focal point.” —EMILY HOOPER
A food photography studio in Brazil reflects the regional architectural style with Japanese influences, born from the synthesis of collaborative brainstorming efforts of the firm's team members. Green space was conceived for the interior esplanade, which segues into studio space via expansive sliding metal doors. Two floors are defined by wooden volumes that extend through both levels and are connected by a concrete skywalk. On the ground floor, the reception area gives way to workspaces for image treatment in one volume, while the other holds storerooms and a technical kitchen where the food is prepared for the photo shoots.

The floor above contains event space with a large, open kitchen offering clear views of food preparation; dishes are served from the chefs' hands to the open butcher block countertops. Clear trajectories provide instant orientation, whether or not the technical spaces are occupied to identify their use. —EMILY HOOPER
The Museum of Memory and Tolerance's architectural program—including an auditorium, educational center, library, administrative offices, and a cafeteria—supports the museum's mission to promote tolerance through retelling true stories of genocide provoked by racial discrimination. The seven-level structure occupies a colonnade along the Plaza Juarez Square in Mexico City. Visitors enter a naturally lit atrium finished in natural materials. Permanent exhibits of Memory and Tolerance are housed in an L-shaped concrete mass. A wooden box houses the auditorium, atop which sits temporary exhibition space that's visible through a transparent enclosure. Granite conceals administrative space and connects to a public library via a glazed ramp overlooking the plaza. Superimposed balconies provide various perspectives of open interior space. The broad selection of finish materials is an intended metaphor for contrasting experiences internally, as well as throughout the adjacent city. —EMILY HOOPER
COMPETITION: IIDA BEST OF LATIN AMERICA

hotels: best of category

Project Fazenda Boa Vista/Hotel Fasano
Where Porto Feliz, Brazil
Designer Isay Weinfeld

Situated in São Paulo's countryside, this Eden of a resort boasts the tranquility of the wooded and lake-punctuated landscape it's surrounded by—and a clean, modernist interior. Every space, including the public zones such as the reception and restaurant, features an intimate, residential ambience thanks to an abundance of warm woods with a palette of natural stone, brick, and stucco, as well as cozy furnishings. The lobby, for instance, sports a wood-beamed ceiling, area rugs, seating and tables in the Midcentury-modern vernacular, low bookcases, floor lamps, and retro fireplaces, all lending a living room feel. "There's a very strong dialogue between architecture and interior design," says Velez.

Floor-to-ceiling windows throughout the property flood the spaces with natural light and views, while the deluxe guest rooms and suites offer private, framed views from box-shaped terraces that are wood-clad on the interior and concrete-surfaced on the exterior. —SHEILA KIM
The single-story V4 House is nestled in a below-grade site, appearing as if it's sunken into the earth when viewed from the street. To maximize natural light indoors, full-height glass is used for some of the exterior walls, including the retractable glass panels on either side of the living room that look out and open onto the front garden and backyard. Retaining walls hold back the earth as well as delineate the property.

Budi comments that there’s a “beautifully choreographed connection between interior and exterior space.” The living room’s deep overhangs prevent heat gain from direct sunlight, but also afford privacy from prying eyes on the street level. The architects wrapped a volume in wooden latticework to contain the bedrooms and other private zones. A deck sits atop the house’s roof, acting as an outdoor living and entertaining spot.

Rounding out the overall design is a selection of classically modern Hans Wegner furniture, mixed in with some contemporary pieces. Santa-Cruz adds, “The placement of furniture is architectural, and the furniture is an integral part of the design. Just gorgeous, intellectual, and curated, and yet very personal.” —SHEILA KIM
restaurants: best of category

Project: Cumaru Restaurant
Where: Santiago, Chile
Designer: Gonzalo Mardones Arquitecto

The establishment’s name actually comes from the large quantity of cumaru timber (a Brazilian teak) that the owners came into possession of and that the architect prominently incorporated into the project. The interior and exterior skins—including most ceilings, floors, and decking—are thus clad in the wood, save for a perforated steel ceiling that helps improve acoustics amid all that wood surfacing. A wood-grid balustrade semi-screens off the upper level dining area from the staircase, and similarly, wood louvers just outside the dining room windows form and screen off a perimeter walkway.

Creating a warm glow within the interiors is ambient lighting that ranges from pendants to ceiling spots that, scattered throughout above the perforated ceiling, resemble a starlit sky. “The wood box is not a new design idea, but the designer’s use of lighting as the key feature is elegantly handled,” says Santa-Cruz. “The use of decorative pendants is carefully edited as to become sculptures in the space and not just decoration.” —Sheila Kim
Studio MK27 found yet another appealing way to incorporate shipping containers in an architectural project. Situated on a rented lot, the Decameron furniture showroom needed to be temporal, and that meant easy and quick construction, as well as cost-efficient. The architects thus conceived a metal hangar-like warehouse through which a volume of shipping containers cuts perpendicularly. A total of six containers were used, stacked to form two long tunnel-like floors of showroom space, and painted in a bright palette of fuchsia, yellow, lime green, sky blue, orange, and lavender. "This project puts a smile on my face," says Burdi. It presents a "very smart solution: clever use of repurposed shipping containers."

Studio MK27 also applied elements of mystery and openness to pique curiosity. The hangar doors, for instance, can be opened partially or fully to reveal a courtyard in the rear and the color spectrum of the containers. When closed, the doors still offer glimpses of color and silhouettes through translucent polycarbonate. Meanwhile, shutter-activated doors of the street-facing containers open fully to expose full-height glass end caps. The simple yet creative approaches also helped earn the project a World Architecture Festival Award. —SHEILA KIM
In western Mexico City, this Mexican food company's offices occupy 16,590 square feet across one floor. Lighting has a prominent role in the design of Corporativo CST's workplace. Private offices, meeting rooms, and common areas receive equal amounts of natural light. To reduce power consumption, lighting fixtures employ LED bulbs, and a conservative energy approach extends to heating and cooling strategies. Soffits are built out at the highest points possible to maintain unobstructed sight lines. Natural finishes in wood and marble, combined with contemporary textiles, produce a calming environment for maximum comfort and workplace efficiency. —EMILY HOOPER
**Corporate Space Small: Honorable Mention**

**Project: BPJM Law Firm**

Where: São Paulo, Brazil

**Designer:** PGM Arquitetos

Form is defined by function for maximum efficiency at the BPJM law firm. The program is divided between two floors: The ground floor is designated for larger operations while the second floor holds a smaller footprint for meeting rooms and administrative areas. Organized in a radial fashion, every meeting space features natural illumination and views of the outdoors. In the center, a large library defines the flow to separate rooms and serves as a focal point for visitors. Suspended over a flagstone base, the library is organized as a small labyrinth with unusual angles, as well as opened and closed passageways.

—Emily Hooper

**Corporate Space Small: Honorable Mention**

**Project: Roy Azar Architects Studio**

Where: Mexico City

**Designer:** Roy Azar Architects

For the design of his own studio, Roy Azar drew on residential elements akin to those encountered in a swank city loft. An open plan creates an airy feel and permits ample sunlight, while deep-hued wood floors imbue a warm feel. Oversized pendants illuminate marble-topped tables that function as workstations, evoking imagery of an upscale kitchen island. Building on that concept, a sleek meeting table with mismatched chairs resembles a dining area, complete with a modern chandelier hanging above. In the principal's office, Azar's own objects and art collection add a personal and homey touch to a sitting area, powder room, and shelves that flank a fireplace. 'Eclecticism of this project makes it visually interesting, and adds a sense of discovery within the space,' says Burdi.

—Sheila Kim

**Cultural/Institutional/Educational: Honorable Mention**

**Project: Sustainable Development Wing: Economy, Society, and Nature**

Where: Mexico City

**Designer:** Entasis Architects

In an effort to expand its interactive experience, the Museo Interactivo de Economia (MIDE), housed within a restored Baroque-style building, opened its new Sustainable Development Wing: Economy, Society, and Nature. Cold rolled 1/8-inch-thick steel panels in the new exhibit form a backdrop for display elements, fold down to become part of the floor, and then climb back up to support the monitor displays. LEDs within the surface folds supplement natural light. 'I think this project works well from the museum experience,' says Santa-Cruz. "Environmental graphics and exhibits are part of the designers' main ideas."

—Emily Hooper
Project: Hospital Universitario San Vicente de Paul (HUSVP)
Where: Municipio de Rio Negro, Colombia
Designer: Perkins+Will

The 95-year-old medical institution outside Medellín, Colombia wanted a new space based on the latest technological advances available in the U.S. The result is the largest hospital in the country. A circular public lobby connects all functions of the hospital as well as a rooftop helipad. Patient rooms are designed to be user-friendly and accommodating of families for effective recoveries, as well as efficient for staff. Three clinic buildings are identified by color. A commitment to sustainability is reflected in the use of local materials, including local brick, marble mined within the country, and wooden veneers from nearby forests. —EMILY HOPPER

Project: The Singular Patagonia
Where: Puerto Bories, Chilean Patagonia
Designer: Enrique Concha & Co.

Declared a national monument by the Chilean government, the century-old Puerto Bories Meat Packing Plant in Patagonia was a four-building complex that, in order to be converted into a luxury resort, first required restoration. The design team of the Singular Patagonia thus repaired and restored the original structures, and transformed them into a restaurant, bar, and a museum that displays preserved machinery and artifacts from when the plant was in use.

The architects then took design cues from the Post Victorian Industrial architecture of the complex and artfully applied those principles to a new construction adjacent to the historic buildings, that houses guest accommodations. The distressed-wood, metalwork, and glass palette reproduce industrial-era character for the new building, while the well-appointed rooms within offer views out to the picturesque shoreline and fjord. “The interior design is beautiful and strong, an old-world feel that is done with contemporary and timeless detailing,” says Santa-Cruz. —SHEILA KIM
hotels: honorable mention

Project Downtown
Where Mexico City
Designer CheremSerrano/Cherem Arquitectos and Paul Roco

A Grupo Habita property and a member of the Design Hotels collection, Downtown presents an edgy industrial aesthetic within a 17th-century palace of Mexican vice regal style. In renovating the site, the design team preserved and restored original details such as grey volcanic walls, an arcade of ornate columns that opens onto a terrace, and a grand staircase.

To complement the restoration work, the designers paired down the 17 guest rooms and suites with neutral tones and minimalist furnishings, but injected local culture via details such as red brick lattice screens in the rooms. “Boutique hotels can be cliché,” says Santa-Cruz. “But this hotel is exquisite and takes local materials and imagery into a sophisticated result. Old and new don’t always look this good.” —SHEILA KIM

residences: honorable mention

Project Geneses House
Where São Paulo, Brazil
Designer Isay Weinfeld

In the same vein as Richard Neutra, Isay Weinfeld channels modernism with clean lines and planes combined with a high level of transparency that gives way to views of the city of São Paulo. The main floor’s glass walls open fully to the house’s verandas, creating a physical connection to the verdant landscape that surrounds the structure. It’s a “seamless transition from interior space to exterior garden,” says Velez. While a minimalist backdrop could be perceived as cold and uninviting, the interiors of this project counter that notion with the warmth of wood in furnishings, plank ceilings, and floors. —SHEILA KIM
**residences: honorable mention**

**Project:** Cubo House  
**Where:** São Paulo, Brazil  
**Designers:** Studio MK27

A concrete, cubic volume, Casa Cubo appears to almost float when the ground floor's perforated-metal panel walls open to reveal an indoor-outdoor living space. The two floors above contain bedrooms, a home office, and a television room, all of which have apertures that utilize the same retractable metal panel system. A second layer of sliding glass walls can be closed as a safety measure and protection against the elements when needed. These openings allow the homeowners to control light levels and ventilation.

Tiled floors and Midcentury-modern furniture perfectly complement the modernist architecture. 'I wonder what came first: the architectural idea or the interior spaces that then created an architectural volume,' says Santa-Cruz. 'It envelops you with sensuality and nature. Isn't that what Brazil is all about?' —SHEILA KIM

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**restaurants: honorable mention**

**Project:** A | W Celebration  
**Where:** São Paulo, Brazil  
**Designers:** Athié | Wohnrath

As the biggest architecture and interior design show in Latin America, Casa Cor takes place annually in several cities, and exhibitors transform designated spaces into elaborate exhibits. For the 2011 installment in São Paulo, Athié | Wohnrath created the A | W Celebration Lounge as an entertainment and nightlife setting. The lounge featured a black metallic skin on the exterior with a gold-hued bar inside that was visible to passersby, drawing them in. The interior boasted LED bulbs in the ceiling that created the sensation of staring up on a starry night. A massive video wall projected a faux aquarium—a soothing counterpoint to the energy typically experienced in clubs. Sleek modern sectionals, chairs, and tables lent comfort—but also a level of sophistication—to the interior. 'I’m taken by the sexy-retro sensibility of this environment,' says Burdi. —SHEILA KIM
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Project Munich Chile Flagship

Where Santiago, Chile

Designer Dear Design

Composed of a white backdrop and a spare installation, this boutique for fashion-and sport-footwear brand Munich takes design cues from stadiums. Its main event is an arena-shaped metal structure that stands off from the walls to appear as a freestanding volume. Voids of the fractal lattice-work, which is formed by a series of pointed arches, display the merchandise on hidden supports, while the intersecting points mimic the brand's "X" logo. As the only colorful objects in the space, the shoes are truly highlighted within this stark setting. "A very simple concept that marries brand, style, and the power of image," says Santa-Cruz. —SHEILA KIM
The "world" in the spa's name alludes to the special treatment rooms that are each inspired by a different locale's spa culture and practices. In addition to these themed zones, Estudio Pi was responsible for creating a cohesive design that could be in special treatment rooms with all other rooms and common spaces. The design team thus employed Zen-like and biophilic elements such as strategic lighting, soft and soothing hues, and a palette of wood, river rock and other natural stones, plus branch-embedded resin panels. "The interior design reflects the required calmness that a spa should have," says Santa-Cruz. "It also handles well the spatial sequence of the different program functions well through the use of rich materials and interior architectural forms, but it's clearly developed without being kitschy or trendy." —SHEILA KIM

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Swarovski Lighting Showroom

An elegant space by tvsdesign showcases lighting by the Swarovski and Schonbek brands

By John Czarnecki
Photography by Brian Gassel / tvsdesign

The challenge of creating a single, flexible showroom for Swarovski Lighting Business's two distinct lighting brands—Swarovski and Schonbek—was met by tvsdesign, which focused on a common element shared by the brands: the faceted geometry of crystals. In a 9,000-square-foot, corner location in the Dallas Market Center, the new Swarovski showroom allows for changes in displays over time and reflects the company's commitment to high design in its products.

"The passion of our Swarovski client and their extraordinary crystal product when integrated with light provided us with a tremendous foundation for an inspired design," says Steven W. Clem, AIA, ASID, IIDA, a principal at tvsdesign's Atlanta office. "Our challenge was to interpret the beauty of one of the world's highest quality crystals into a luxury brand showcase for both their Swarovski and Schonbek lighting brands, unifying these collections for the first time in one place."

Faceted forms inform design

A storefront of faceted glass sets the brand apart from adjacent showrooms while referencing the client's dedication to the craftsmanship of producing premium crystals. Within the showroom, that design language of faceted forms continues as a unifying element. Creative space division and visual links supported by architectural elements facilitate long views across both of the distinct display spaces.

"Our solution resulted in a faceted and angular, asymmetrical space that provided great surfaces to reflect the crystal light characteristics as well as a highly flexible environment, much like an art gallery to showcase the art qualities of their lighting products," Clem says.

The showroom features a shared, centralized social space that serves as a destination spot for visitors. A striking-yet-neutral color palette of surfaces in both matte and sheen finishes provides a dramatic backdrop for the wide variety of crystal light fixtures showcased throughout the space. Strategically located throughout the showroom, ceiling-mounted, custom movable screens with metallic fabric divide spaces for particular light groupings. The movable screens can be mounted in various locations as display needs change.

"The tvsdesign team created a brilliant, multifaceted showroom that is inviting to our business partners," says Doris Gunther, director of communications and trend for Swarovski Lighting Business, "and it translated our brands and core values into a true 3-D brand experience."
The sleek Dallas showroom (above) serves as a backdrop for the Swarovski and Schonbek fixtures. A social space with a bar (right) is a destination spot and central hub for the showroom.
Milliken Studio New York

With a white box backdrop, M Moser Associates helps Milliken & Company reconceive its Manhattan presence.

By John Czarnecki
Photography by Eric Laignel

Milliken product is on display along the core of the floor (above, left), in a space with casual seating areas. A glass-enclosed meeting room has dramatic city views.
Milliken & Company underwent a corporate global rebranding and messaging in 2011, as well as a restructuring and expansion of its commercial flooring division. As part of that major evolution, Milliken worked closely with global design firm MMoser Associates to reconsider all of its client-hosting spaces—not just to reflect the new corporate identity—but to express in these environments an emphasis placed on customer service and partnering.

A clean backdrop, a sort of.. white box,, concept, with Milliken blue judiciously used as an accent color, ties together the Milliken Studio New York in Midtown Manhattan—recently renovated by M Moser—with the other Milliken showrooms and studios also designed by the firm in South Carolina, Chicago, Beijing, and Shanghai. “The ‘white box’ concept puts our products centerstage and maximizes the wonderful views of the city,” says Barbara Haaksma, vice president of design and marketing, Milliken & Company. “It is a beautiful, functional, working space for client meetings and presentations.”

Modern, yet referencing Milliken heritage
Open common areas are punctuated by colorful and iconic meeting and lounge areas, which facilitate casual interactions. Spaces that facilitate collaboration—often referred to as “purposeful play”—were key to this studio’s design, allowing for Milliken to tell the stories of product development. Also, Milliken considers its lineage in mid-20th century design to be important, and thus M Moser included references to that heritage. “The eclectic mix of reused vintage and new furniture as ‘classics,’ —in bold, warm, vibrant colors—represent a nod to both the heritage and the future of modern design,” says Bill Bouchey, director of design at M Moser’s New York office.

A distinct arrival sequence reinforces Milliken’s brand identity through the entry and reception on the perimeter, and leads guests to unobstructed, panoramic views of the city. Circulation flows in a counterclockwise pattern around the floor’s core, and flexible flooring mock-ups and display installations anchor meeting and lounge settings. These areas are adaptable for frequent changes as new products are introduced to the market.

“M Moser’s design of our space exactly met our needs for providing an exceptional experience for our clients and our associates,” Haaksma says. “The space clearly communicates our corporate identity and provides the path and environment for visitor engagement and storytelling.”

...
“Every design is in some sense a social communication.”

The 2012 Contract Brand Report Awareness Survey asked a random sample of Contract magazine subscribers to identify the top three manufacturers in 32 product categories. A total of 355 respondents participated, with the survey instructing them to respond only in categories with which they have familiarity. All responses were unaided, and no brand name prompts or lists were provided to elicit unbiased responses.

As a quality control measure, respondents were double screened to restrict participants to either an architectural or design function in one of four types of companies: architectural firm, design firm, firm providing both architectural and design services, and corporate architectural or design function (not affiliated with an industry manufacturing or distribution company). Responses were tabulated and reported for each of the 32 categories as a total, architect, designer, both, and other.

This survey, conducted by Aspen Media & Market Research, provides a statistically valid comparison of results for the 2012 Contract Brand Report Awareness Survey with an overall margin of error of +/- 5.38 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. In a given category, when multiple companies received the same number of responses, a tie is indicated.

Brands that inspire you
Respondents were asked this question across all product type categories: When thinking about brands that inspire you to create your best commercial design solutions, what are the top three companies that come to mind?

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bernhardtdesign.com
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   floritile.com
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9. Stone Peak
   stonepeakceramics.com
9. Arizona Tile
   arizonatile.com
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   porcelanosa-usa.com
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Versteel  KI

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**Petra Blaisse and Desso Woven into the Fabric of Stedelijk Museum**

It's what's inside that counts—especially in the case of the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. When it reopened in September following a four-year renovation, the museum caused a stir with its controversial new identity, defined chiefly by a white-volume annex by Benthel Crouwel Architects. Regardless of opinion on the exterior, the interior presents a different story, told in part by Dutch designer Petra Blaisse of studio Inside Outside.

Commissioned to create a tapestry for the focal wall of the museum's new entrance hall, Blaisse responded with a 2,150-square-foot wall hanging fabricated by carpet manufacturer Desso. The tapestry pays homage to the past, present, and future of the Stedelijk and the region. Large silhouettes depict native flowers; line drawings replicate archival site plans; a section drawing depicts floor locations; and stitch details allude to the rich weaving history of Dutch culture.

"There is a clear synergy between the context of the building and its interiors," says Desso CEO Alexander Collot d'Escury. "The tapestry is designed to complement the architecture and its surroundings—and to tell a story about their histories." —SHEILA KIM