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volume 58 issue 10

cover: Vanke DayPark Sales Office and Culture Exhibition Center by Yu Studio. Photo courtesy of IIDA

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Chicago Tribune to Relocate to One Prudential Plaza in 2018

The newspaper will lease 137,000 square feet across five floors of the 41-story building overlooking Millennium Park in Chicago. contractdesign.com/chicagotribune

Mecanoo and Beyer Blinder Belle Reveal Masterplan for New York **Public Library Redesign**

Following a \$317 million overhaul, the branch on Fifth Avenue at 42nd Street in New York will reopen in 2020 as the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library and boast 20 percent more floor space. contractdesign.com/nyplredesign

Perkins Eastman Wins Harvey Milk Plaza Design Competition

A new amphitheater in San Francisco will highlight Milk's life as well as the milestones of the LGBTQ civil rights movement. contractdesign.com/harveymilkplaza



Snøhetta Proposes Public Space Redesign for Philip Johnson's 550 Madison

The \$300 million repositioning would replace the brick facade of the New York skyscraper's base with undulating glass. contractdesign.com/550madison

SOM's Kansas City Airport Revamp Wins Voter Approval

The \$1 billion redesign will consolidate three existing terminals into one building that will house 35 gates. contractdesign.com/kansascityairport

tvsdesign to Lead Expansion of Las Vegas Convention Center

The \$860 million extension will position the event hall as the second largest of its kind in North America. contractdesign.com/lasvegasconventioncenter

Designing for Health: Creating a Total Environment of Care PERKINS+WILL

Healthcare experts at Perkins+Will explore the six components that define the total environment of care and the physical environment modifications that improve well-being. contractdesign.com/PWtotalenvironmentofcare

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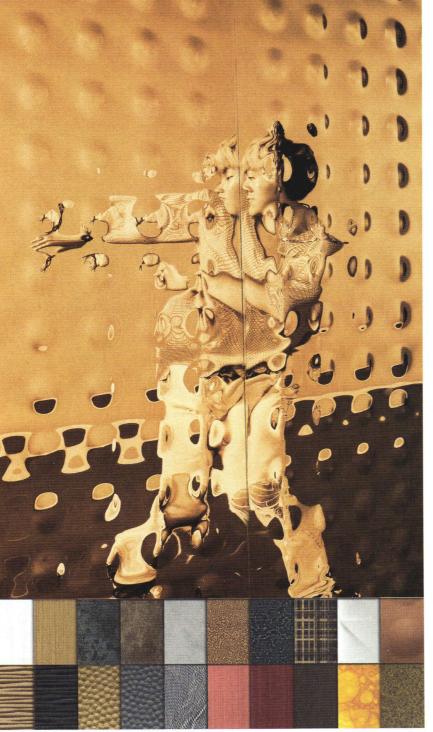
The new area rug collection from Tandus Centiva is available in 10 styles and offered in multiple colorways, with 21 colors for serging options. The collection's natural tones and subtle textures unite all elements of a space's décor without overpowering it, and the soft, square corners add sophistication to a finished design. Use our online configurator to build, visualize, and order your area rug in five easy steps.

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- 3. Feel good in knowing that 100 percent of conference revenue is reinvested into the mission of optimizing the health care built environment.
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Highlighting the Positive in the Design Profession

When seeing news about politics and current affairs today, anxieties build, and it can be difficult to find what is positive in the world. The negative news can easily overshadow good things happening at scales small and large. Here, at the end of the year, this column is less of an editorial as it is my chance to highlight a handful of positive items, opportunities, and events in our design profession.

Our 2008 Designer of the Year, Phil Freelon, FAIA, has gained tremendous accolades after leading the design team for the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., which opened a year ago. Now, Freelon is giving back. The Phil Freelon Fellowship Fund (see news, page 22), established last year to increase diversity within the field of architecture, is named after Freelon, who is the design director for the Perkins+Will North Carolina office. Perkins+Will, Freelon, and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD) announced in November that Aria Griffin, a student at the GSD, is the inaugural Phil Freelon Fellow. Griffin, who is expected to graduate from the GSD in 2021, received her bachelor of science in architecture degree earlier this year from the Sam Fox School of Art and Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis.

Freelon's colleague in the Los Angeles office of Perkins+Will, Gabrielle Bullock, IIDA, FAIA, has also been a leading advocate for diversity in the architecture and design profession. As principal and director of global diversity for the firm, Bullock, who has championed the need for a diverse and inclusive workforce and culture within Perkins+Will and across the industry, has overseen complex and socially significant projects in the U.S. and abroad. We look forward to Bullock serving as the 2018–2019 International Interior Design Association (IIDA) international president beginning in June 2018.

A special note that women who are business owners in interior design or product design can apply now for the Anna Hernandez/Luna Textiles Education Fund Award. The IIDA Foundation established the award to honor the memory of Anna Hernandez, the late founder of Luna Textiles, by advancing and celebrating the work of women in the interior design profession. The recipient of the Anna Hernandez/ Luna Textiles Education Fund Award will receive \$5,000 on behalf of the IIDA Foundation. For full eligibility requirements and to apply, visit iida.org. The application deadline is January 31, 2018.

Designing with Data in Practice

Within this issue, besides the Brand Report survey of your favorite product manufacturers (page 74) and our editors' choice selection of new product releases (page 46), take a close look at the feature "Designing Workplaces with Data: How Data Is Changing the Process and Perception of Design" (page 56). In this story, author Krista Sykes examines how savvy firms are implementing data in design practice, with examples from Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, M Moser, and others. A number of firms implement the Leesman Index to study a client's workforce perceptions of an existing interior. To date, the index has tallied responses from more than 270,000 people in more than 2,000 workplaces. Interestingly, among all surveyed, when asked if their workplace promotes productivity, only 57 percent of respondents said yes. About 15 percent said that their workplaces do not support them and 28 percent said the office actively hinders their effectiveness. Data such as this underscores that the need for intelligent, thoughtful, and flexible workplace design considering a changing workforce is more important than ever. Your work as designers is critical—not just in creating aesthetically beautiful spaces—but also in supporting people as they go about their daily lives.

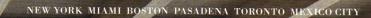
Interiors Awards Breakfast

Who will be the 2018 Designer of the Year? Find out in person on January 26, 2018, at the Interiors Awards Breakfast, presented by *Contract*! Tickets and tables are now available for the breakfast, to be held at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York. More than 600 industry colleagues are expected to attend the event, which honors the winners of the Interiors Awards, the Designer of the Year, and a Design Legend. Visit contractdesign.com/interiorsawards to learn more and to purchase tickets. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

John Czarnecki, Assoc. AIA, Hon. IIDA Editor in Chief

Visit contractdesign.com/editorial to read all of Editor in Chief John Czarnecki's editorials



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2017 WINNERS

Best of Competition Mohawk Group: Lichen

Silver Award in Architectural Products: Clinical Pressalit Care: Matrix M.

Gold Award in Architectural Products: Clinical Construction Specialties: Acrovyn by Design Patterns

Gold Award in Architectural Products: Nonclinical Accurate Lock and Hardware:

Ligature-Resistant Sliding Door System
Silver Award in Carpet

Shaw Contract: Sanctuary

Gold Award in Carpet Mohawk Group: Lichen

Silver Award in Fabrics and Textiles Via Seating: Genie Medical Copper Mesh

Gold Award in Fabrics and Textiles C.F. Stinson: Project ICU

Silver Award in Flooring: Hard Surface Patcraft: AdMix Encore

Innovation Award in Flooring: Resilient Shaw Contract: Innate

Silver Award in Flooring: Resilient Shaw Contract: Terasu

Gold Award in Flooring: Resilient Nora Systems: Norament Arago

Gold Award in Furniture: Clinician Support Herman Miller: Intent Silver Award in Furniture Collections Herman Miller: Mora

Gold Award in Furniture Collections Stance Healthcare: Resilia Drum Table

Silver Award in Lighting Visa Lighting: Sole

Innovation Award in Seating: Guest/Lounge Steelcase Health: Surround

Silver Award in Seating: Guest/Lounge Spec Furniture: Tailor

Gold Award in Seating: Guest/Lounge Integra Seating: Valayo

Innovation Award in Seating: Patient Carolina/OFS: Saven Rocker

Silver Award in Seating: Patient Spec Furniture: Hardi

Gold Award in Seating: Patient Kl: Ruckus

Innovation Award in Surfacing Materials Kwalu: GetWell

Innovation Award in Technology-Integrated Solutions C.F. Stinson: 5.0 + See, Sample, Spec

Gold Award in Technology-Integrated Solutions Midmark: IQvitals Zone

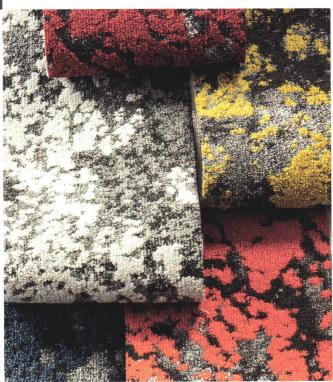
Innovation Award in Window Shading and Treatments MechoSystems: ElectroPocket

Silver Award in Window Shading and Treatments MechoSystems: ElectroPocket

2017 Nightingale Award Winners Announced

Contract Editor in Chief John Czarnecki and Healthcare Design Editor in Chief Jennifer Silvis presented the winners of this year's Nightingale Awards on November 13, 2017, at the Healthcare Design Expo + Conference at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Named after Florence Nightingale, the awards recognize contributions to the healthcare built environment through product design and innovation that contributes to healing. The Nightingale Awards are presented by *Contract* and *Healthcare Design* magazines in partnership with the Center for Health Design.

A jury of healthcare architects, interior designers, and facilities managers selected 27 winners in 14 product categories. The Nightingale Best of Competition award winner is Mohawk Group in the carpet category for Lichen (pictured in both photos). The collection was also honored with the Gold Award in Carpet.





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Tickets Available for January 26 Interiors Awards Breakfast in New York



The 39th Annual Interiors Awards Breakfast will be held at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York on Friday, January 26, 2018. The event begins with a reception at 7:30 a.m., and the seated breakfast and awards program starts at 8:30 a.m.

The Interiors Awards, presented by *Contract*, will honor 14 professional projects and one student winner as well. The 2018 Designer of the Year will be named, and a Legend Award recipient will be honored for their lifetime achievement in design. A number of past Designers of the Year will be in attendance, as well as many design industry leaders.

Interiors Awards Breakfast tables and individual tickets are now available. Champion tables are available for \$4,200, tables of 10 are \$2,700, and individual tickets are \$270. Visit contractdesign.com/interiorsawards to purchase tables or individual tickets. —STAFF





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Perkins+Will and Harvard GSD Celebrate the First Phil Freelon Fellow



Aria Griffin (center) is the inaugural Phil Freelon Fellow. She is seated with Perkins+Will CEO Phil Harrison, FAIA (left), and Phil Freelon, FAIA (right).

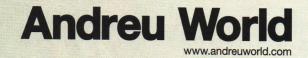
> Perkins+Will, Phil Freelon, FAIA, and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD) have announced the appointment of the inaugural Phil Freelon Fellow. Aria Griffin, who is expected to graduate from the Harvard GSD in 2021, is the first recipient of the fellowship. The Phil Freelon Fellowship Fund, established last year to increase diversity within the field of architecture, is named after the design director for the Perkins+Will North Carolina office who is also *Contract* magazine's 2008 Designer of the Year.

"The support from Mr. Freelon and Perkins+Will is absolutely incredible, and I am so humbled and honored by this fellowship," Griffin says. "It enables me to pursue something that I love so much, and propels me in a direction to do the best work I can."

"We are delighted to award this fellowship for the first time to such a talented, driven, and promising designer as Aria," Freelon says. "Aria exemplifies the academic excellence and opportunity we were hoping to advance at the GSD when we established the fellowship. We look forward to seeing her grow academically and professionally in the years to come."

A Los Angeles native, Griffin obtained her bachelor of science in architecture degree earlier this year from the Sam Fox School of Art and Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis. She also minored in African and African American studies.

"Through the Phil Freelon Fellowship at the GSD, we're looking to make the biggest impact possible," says Perkins+Will CEO Phil Harrison. "We want it to draw attention to the need for diversity in the architecture profession, and we want to inspire others to do the same thing at institutions all over the world." –WILL SPEROS



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Maison&Objet Paris

January 19–23 Paris Nord Villepinte Paris

maison-objet.com

Interiors Awards Breakfast January 26 Cipriani New York contractdesign.com/interiorsawards

FEBRUARY

Cevisama February 5–9 Feria Valencia Valencia, Spain cevisama,feriavalencia.com

Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair

February 6–10 Stockholmsmässan Stockholm stockholmfurniturelightfair.se

BUILDEX Vancouver

February 14–15 Vancouver Convention Centre West Vancouver, Canada **buildexvancouver.com**

Palm Springs Modernism Week February 15–25 Palm Springs, California modernismweek.com

MARCH

Ecobuild 2018 March 6–8 ExCeL London ecobuild.co.uk

GlobalShop March 27–29 McCormick Place Chicago globalshop.org



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Books That Drive Practice Innovation

by Evelyn M. Lee, AIA



Evelyn M. Lee, AIA, writes a regular column for Contract on business practices in design and professional development. Based in San Francisco, Lee is corporate managing director for workplace strategy and analytics at Savills Studley. She holds graduate degrees in architecture, public administration, and business administration. Currently a member of the AIA national board of directors. Lee received an AIA Young Architects Award in 2014 Her website is evelynlee.com. Visit contractdesign.com/ businesspractice to read all of her columns for Contract.

This year, I led the team that organized the first ever American Institute of Architects (AIA) Practice Innovation Lab, which was hosted in November by the AIA Young Architects Forum (comprised of architects who have been licensed for no more than 10 years). An open call went out to members and nonmembers, seeking those interested in advancing architectural practice to attend a one-day practice hackathon and a half-day pitch session. From the selected applicants, 10 teams of six were formed with the intent of creating innovative practice models. To establish the right mindset prior to the start of the sessions, we developed a curriculum focused on innovation creation that included these three books that I highly recommend.

Blue Ocean Strategy, Expanded Edition: How to Create Uncontested Market Space and Make the Competition Irrelevant

Written by W. Chan Kim and Renée Maubourgne, Blue Ocean Strategy (Harvard Business Review Press, 2014) was required reading in the products and services class that was part of my MBA studies. The authors argue that a sea of cutthroat competition does nothing but create bloody waters. However, by tapping into new market spaces and creating "blue oceans," organizations can achieve lasting success.

One of the more memorable case studies from the book looks at how Cirque du Soleil made going to the circus a date-night activity for adults while remaining family friendly. The development of the successful model also decreased overhead by eliminating the most expensive performersthe animals—even though they are what traveling circuses were historically known for.

Although it lacks images, the book is relevant for design professionals who are continually looking to find ways to improve how they deliver services to clients. What potential blue oceans are we overlooking that can make our practices more sustainable over the long term?

Ten Types of Innovation: The Discipline of Building Breakthroughs

The book is a collective effort by Larry Keeley, Rvan Pikkel, Brian Quinn, and Helen Waters, all of whom have experience at Doblin, a global firm that helps leading organizations find humancentered solutions to business problems. Ten Types of Innovation (Wiley, 2013) creates a framework for organizations to identify and implement innovative opportunities. The book is full of colorful case studies and diagrams, and designers will appreciate the codification of an intangible concept such as innovation as well as the process that can be applied to its implementation.

In addition to real-life examples, the text contains many strategies that design firms can use to assess how innovation is approached internally even at the project level, and how to innovate externally within a competitive environment. If you are short on time, jump ahead to part six, which describes how to make innovation a discipline and create breakthroughs in a risk-averse culture.

Business Model Generation: A Handbook for Visionaries, Game Changers, and Challengers

If you already have an idea that you would like to monetize, Business Model Generation (Wiley, 2010) by Alexander Osterwalder and Yves Pigneur will help you understand whether the concept can be a true moneymaker. The authors' business model canvas is a practical tool to design, test, create, and manage a new business model or to test an existing one. The book explains the most common business model patterns and enables the reader to reinterpret them for their own context. One case study examines the business model canvas that makes Google's value proposition so strong. Co-created by more than 450 organizations from 45 countries, the book and its strategies are used regularly by service consultants, including Deloitte and Capgemini.

Each of these three books has supplementary digital content. Blue Ocean Strategy's website has an entire section on teaching materials, multimedia cases, and interactive exercises that are in use at more than 2,800 universities worldwide. The Ten Types of Innovation app dives into 100 tactics to spur inspiration within a business and has stepby-step prompts for those who are used to following a thorough process or prefer utilizing a proven strategy. Business Model Generation's website has course templates to test your ideas. c





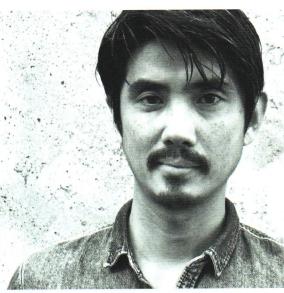


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PROFILE

Designer You Should Know Jun Aizaki of CRÈME







A native of Japan, Jun Aizaki moved to New York in the early 1990s to earn his bachelor of architecture degree from Pratt Institute. He began his career at Rockwell Group, designing a number of restaurants over five years. Since 2004, Aizaki has led his own firm, CRÈME / Jun Aizaki Architecture & Design, based in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. With a team of 15 people. Aizaki has recently designed interiors for the Maven Hotel (page 30) in Denver and the public spaces of the Kimpton Hotel Eventi in New York, including its restaurants Lupulo and L'Amico and its lounges The Vine and the Luggage Bar. He has also crafted furniture, including the Exchange Collection—a dining room table, a lounge chair, two bar chairs, and a dining chair (pictured, bottom left)—produced by Stellar Works.

Why the name CRÈME?

I started CRÈME / Jun Aizaki Architecture & Design as a firm through which I could bring together great designers to collaborate together. It is a gathering of the crème de la crème—the best of the best. I was also drawn to the word crème because it is not a name one would associate with architecture. Why did you decide to start the practice after your experience with Rockwell Group?

Rockwell was an amazing place to learn the ins and outs of restaurant design. When I decided to open my own practice, I wanted to take my Rockwell experience and expand upon it by applying it to other design realms, such as hospitality, retail, residential, and product design.

What is unique about your design approach? And what differentiates your work?

At CRÈME, we have the same problem-solving approach for each project—be it a chair, restaurant, building, logo, or city block. We also have a rich pool of talent with a diversity of experience and ideas, and that always enhances the depth and richness of our varied projects.

Your latest Denver project incorporates urban design with interior design. How does the design of the urban realm relate to your experience with interiors?

The Maven Hotel at Dairy Block is located in Denver's Lower Downtown (LoDo) neighborhood renowned for its historic brick buildings. Our work there honored that past and tried to reflect it in a new, updated way. It was also a chance for CRÈME to really use all of its specialties as an interdisciplinary design studio. In one project, we did everything from interior design to custom product design to branding. CRÈME was responsible for the hotel's lobby and other public spaces, the two feature restaurants Poka Lola Social Club and Kachina Southwestern Grill (pictured, above) as well as the urban design of The Maker Alley, which is Denver's first activated alley. Our designs intentionally blur the lines between the different spaces, and we tried to find unexpected ways to connect them all.

What is important in design today?

Design has to tell a story, whether it is a new story created especially for a space or a story that reflects the space's true history. These stories help infuse a place with a purpose and that, in turn, can help to create a destination for people to create their own stories and histories in.

What is next for your firm?

CRÈME is working on exciting projects such as a full-scale hotel in Philadelphia, restaurants in the Middle East, a multiuse complex in Japan, as well as some fun restaurant and retail concepts in New York. And we are continuing to develop products, with more furniture to be made available from Stellar Works in 2018.

NATIONAL.

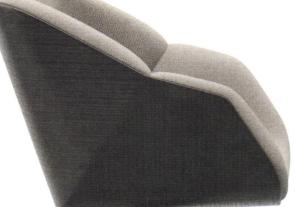
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HOSPITALITY

Maven Hotel

The culture of craft, as created by independent makers and artisans, is celebrated in a Denver hotel's public spaces by CRÈME



n the lobby (opposite) with wood and brass detailing, a sculpture of a hand by Andrew Ramiro Tirado adds a dramatic touch overhead. The Poka Lola Social Club (right, above) s a relaxed lounge setting with a geometric floor. Kachina (right, below) is designed with a comfortable Southwestern appeal.



armchairs, brass, and bluestone stand out. Communal tables, with a mix of vintage furniture and accessories, create a shared experience. Overhead, a 10-foot-long sculptural hand by artist Andrew Ramiro Tirado punctuates the space. Composed of reclaimed wood, the hand is an homage to George Nakashima, a father of the American craft movement. Fingers on the hand point toward "Dark Matter Gathering," a 300-plus piece black-andwhite photography installation by Travis Hetman.

CREME's interior design intentionally blurs the boundaries between spaces, with unexpected ways to connect them. An Airstream trailer links the lobby and Kachina, the hotel's main restaurant. Kachina emulates its Southwestern inspiration with an open kitchen and bold tiles and colors. Along one wall, a mural by Emanuel Martinez depicts a Native American woman wearing sunglasses that reflect the desert with brightly colored ears of corn on either side. Poka Lola reimagines the typical hotel bar as an adult soda bar, featuring Art Deco influences and Aizaki's Exchange bar chair with a custom back.

By design—with both industrial and artful, playful references—the Maven Hotel appeals to the experience of the contemporary traveler who understands the impact of evolving communities, startups, and makers. —JOHN CZARNECKI

Maven Hotel

Architect and interior designer Johnson Nathan Strohe Interior designer CRÈME / Jun Aizaki Architecture & Design Client Sage Hospitality Where Denver

What **172-guestroom hotel** on eight floors The opening of the Maven Hotel in Downtown Denver earlier this year created buzz in that city and across the hospitality design industry. The hotel's architecture and interiors are inspired by the energy and history of the formerly industrial Lower Downtown (LoDo) neighborhood. Sage Hospitality's fourth Denver hotel, the Maven celebrates creativity, craftsmanship, and maker culture with an urbane sensibility.

Local architecture firm Johnson Nathan Strohe designed the eight-story building and the 172 guestroom interiors. Jun Aizaki (see interview, page 28) and his New York-based firm CRÈME / Jun Aizaki Architecture & Design crafted the interior public spaces, including the lobby and restaurants Poka Lola Social Club and Kachina Southwestern Grill. With a palette of steel, wood, and concrete

Office

Richelle Nolan shares some of the year's best workplace products



Richelle Nolan Managing Director IA Interior Architects Portland, Oregon







"The right light will make or break an interior. Lightlite tells a great story with a natural, local, and respectfully resourced product." lightlite.com

2. Revolution Design House: Haven

"The ability to achieve just the right ergonomic angle, softness, durability, and finish is something to be celebrated. We have used Haven in high-traffic and low-touch areas alike with wonderful success." revolutiondesignhouse.com

3. Designtex: Casper Cloaking Technology

"Casper Cloaking Technology is an ingeniously low-tech solution for a high-tech challenge. Its unobtrusive application can be dressed up with the many patterns available." designtex.com

4. Filzfelt: Stripes

"Stripes has the refined floor design we strive for, providing a mix of masculine and feminine aesthetics. Chairs can roll with ease from one surface to another and the collection offers acoustic properties in concrete-laden offices." filzfelt.com

5. WoodlandDirect: Dimplex

"Our clients love the relaxing influence of the dancing flames in WoodlandDirect's electric fireplaces. Studies show that a positive biophilic effect is achieved by watching or sitting near a fire. Since there is no need for venting, Dimplex allows for a fire element in spaces that would not have been able to accommodate a gas fireplace." woodlanddirect.com

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Healthcare

Jeff Kabat shares select furnishings and products for healthcare settings



Jeff Kabat, IIDA Vice President Director Of Health Interiors for Mountain Region HKS Phoenix









1. Herman Miller: Canvas

"At HKS, we are constantly studying the way technology is changing how healthcare teams do their work. Canvas is a wonderful solution for caregivers to connect. Its simple design integrates technology and provides an ample work surface and a semiprivate environment that is ideal for informal collaborations." hermanmiller.com

2. Nemschoff: Capella

"I love including classic benches like Nemschoff's Capella in my projects. Capella is versatile, has a small footprint, and is perfect for many ancillary waiting spaces where traditional furniture takes up too much space."

nemschoff.com

3. Mohawk Group: Lichen

"Lichen has a great visual and an even better story. Inspired by assemblages of multi-hued, multitextured lichens and their regenerative role in our ecosystem, the collection is on the path to give more resources back to the environment than it uses during its entire life cycle. Aesthetically, its organic design and approach to incorporating accent colors gives designers the ability to create thoughtful floor patterning." mohawkgroup.com

4. Steelcase: Surround

"Supporting the family in the patient room is a complex design challenge without a onesize-fits-all solution. Steelcase's Surround is a beautiful product that was thoughtfully designed to meet many of the diverse needs in the patient room setting. Additionally, it was designed to fit multiple footprints for those atypical patient room floor plan conditions."

steelcase.com

5. LightArt: Pivot Circular

"LightArt's Pivot Circular series provides a beautiful lighting solution that is versatile enough to be a wayfinding element above a reception desk, or to dress up the executive board room." lightart.com

6. Nora: nTx

"Although there is nothing sexy about resilient flooring adhesive, there is something appealing about Nora's nTx adhesive system. Its unique technology allows for quicker and less disruptive installations, which gives designers more options to choose from for those tricky renovation projects." nora.com

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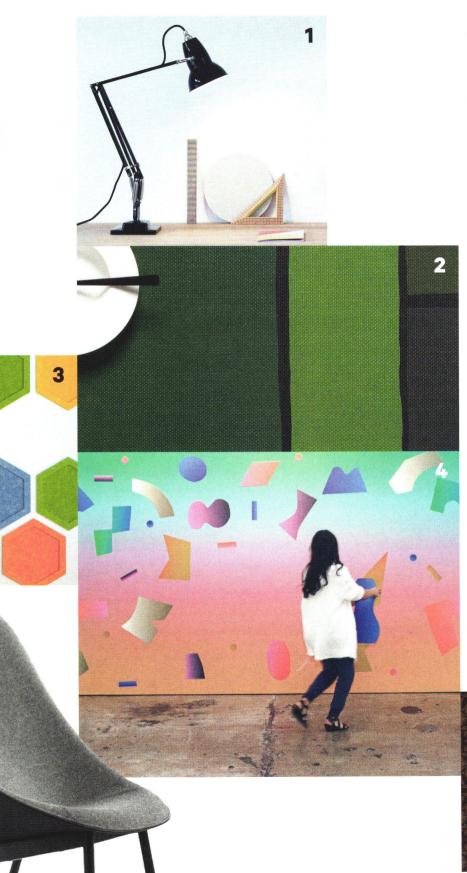
*MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), E. coli (Escherichia coli), VRE (Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus faecalis)

Hospitality

Siobhan Barry identifies top new products for hospitality interiors



Siobhan Barry Partner Executive Creative Director Dash Design New York



1. Anglepoise: Original 1227

"Excellent lighting is key in hospitality. The Original 1227's iconic shape is familiar and friendly, and it fits well in many environments." anglepoise.com

2. Chilewich: Blocks

"The Chilewich Blocks series offers a bold and graphic way of adding color and modernity to a table."

chilewich.com

3. MDC: Zintra

"Zintra is a flexible acoustical system that is both beautiful and functional. It solves one of the biggest challenges in hospitality design: sound attenuation." mdcwall.com

4. Visual Magnetics: Foster

"Traditionally, writing on walls and attaching removable objects is discouraged in hospitality settings. However, the Foster line of intelligent wallcoverings by Visual Magnetics is a disruptor and offers a great way of activating a space by allowing guests to interact with it." visualmagnetics.com

5. Stefan Hengst: Collection Noblesse

"It is hard to think of any hospitality project that does not use wallcoverings. Stefan Hengst's designs are clever and unexpected, and will make any project a stand out. The Collection Noblesse series has both texture and dimension." **stefanhengst.com**

6. HAY: Uchiwa

"The Uchiwa lounge chair designed by Doshi Levien for HAY will make you want to sink in and stay for a long, long time." hay.dk



6

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Education

Mani Farhadi names her favorite new products for learning environments



1. Nora Nivel: Gen-Ga

"These blocks allow students' imaginations to run wild while building their own environment on the spot either during or outside of class. The ability to reconfigure, the colorful compositions, and the lightweight nature make Gen-Ga perfect for education."

2. Orangebox: Air3

"Air3 can act as a freestanding meeting area, phone booth, and private or touchdown room. Its internationally patented opening roof structure features an advanced fire safety system developed specifically for schools. Whether in a library or cafeteria, these pods offer an effective way to create a collaborative room that acts as both a jewel showcase and a functional working space." orangebox.com

3. Rockfon: Baffles

"An alternative to traditional modular ceilings that brings acoustic solutions to exposed ceilings, this product can become a decorative element while also providing functionality. Whether used for open study, food service, or as a lounge, Baffles has sound absorption and thermal mass applications." rockfon.co.uk

4. Extremis: Picnik

"Let's not forget about outdoor learning spaces too! Picnik has an aluminum base, which is light, robust, and 100 percent recyclable. Put two tables together for a larger group. It is stylish, bold, solid, and striking." extremis.com

5. Smith System: Oodle

"Ideal for collaborative learning and common areas, Oodle stools are easy to gather into a circle, arrange around a table, or stack up at a counter. By changing the bottom compartment, you can make them wobble or stand still. The colors are fun, the shapes are different, and they give students a sense of ownership by manipulating them." smithsystem.com

6. Learniture: Bow-Tie

"Aside from clients, my son, who attends the University of Washington, likes working on the whiteboard tables because they save on paper. You can solve problems, then erase and move on to the next one. Bow-Tie tables are perfect for capturing design thoughts, sharing with a classmate, and iterating."

6

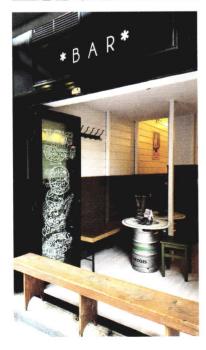
schooloutfitters.com

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Design inspiration from Bilbao









A loyal subscriber since 1999, Megan Walters (with her husband Michael), were the lucky recipients of a trip for two to Bilbao. Spain after winning Contract's Visit.Win.Fly at NeoCon this past June. The Senior Interior Designer works for KOO, a Chicago-based architecture and interiors firm where she has specialized in Hospitality Design for the past five years. Walters who admitted this was her thirteenth NeoCon Trade Show attended this year's edition, visiting all seven sponsor showrooms before hearing the news that she won, "I was in shock. What are the odds with so many people attending Neocon? It was extremely exciting. My husband and I just had our first baby last year, so a trip to Spain was not in our near sights or plans," she said. Here the designer shares her observations and takeaway from the trip.

I'm sure you had pre-conceived ideas regarding the Guggenheim Bilbao. Designed by Pritzker Prize-winner Frank Gehry in 1997, the now iconic building is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. What were your thoughts on the museum and interior spaces?

The first thing I did when we entered was stand in the center of the lobby and look up at the sculptural white stairs that coil up inside the outer window shell. The sculptural form played against the outer windows forming varied shapes as you moved through the space. The structure was so complex, yet graceful at the same time. The building was also surprisingly simple to navigate and the wayfinding system easily guided us from start to finish through every exhibit. I imagined more of a maze, but it felt so open and manageable. **How did the newer buildings, including restaurants and hotels contrast with the authentic history of this port city?**

So much of the city is lined with ornate yet historic buildings incorporating decorative balconies and fortress-like oversized doors. The new hotels and restaurants are modern yet casual and strive for distinction, which in Bilbao means breaking away from the traditional decorative aesthetic. Hotel architecture and interior finishes were sleek which reinforced a modernist feel. The restaurants while informal combined natural finishes like wood accents and cork benches and served the Basque version of pinxtos (tapas). Many of the tapas bars had very small footprints; barely able to accommodate a bar and two cafe tables though each one had their own distinct vibe. I did spot a trend toward 90's punk rock in some of the restaurants in the medieval neighborhood of Casco Viejo, that were in vibrant colors with grunge-inspired details.

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

Some of the architecture and design highlights were the Teatro Campos Elíseos, a performing arts theater, a modernist building by architect Alfredo Acebal from 1902 that includes an Art Nouveau style horseshoeshaped façade created by Basque-French designer Jean Batiste Darroguy. The Bilbao Arena, a modern sports arena with a unique exterior was designed in 2011 by architects Javier Pérez and Nicolás Espinosa for ACXT-Idom while the Catedral de Santiago (St. James' Cathedral), is a majestic example of Bilbao's medieval style architecture.

Have you incorporated inspiration from the trip into any current projects you're working on?

At KOO, I design for many market sectors from hospitality to residential and institutional interiors. We like to apply a hospitality approach to all areas of our work, creating spaces with a custom identity. Seeing Philippe Starck's Azkuna Zentroa, which is an old wine warehouse, repurposed as an art, culture and leisure center was just stunning. One of the highlights is a pool on the top floor with a transparent roof and bottom where you can see people swimming from the plaza below. That project has directly inspired a variety of our projects ranging from the new Rooftop Venue and Hotel at Chicago's Navy Pier to a new Chicago Public Library.

What was your biggest AHA moment in Bilbao?

I was surprised this was my favorite part of the whole experience. We impulsively decided to hike back down the mountain following winding residential streets instead of taking the train down. We caught some amazing views of the city while surrounded by lush greenery and orange trees in the yards of homes cascading down the mountainside.

Any favorite food memory?

Definitely the original seven streets of Casco Viejo and the Piazza Nueva, a large open square full of places to eat pintxos, the local small plates mostly made with iberian ham or "Jamon."

Now that you've visited Bilbao, if you could travel anywhere, where would you visit next?

I would love to explore more European cities that are rich in architecture, local culture and have ancient roots. We flew through Amsterdam and Paris, which would both be incredible destinations. Bilbao really opened my eyes to what a great experience visiting small cities can be.

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Worldly Comfort

Showcasing an international roster of designers, HighTower Group debuts a new furniture collection for today's work environments

HighTower Group—a family-owned furniture manufacturer based in Kansas City, Missouri—tapped an international team of designers to craft its multifaceted Fall '17 furnishings collection. Inspiring connection and creativity within open-plan commercial spaces, the collection is comprised of eight pieces: Nest Easy, Lonan, Kilo Islands, Jaxson, Kona, Kona Tables, Four Cast'2 Wood, and Ruby.

"HighTower partners with young, global product designers who align with our passion for simple, flexible, and attainable designs, while staying committed to manufacturing within the U.S. with great attention to detail and quality workmanship," says Natalie Hartkopf, co-founder of HighTower.

Providing pockets of privacy within an open plan environment, the Nest Easy chair (1), conceived by Swedish firm Form Us With Love, has a high back that measures 47¼ inches tall, a seat height



3

of 17¾ inches, a width of 35 inches, and a depth of 36 inches. The chair is available in variety of upholstery options, with a soaped oak or black powdercoated steel base. Nest Easy can be paired with a coordinating ottoman for added comfort.

San Francisco-based Justin Champaign of Most Modest addresses acoustic concerns with the lightweight Lonan privacy screen (3). Characterized by the soft touch of its upholstery finish and the warmth of its wood accents, Lonan adds a subtle sound barrier with its substructure of acoustic padding wrapped in quilted Camira fabric. The screen, which measures 61½ inches wide by 81 inches tall, has a powdercoated metal base offered in nine colors.

Incorporating the signature V-shaped detail of the Danish design team behind Strand & Hvass, the Four Cast'2 Wood chair (2) pairs a tapered oak wood base with the flexible comfort of a colorful polypropylene seat. Measuring 17½ inches wide by 20 inches tall with a seat height of 18 inches, Four Cast'2 Wood's shell comes in nine colors, with optional seat pad or fully upholstered. - HAYLEY ARSENAULT hightoweraccess.com

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Kit of Parts

MASH studios launches the READYMADE collection of workplace furnishings with mix-and-match leg styles and surface options















contractdesign.com







MASHstudios, the Los Angeles–based design and fabrication company behind branded office furniture, has introduced READYMADE, a quick-ship line of desks, workstations, and conference, bistro (above), and meeting tables in a range of sizes and shapes.

The collection provides businesses of any size and budget with rapidly available, made-to-deliver furniture that ships anywhere in the world. Designers and clients make their choices using an intuitive online product configurator.

"Our industry has a need for furniture that is contemporary in design, built tough, and available faster," says Bernard Brucha, founder of MASHstudios. "We keep a close pulse on our clients' evolving desires, and we are confident that our READYMADE collection is a product they will love."

READYMADE comprises individual and benching workstation configurations with six leg styles (opposite, bottom) and several surfaces. The legs are available in cast iron, aluminum, or solid ash, while surfaces can be tailored with solid oak butcher block, exposededge Baltic birch plywood, or finished-edge plain-top plywood veneer. The sand-cast iron leg option, initially created by MASHstudios primarily for tech industry clients, has become an in-demand offering with broader appeal due to its solidity and materiality. The collection includes optional privacy panels, and built-in power and cable management systems ensure clean profiles. —MURRYE BERNARD readymadefurniture.com

What are the most interesting, beautiful, and innovative product launches of 2017? On the following pages, *Contract* editors share highlights from 2017 that have not been previously featured in the magazine. The products span the categories of indoor and outdoor furniture, architectural elements, bath and lighting fixtures, fabrics, flooring, and wallcoverings.



Wolfgang C.R. Mezger designed the Aula chair for Wilkhahn to meet the fluctuating requirements of the modern workplace. The seamless design features an ergonomic seat with an organically shaped shell and frame, and slightly offset armrests mirror the sloping rear legs. Stackable up to 16 high, the chairs are offered in six colors with four types of upholstery, and with or without armrests. wilkhahn.com

2. KnollTextiles: Hallmark

For the third and final collection launched in celebration of its 70th anniversary, KnollTextiles introduced the Hallmark series of archive-inspired textiles. Featuring a novelty yarn that brings depth and texture to the weave structure, the collection comprises three solid upholsteries—Juno, Overture, and Calypso and a large-scale patterned upholstery named Cleo, which is offered in 30 colors. Hallmark also includes a sheer drapery and two high-performance woven wallcoverings. knolltextiles.com

3. Architectural Systems: Shanti

The Shanti collection of ceramic tiles from Architectural Systems features a durable design offered in five modern patterns: Ashram, Full Moon, Lotus, Vinyasa, and Wave. Evoking a play on light, shadow, and pattern orientation, Shanti incorporates multidimensional shapes and is available in both matte and glossy finishes in a muted color palette of black, brown, gray, beige, and white. Ashram and Lotus measure 8½ by 10 inches, while Full Moon, Vinyasa, and Wave come in 5-inch squares.

archsystems.com

4. Valdama: Cameo

The Cameo series of washbasins features a variety of rounded, rectilinear forms edged by a slightly raised perimeter rim. Mixing contemporary geometry with classic craftsmanship, Cameo has a minimal square drain waste and a hidden overflow outlet, and is designed to be wall or console mounted. valdama.it





5. Allseating: Lyss

Fusing a contemporary aesthetic with a midcentury modern style, the Lyss chair, designed by Carl Magnusson in collaboration with Allseating, features a two-piece polymer shell with a smoke gray interior and a white exterior, which are unified by a delicately curved cutout. Lyss can be fully or partially upholstered and is available with a wood or aluminum base with optional casters and height-adjustment mechanisms. **allseating.com**

5

contract

PRODUCT BRIEFS

architectural

6. Sky-Frame: Pivot

The asymmetrical axis of Sky-Frame's Pivot glass door allows it to glide open with a single push to its minimalist handle. The slim 1½-inch-wide aluminum frame nearly disappears into the surrounding walls, while an electromechanical multipoint locking system brings substantial security to the otherwise concealed thermally broken door system. Pivot can be opened with keys, badges, or fingerprints. **sky-frame.com**





7. Smith & Fong: Living Hinge

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Not all walls conform to right angles, which is why the Living Hinge bamboo plywood panels from Smith & Fong curve around corners. The CNC-carved flexible acoustic panels utilize a design that allows the otherwise rigid material to flex effortlessly into curves as tight as a 24-inch radius. Living Hinge is available in multiple color tones—including Natural, Amber, and Fog—and measures 47% by 97% inches with a thickness of ½ inch.

plyboo.com

8. Duravit: Luv

Conceived by Danish designer Cecilie Manz, the Luv bathtub combines Nordic style with classic features. Luv is defined by its softly curved oval form. With a satin matte white exterior, the bathtub is available as a freestanding model and as a back-to-wall or corner version. duravit.us

8

9. Krownlab: Rorik

The Rorik sliding shower door system features a stainless-steel wheel bearing that rolls along a seemingly floating track, which is supported by concealed hardware. Developed for heavy-use hospitality projects, the hardware surpasses ADA pull-force requirements and can be opened with a single finger. Compatible with panels up to ½-inch thick and openings as large as 6 feet wide, Rorik is available in brushed or black stainless finishes for alcove and glass corner configurations. 9





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10. California Faucets: Tamalpais

Inspired by exposed pipes and industrial style, the Tamalpais bath series from California Faucets features a modern, streamlined cylindrical design. The centerpiece of the series is the widespread lavatory faucet, which has a 7-inch height and L-shaped handles. Constructed in solid brass, Tamalpais also includes a wall-mounted vessel lavatory faucet, a Roman tub set, a wall-mounted tub spout with handles, and a bidet set. Thermostatic and pressure balance shower controls are among the full range of coordinating accessories. Tamalpais is available in more than 30 finishes.

californiafaucets.com

PRODUCT BRIEFS

fabrics

11. Carnegie: PFRM

Designed in collaboration with Lee Pasteris, a design director and principal in Gensler's Los Angeles office, PFRM renders the spirit of sports and recreation into an upholstery collection that evokes the durability and boldness of athletic apparel. The collection's seven patterns—Flex, Kinetic, Pivot, Relay, Stride, Triad, and Triathalon—utilize tactile, highperformance textiles in a range of colorways, including energetic brights and calming monochromes.

carnegiefabrics.com





12. Luum: Color Compound

The calming tones of the Color Compound collection from Luum celebrate the aesthetic of the late architect Luis Barragán. Boasting simple geometry and expressive color, the collection includes the large-scale upholstery pattern Refraction, the solid crepe-weave Fundamentals, the textural solid Intone, and the solid panel fabric Essentials, each of which is available in numerous colorways. Iuumtextiles.com

flooring

13. Tandus Centiva: Edifice

Taking visual cues from the varied geometry of a skyline, the Edifice modular carpet collection mixes medium- and small-scale elements to manifest the energy of a city. Designer Jhane Barnes aimed to capture the gleam of sunlight bouncing off of skyscrapers with metallic-dyed yarn that adds a shimmering depth. Subtle directional cues in the pattern also assist in wayfinding. Edifice is available in seven neutral colorways and six accent colors. tandus-centiva.com





14. Emser Tile: Cassero

Evoking the gradations and linear textures of concrete forms, the Cassero collection from Emser Tile boasts a rustic yet refined appearance. Suitable for interior and exterior floor, wall, and surface applications, Cassero is available in three sizes—24 by 48 inches, 23 by 24 inches, and 12 by 24 inches—with a matte black, gray, mocha, or white finish. emser.com

15. Milliken: MultiForm

Milliken's new MultiForm collection takes a painterly approach to modular carpet. Inspired by modern art, the colorful tiles feature artistic shading and defined edges, allowing the floor to become a blank canvas for expression. MultiForm is available in three sizes and 20 colorways with a variety of border colors. milliken.com



furniture



18. Wewood: Pensil

Named after an old suspension bridge in Portugal, Wewood's Pensil seating collection conveys a balance of strength and lightness. Available as an armchair, a side chair, or a lounge chair, the wood frame comes in multiple finishes and is paired with a leather- or fabric-upholstered seat in a variety of color options. wewood.eu



The ribbonlike shell of the Coza chair allows the natural flexibility of the polymer to create comfortable ergonomics without a complex assembly. Designed by Martin Ballendat for Boss Design, the chair has a simple pivot point, and its adaptable shell accommodates long periods of sitting. Coza is available in three standard colors—black, white, and blue—but can be specified in bespoke colors as well. The seat can be upholstered in any fabric, and base options include four- or five-star formats with casters or glides.

17. HBF: Ami

The Ami collection, designed by Todd Bracher, pairs sculptural wooden forms with concealed power to create a cheerful line of conference and dining tables. The integrated power module swivels up or down at the touch and is available with a leather or wood cover. The Ami round table is available in three- or four-legged versions, with sizes ranging from 36- to 72-inch diameters. The oblong Ami racetrack table comes in two heights and three lengths, ranging from 72 to 90 inches. hbf.com



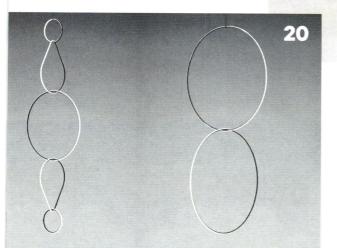
19. Fritz Hansen: Iala Berlin x Republic of Fritz Hansen

The iconic midcentury Series 7 chair designed by Arne Jacobsen has been reinterpreted in a new collaboration with Berlin-based fashion brand lala Berlin, led by Leyla Piedayesh. Inspired by her Iranian heritage, Piedayesh incorporated a rich velvet upholstery with monochromatic powdercoated legs. The collection consists of a front-upholstered chair in burgundy and fully upholstered Series 7 and Dot stools in dark blue. fritzhansen.com

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lighting

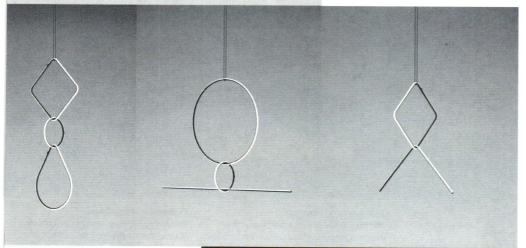


20. FLOS: Arrangements

Surveying the similarities between jewelry and lighting design, Michael Anastassiades conceived the Arrangements lighting collection for FLOS. Each of the eight architectural fixtures in the sculptural series can be attached to one another, rendering bespoke chandeliers with distinctive compositions. The fixtures are made of aluminum with a painted matte black finish. **flos.com**

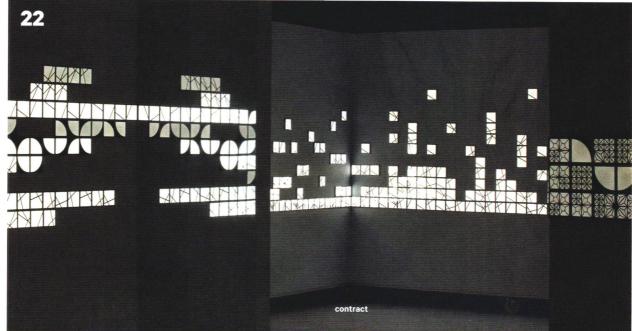
21. LightArt: Echo

Integrating high-performance illumination and sound absorption, LightArt has introduced Echo, a geometric system of acoustic lighting fixtures. Using 50 percent recycled PET felt, the textured lights employ angled fins to create a sculptural ceiling landscape while fostering focus in openplan interiors through their efficient NRC rating of 0.85 to 1.00. **lightart.com**



22. Kaneka: Kumiko

The Kumiko OLED collection from Kaneka was conceived by Japanese designer Michiru Tanaka to serve as a modular tile system that can be vertically mounted on walls. The tiles disperse light broadly without creating harsh shadows. Measuring 1.1 millimeters in depth, the nickelplated tiles reference traditional patterned woodwork found in Japanese screens, and they also function as reflective mirrors when dimmed. kaneka.com



outdoor

23. Ethimo: Allaperto

Presented in collaboration with Matteo Thun and Antonio Rodriguez, Ethimo's Allaperto collection of outdoor furnishings encompasses four unique editions-Mountain, Grand Hotel, Camping Chic, and Urban—that accommodate a variety of alfresco contexts. Distinguished by unique details and color combinations that match their respective milieus, the central components of each series include a dining armchair, lounge chair (pictured), and sun bed, and the materials employed include pickled teak, mahogany, etwick fiber, plastic straps, and metal. ethimo.com





25

24. Landscape Forms: GO

GO brings the comfort of a community table outdoors. Hidden outlets allow users to recharge devices while resting under a sleek overhead canopy with integrated solar panels and low-profile LED lights. Weather-resistant technology is seamlessly incorporated into the table's sleek aluminum surface, which dissipates heat in hot climates. GO is available in dining or standing heights in a variety of powdercoated color finishes, and with or without a canopy. landscapeforms.com

26

25. Gandiablasco: Módulo

The Módulo system is a modern interpretation of a traditional timber pergola. Constructed of powdercoated anodized aluminum, the visually lightweight structures can be used to shelter outdoor spaces, such as a dining area, a garden, or poolside. Modules can be specified with or without an internal floor system and are available with a variety of fixed or movable roof coverings and sidewall options.

23

gandiablasco.com

26. Moroso: Tent

Emulating the shape and structure of a tent, Benjamin Hubert designed a chair for Moroso that pushes the limits of 3-D knitting technology. Stretched over a tubular steel frame, each piece of nylon contains more than 2 million knitted loops and 50,000 meters of yarn. The knitting technique also allows a padding material to be sandwiched between layers of the surface nylon for cushioning. Available in a variety of colors, Tent is suitable for indoor and outdoor use. moroso.it

contractdesign.com

DECEMBER 2017

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wallcoverings

27. Daniel Heath Studio: Onyx Skyline

Inspired by the architecture of the iconic Hoover Building in London, Onyx Skyline is a luxurious Art Deco wallcovering line. The handcrafted collection has a coated color background with a screen-printed design that is available in four colorways: green and gold, black and gold, black and putty, and teal and bronze. Onyx Skyline measures 21¼ inches wide with a repeat drop of 19¾ inches.

danielheath.co.uk



27





28. Wolf-Gordon: Origins Woods

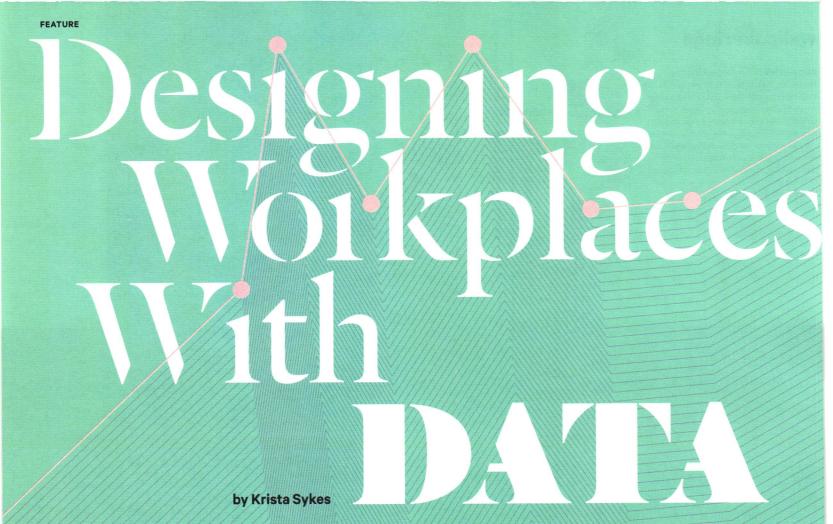
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29

Developed in collaboration with the Museum of New Mexico, Wolf-Gordon's Origins Woods collection of digital wallcoverings captures the rugged charm of the Southwestern state's weathered wood structures. The collection consists of four patterns-Catalpa, Pawpaw, Tamarack, and Tupelo—that showcase wood as a canvas for patina and texture after exposure to the elements. Each pattern is offered in three standard colors, and custom hues are available. wolfgordon.com

29. FilzFelt: Eva Zeisel

Reflecting the spirit of renowned ceramicist Eva Zeisel, the namesake collection of modular acoustic tiles from FilzFelt adapts the artist's iconic curvilinear forms into six fluid designs-Bottle Block, Fish Block, Hourglass Block, Spindle Block, Goblet Block, and Vase Block—that can be combined to create complex patterning. Available in 63 colorways, the wool felt tiles are mounted to a PET acoustic substrate. filzfelt.com



How Data Is Changing the Process and Perception of Design



My workplace enables me to work productively

Architects and designers have long used tools such as client interviews, precedent studies, and cultural explorations to envision, develop, and further their designs. In recent years, this research has expanded to include quantifiable data—collections of figures and statistics that, when analyzed, offer insights into how people use spaces. Whether gathered through embedded sensors, rigorous observation, or qualitative surveys, this type of data is altering how firms approach workplace projects. By incorporating data-derived insights into their design process, workplace designers are expanding client engagement and establishing themselves as indispensable strategic advisors for the businesses that they support.

Measuring success

How can we measure the design of a successful interior? For workplaces, specifically, what metrics are available? With nearly two decades of experience as an interior designer, Tim Oldman, the founder and CEO of London-based Leesman, came up with an answer: Measure how well a workspace supports the people who occupy it. "I saw an opportunity to assess an organization's workplace to devise a standardized test that could reveal what's working for it and what's keeping it from being its best," says Oldman. Building on concepts embodied by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the waste-reducing Lean Six Sigma process, Oldman launched the Leesman Index in 2010. The index uses an online standardized survey to gather data about workplace performance Administered to an organization's entire staff, the 15-minute survey includes a series of "How strongly do you agree?" prompts (such as "My workplace enables me to work productively" and "I am proud to bring visitors to my workplace"). And other sections ask respondents to rank the importance of—and their satisfaction with—different workplace activities (such as individual focused work, planned meetings, and audio conferences), physical features (including desks, chairs, and conference rooms), and service features (like spaces for coffee and snacks, security, and technology help).

Leesman collates and analyzes the responses, providing each company with a snapshot of how its workspaces facilitate, or hinder, employee functionality and effectiveness. This knowledge can provide a fresh look at a client's business, reveal insights for a pending improvement, and offer feedback on a previously implemented change. In addition to internal benchmarking, Leesman's vast database—270,000 respondents from The Leesman Index is a standardized online survey to gather information on workplace performance. It asks employees of a given workplace to rate how strongly they agree or disagree on a number of topics related to their office interior. Across all companies surveyed by Leesman (above), 57 percent of employees believe that their workplace enables them to work productively.

more than 2,000 organizations in 67 countries allows companies to see where they stand within the larger field.

Renovations do not guarantee employee satisfaction

When viewed as a whole, Leesman's wide-ranging analyses offer significant insights. For example, only 57 percent of respondents believe that their workplaces promote productivity. In other words, 43 percent of employees feel that their workplaces either do not support them (15 percent) or, worse, actively hinder their effectiveness (nearly 28 percent).

One would assume that employees are more satisfied in newly renovated workspaces. But surprisingly, this is often not the case. Leesman's post-occupancy data reveals that the number of employees who feel that their newly updated workplaces enable them to be productive is only 64 percent. And quality of acoustics is a significant issue in office environments. Post-occupancy evaluations reveal that employees' satisfaction with noise levels average only 34 percent.

The data underscores that simply renovating a workplace is not enough to guarantee employee satisfaction. To make a workplace a business asset, improvements must be made strategically, with a company's specific workforce and activities in mind. And even though concerns such as noise may be well known, these issues are not always easily rectified by renovations. Armed with data, designers can create spaces that help employees work more effectively. Furthermore, when bolstered by concrete numbers, designers can assert that workplace design impacts business success.

Whether stemming from sources like Leesman or a design firm's in-house research programs, data can play a role in all aspects of the design process even before a project is envisioned. Michael Bonomo, who recently spent three years as creative director for USA/North America at M Moser Associates, further emphasizes the role that data can play in future projects. "[M Moser] pulls data from past projects for its clients so they understand how design can support key business objectives for new workspaces," says Bonomo. "The firm shows that data and metrics informs knowledge and drives the success of the design."

Likewise, data can shape a project's direction. "When we go through the discovery phase with our clients, we learn about activities and behaviors that support and drive their values and vision," says Grant Christofely, M Moser's strategy team leader. "We define the types of work that the various business groups do and understand how they need to work to make the business successful—all of which is translated into the workspace designs."

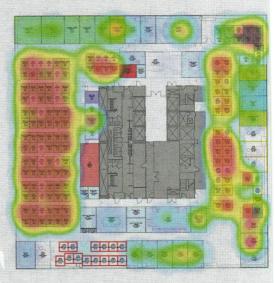
Pairing a time-utilization study with rigorous observation, M Moser's team created a heat map of a client's existing floor plan, showing spaces that are most and least used, and why. This knowledge, in turn, directs the design vision, underscoring spatial aspects that will best support employee activities.

Beyond discovery and visioning, data also influences the way firms design and, consequently, the skill sets that designers should possess. "We have architects and designers who write code," says Lois Wellwood, associate director and interiors and practice leader at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) in New York. "Those colleagues work very closely with us around testing, evaluating, pushing, and pulling our process to see how a space performs. Before, we drew on a combination of our experiences—a literal translation of what the client was telling us—as a floor plan or a conceptual drawing of our work. Now, using computational parametric tools, we actually have avatars in the three-dimensional computerized space to see how the space behaves before it is physically built."

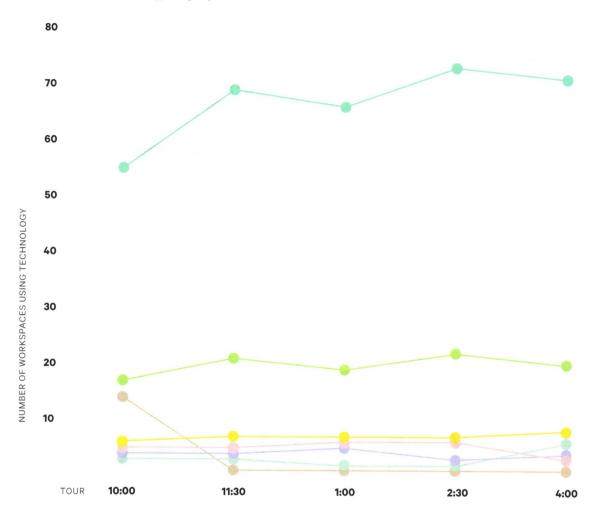
The ability to predict with a high degree of accuracy how people will behave in a space highlights interior design as an integral part of overall architectural design. "Traditionally when we would program and plan a workspace, we would look at what can happen within the confines of the built environment," says Anisa Mohammed, senior workplace strategist in the Washington, D.C., office of SOM. "Now, we see that this conversation begins earlier and earlier in the process. We are actually able to shape the base building with the client's desired behavioral outcome in mind."

The Seattle-based design/build firm Momentum reports similar experiences to those described by SOM leaders. Momentum's design process incorporates Leesman analysis to develop organizational strategies for each project.

Heat Map



Average Technology Usage by Tour Time

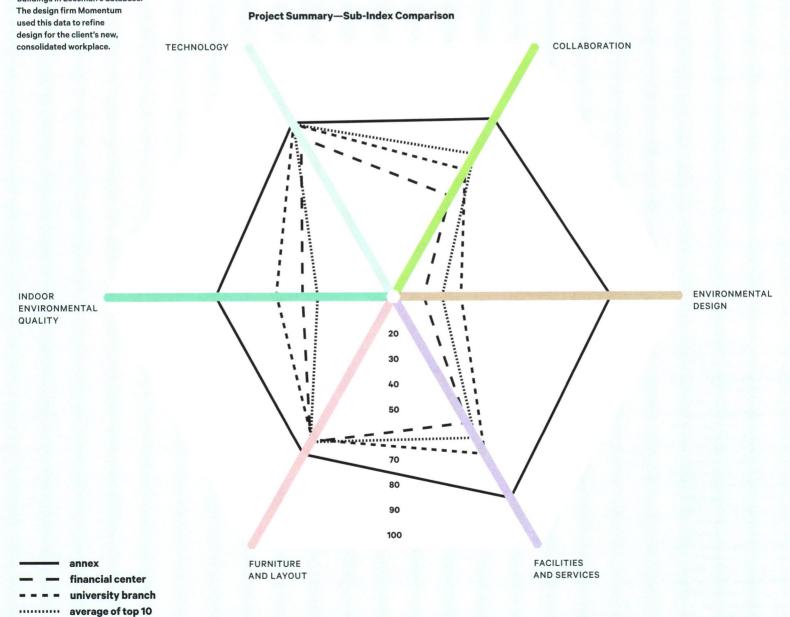


The New York office of M Moser implemented heat maps (example, opposite) to graphically depict the most-used spaces in a client's existing interior. With this information in hand, the designers can better understand the interior needs for the client's new workplace. In another example (this page), observational data was collected at 90-minute intervals within an office. The graph shows that the majority of work that takes place, regardless of time, is heads-down tasks, often on stationary (desktop or docked) computers. Designers can conclude that, if the company plans to continue working in this manner, the new space needs to accommodate this way of working. Also note that roughly 25 percent of employees are using headphones, which may relate to an office noise issue.

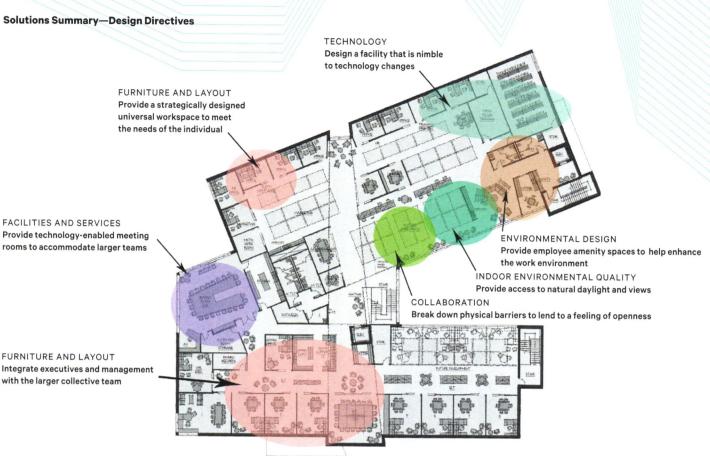
av tools

- desktop PC / laptop with monitor
- headphones
- laptop (no dock)
- monitor
- phone
- smartphone

This example of a spider graph (below) visually depicts survey data for a credit union's three existing locations—annex, financial center, and university branch—for six performance areas. The locations each scored well on technology, meaning that the employees generally believed that they were well supported by their workplaces' in-place technology. The three locations are compared to an average of the top performing buildings in Leesman's database. The design firm Momentum used this data to refine design for the client's new, consolidated workplace.



performing locations



With the knowledge depicted in the spider graph (opposite), the design firm Momentum created a series of directives (above) that either address shortcomings seen in a client's existing space or maintain or improve upon other aspects of a workplace.

The firm translates the survey's data-collection categories into directives, objectives, and tactics to create responsive, holistic designs.

For example, a Momentum client—a credit union in Oregon—wanted to consolidate three existing workplaces into one new building. These locations, as represented on a spider graph, each scored well on technology, meaning that the employees believed that they were well supported by their workplaces' in-place technology. However, the responses were not as favorable in other

categories, such as indoor environment qualitywhich refers to issues such as air quality and natural light-and environment design, which quantifies data related to aesthetics, general design, greenery, and communal spaces.

Taking this knowledge into account, Momentum created a series of directives to address these shortcomings and maintain or improve upon other aspects of workplace design. For the new credit union, the designers departed from the typical rectangular footprint and conceived a V-shaped structure that allows for access to plentiful natural light and views. A focal point of the interior is an open stair that connects each floor and overlooks an outdoor courtyard. The building, therefore, responds to specific issues, creating a supportive work environment for its occupants.

Designers serving as strategic advisors

As Stephen Apking, interior design partner at SOM in New York, says, "With respect to datadriven projects, the continuum of data starts at the very beginning of the project and continues

all the way through commissioning and beyond." Extended designer involvement—from previsioning to post-occupancy evaluations—is being woven into RFPs and client contracts, leading to relationships in which designers can position themselves as strategic advisors to their clients.

"In the past, we would work through programming, design, drawings, and construction, and then the client didn't call us for another ten years or until they needed to move again," says Wellwood. "We see that really shifting and changing as we become more engaged."

Data—namely the insights and evidence it provides—affords designers enhanced levels of engagement and highlights the tangible benefits of supportive workplaces. When strategically envisioned and designed, workplaces bolster organizational performance and success. And the more clearly designers can communicate this message, the more confidently they can convey the value of their services. c



Best of Competition

AND NO.

Retail

Project Molecure Pharmacy

- Where Taichung, Taiwan
- Designer Waterfrom Design

By juxtaposing a range of materials, Waterfrom Design created a modern take on the pharmacy, showcasing the process of extracting molecules from nature to create healing medicines. White pebble-sheathed walls, mottled gray stone floors, and hanging driftwood and plants complement the minimalist white-and-glass tension shelving, DNA-inspired copper-toned spiral stair, and suspended upper walkway. Instead of remaining behind the traditional consultation counter, the pharmacists interact with customers around a large laboratory table assembled from wood slabs occupying the center of the space.

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The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) has named the winners of the fifth annual Best of Asia Pacific Design Awards competition, which honors significant architecture and interior design projects throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Fifteen winners were identified in 11 categories. Molecure Pharmacy (this spread) in Taichung, Taiwan, designed by Waterfrom Design, received Best of Competition recognition.

"The winners of this year's IIDA Best of Asia Pacific Design Awards showed the depth of design talent in this region," said IIDA Executive Vice President and CEO Cheryl S. Durst, Hon. FIIDA. "The winners created locally relevant spaces with fresh, inspiring designs that are elevating the built environment."

The jurors were Johnny Chiu, founder of J.C. Architecture; Susan Orlandi, IIDA, associate director and interiors practice leader at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; and Joey Shimoda, FIIDA, FAIA, chief creative officer at Shimoda Design Group. Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong is a co-presenting sponsor of this awards program.

By Krista Sykes

IIDA Best of Asia Pacific Design Awards 2017



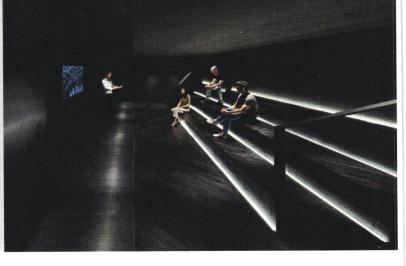
Education

Project Hyundai Capital Convention Hall

Where Seoul, South Korea

Designer Gensler

The ultramodern 6,250-square-foot assembly space for Hyundai Capital perches atop the company's global headquarters in Seoul, South Korea. Incorporating innovative lighting and cutting-edge technology, the sleek, flexible environment accommodates a range of activities, from company-wide meetings to large celebrations. Smooth shapes and monochromatic contrasts—such as the glowing molded-plastic shell that forms the hall's interior juxtaposed with the dark seating area—create a futuristic space that is representative of a minimalist and forward-thinking brand.



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Education

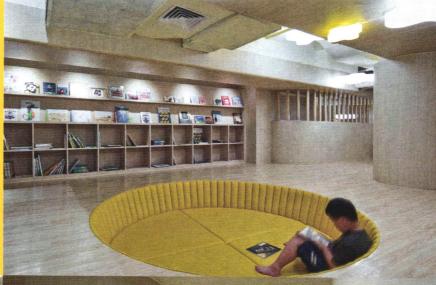
IFIH

Project PlayPlus

Where Shenzhen, China

Designer Panorama

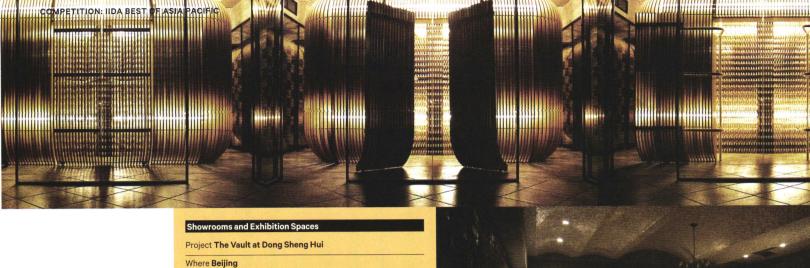
To encourage children to explore, interact, and develop independence, Panorama designed a flexible environment that varies in degrees of openness, scale, and height. Characterized by light-hued wood veneers, irregular punched openings, and bright yellow accents, the playscape includes undulating niche-filled walls, a climbing and slide area, a houselike structure, and other minimally programmed zones, all of which offer lively spaces that promote learning through recreation, creativity, and discovery.







contract



Designer Shanghai Godolphin

IICKETS

Faced with spatial, time, and operational constraints, Shanghai Godolphin transformed a former cigar room into a 270-squarefoot vault to hold 6,000 bottles of wine. The five-chambered vault, which reads as a smooth, curved wooden unit, draws on the post-and-lintel structure that is typical of a Beijing courtyard. Composed of individual factory-manufactured wood panels assembled on-site, the vault appears to shine as light emanates through its wooden slats, casting a warm, golden glow in the tight, subterranean space.



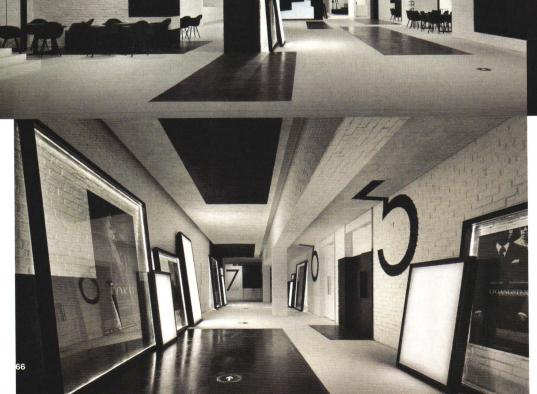
Entertainment

Project Hubei Qianjiang Golden Bridge Mall Cinema

Where Qianjiang, China

Designer One Plus Partnership

Working with a limited budget, One Plus Partnership envisioned the Hubei Qianjiang Golden Bridge Mall Cinema as a dramatic contrast of black and white. Masonry walls, dropped ceilings, and monolithic floors—all rendered in white—sport rectangular swaths of black, which blur boundaries. Black sans-serif signage identifies the ticket and concession areas, and large black numerals designate individual theaters. Oversize black frames are casually arrayed to add visual interest to the corridors that lead to the theaters, which boast predominately black interiors.





Healthcare

Project Bendigo Hospital

Where Bendigo, Australia

Designer Silver Thomas Hanley in collaboration with Bates Smart

To ground the Bendigo Hospital within its unique geography and culture, Silver Thomas Hanley, in collaboration with Bates Smart, adopted a holistic approach that incorporates the landscape into the experience of the building. Sunlight streams through a woven timber ceiling, casting ever-changing patterns across the three-story lobby, which features cream-colored stone, regionally inflected artwork, and thriving trees. Hospital rooms and circulation spaces all connect to the outdoors, whether through landscaped views, external gardens, or internal courtyards, creating an environment focused on the union between nature and well-being.





Restaurants

MPETITION IIDA BEST OF ASIA PACIFIC

Project Pinju, Diaoyutai Hangzhou Hotel

Where Hangzhou, China

Designer CCD/Cheng Chung Design Hong Kong and Shenzhen Asiantime International Construction

Texture and pattern characterize the Pinju dining establishment within the Diaoyutai Hangzhou Hotel. Drawing details from local history and culture, many elements are rendered in wood—transparent divider screens, ceiling latticework, and chevron-patterned floors. Unique masonry appears as well, notably the seemingly woven gray walls and the intricate blocks, which simultaneously read as geometric and organic. Select dense wooden accents stand in contrast, including the solid entryway door and sturdy dining furniture, illuminated by pendant lights that range from substantial to ephemeral.





Restaurants

Project RL

Where Taiwan, Taoyuan City, Taiwan

Designer Union Atelier

The stylish RL restaurant draws inspiration from the juxtaposition of the delicate pastries and hardy burgers it serves. To the left of the entrance, diners encounter a bright world of white—glazed tiles, painted bricks, and a lit-from-below marble counter—contrasted with stainless-steel accents. To the right, past a neutral wood table, the tiles, bricks, wooden floors, tables, and metal light fixtures are all dark. Mounted on the wall, a glowing neon knife references both the carnivorous fare and the sugar-topped desserts that follow.

Public Spaces and Commercial Lobbies

Project iCarbonX Lecture Hall

Where Shenzhen, China

Designer Shenzhen Bohe Construction

To transform this abandoned warehouse into a welcoming event space, the designers at Shenzhen Bohe Construction complemented the existing industrial elements, including textured masonry walls and exposed ductwork, with an infusion of warm materials. Rich-toned wood is used for the stepped lecture hall seating, various display cases, and an assortment of tables and chairs that accommodate meetings, meals, and tea. The lounge area—outfitted with refined leather couches, bar seating, pendant light fixtures, and backlit ceiling-height shelving—offers a well-appointed place to relax and gather.









Hotels

Project Hotel Mono

Where Singapore

Designer Spacedge Designs

Set within six historic shop houses, the 46-room Hotel Mono offers affordable accommodations for design-conscious travelers. Working with limited resources and conservation guidelines, Spacedge Designs devised minimalist blackand-white interiors that incorporate monochromatic tile, furnishings, and bedding. An ever-present black metal bar serves to visually connect rooms while acting as a clothing rod and lighting source. The pared-down design maintains the unique proportions of the early 20th-century structures while infusing the hotel with a decidedly modern feel.









Retail

Project Cutting Edge Pharmacy

Where Himeji, Japan

Designer Matsuya Art Works/KTX archiLAB

The design concept behind the Cutting Edge Pharmacy conveys an image of advanced technology and forward-thinking medical care. Matsuya Art Works/KTX archiLAB employed sleek lines, clean white surfaces, and flush floor lighting to create a precise, futuristic environment. Select black accents frame and emphasize the stark yet reflective white interior, while a large glass wall renders the pharmacy transparent, exposing this meticulous facility to all potential customers.

Corporate Space: Large

Project Shenzhen iCarbonX Office

Where Shenzhen, China

Designer Shenzhen Bohe Construction

An austere aesthetic that is both raw and refined transforms an old factory into a striking work environment for digital biotechnology firm iCarbonX. Original concrete walls and floors, exposed ductwork, smooth blank partitions, and patterned glass dividers offer a cool-toned backdrop that is complemented by warmer touches, which include area rugs, rich wood paneling, and midcentury wood-and-leather seating elements. Large industrial windows introduce natural daylight to the open work area that features verdant living walls.







Sales Centers and Show Flats

Project Vanke DayPark Sales Office and Culture Exhibition Center

Where Shenzhen, China

Designer Yu Studio

A residential sales office with a minimalist color palette in gray and tan in Shenzhen, China, feels like a high-end museum. Vanke DayPark also functions as a government-run culture exhibition center and includes art galleries, two teahouses, and secluded business niches. The stone-floored central hall features a bookcase made of layered paper and steel strips, standing opposite to staggered 30-foot-high window screens. An adjacent suspended floral installation hovers above models of the area's proposed developments.

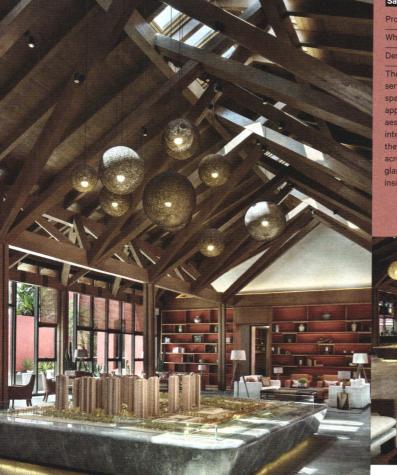
Spas and Fitness Centers

Project Motiva Gym

Where Nanjing, China

Designer FANAF

Within the shell of a 1960s factory, FANAF created an open, light-filled workout facility for Motiva Gym. An industrial aesthetic permeates the space, which features plentiful clerestory windows, white-painted steel trusses, and exposed concrete piers. The surfaces are largely painted white, with the exception of the black-shelved entrance to the cafe and a cheerful mint tone on the lower level of the double-height workout space. The upper level, accessed by a wooden stair, houses a shared office that overlooks the workout floor.



Sales Centers and Show Flats

i†††

Project Kunming Royal Villa Academy

Where Kunming, China

Designer Shenzhen Bohe Construction

The Kunming Royal Villa Academy sales center, which serves as a gathering and leisure facility as well as a display space, marries modernity and tradition to create a universally appealing environment that is infused with an Eastern aesthetic. Raw wood appears throughout, including the soaring interior framing and plentiful bookshelves, and contrasts with the gray stone floors and central display pedestal. Skylights across the vaulted ceiling admit plentiful light, and a full-height glass wall abuts a Chinese garden, blurring the border between inside and out.



what are your

Brand Report 2017

Readers Name Their Favorite Product Brands

The 2017 Contract Brand Report Awareness Survey was fielded as an internet survey utilizing a random sample of Contract magazine subscribers. A total of 264 respondents participated. Due to the breadth of the survey, not all respondents answered every category.

As a quality control, respondents were double screened (by list identification and self-reported occupation and company affiliation) 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
- Corporate architectural or design function (not affiliated with an industry manufacturing or distribution company)

For the *Contract* Brand Report Awareness survey, respondents were asked to identify the top three manufacturers in 26 categories. Respondents were instructed to respond only for categories with which they have familiarity. All responses were unaided; no brand name prompts or lists were provided to assure responses were unbiased. Responses were tabulated and reported by each of the 26 categories.

This survey provides a statistically valid comparison of results for the 2017 *Contract* Brand Report Awareness Survey with an overall margin of error of +/- 6.1 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

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- 98 training tables tile & stone
- 100 wallcoverings window treatments





Which manufacturers have made the most impact on the industry in the past decade?

 1
 Interface

 2
 Steelcase

 3
 3form

 3
 DIRTT

 4
 Herman Miller



sustainability







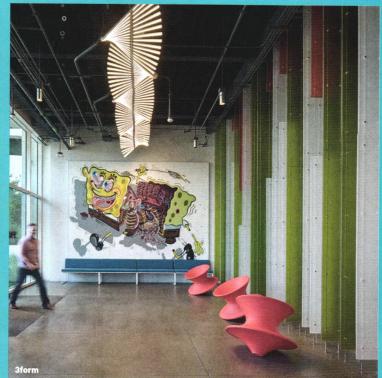
Which manufacturers represent the most environmentally sustainable products and culture serving our industry?

- 1 Interface
- 2 Herman Miller
- 3 Steelcase
- 4 Shaw Contract
- 5 Knoll
- contractdesign.com

76

inspiration





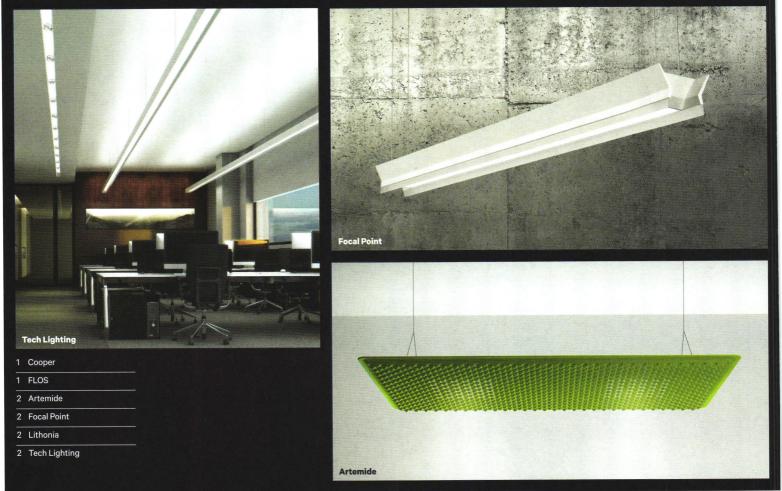
What are the top brands that inspire you to create your commercial design solutions?

- 1 Herman Miller
- 2 Knoll
- 3 Steelcas
- 4 Storm
- 5 Interface





architectural lighting



carpet: broadloom









carpet: modular







conference tables



Knol

2 Knoll

- 3 Herman Miller
- 3 Steelcase 4 Haworth



casegoods













- Herman Miller
- 1 Steelcase 2 Knoll
 - 3 Herman Miller
 - Haworth
 - OFS Brands

Knoll



82



BRAND REPORT 2017



education solutions



Simplicity is beautiful. Liberty by Niels Diffrient

(Humanscale).

humanscale.com/Liberty

alisterine tradi









1 Steelcase 2 Herman Miller 3 Knoll 4 Haworth 5 Allsteel

laminates







occasional tables



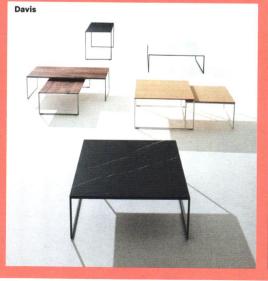


 1
 Herman Miller

 2
 Knoll

 3
 Coalesse

 4
 Bernhardt Design





BRAND REPORT 2017



. . .





movable walls



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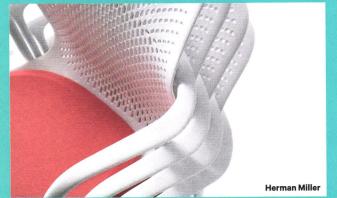


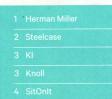


www.ERGinternational.com

seating: stacking & ganging











textiles



call for entries march 30 2018

inspirations

recognizing social responsibility in commercial interiors

ounterPulse in San Francisco by Jensen Architects lanned Parenthood of New York City in Queens, New York, / Stephen Yablon Architecture outhscape in Luton, England, by HOK akeview Pantry in Chicago by Wheeler Kearns Architects

17 WINNERS

contract presents inspirations in partnership with C Tarkett The Inspirations Awards, presented by *Contract* with continued support by Tarkett, celebrate the commercial design profession's leadership role in social responsibility. The client of the top honoree will receive a \$10,000 grant, recognizing inspiring design.

Contract Inspirations recognizes socially responsible design in commercial architecture and design—using design and/or design skills to improve the quality of life for those in need. Entries may be paid or pro-bono projects.

Last year's awards grants include Lakeview Pantry by Wheeler Kearns Architects, Youthscape by HOK, Planned Parenthood of New York City by Stephen Yablon Architecture, and CounterPulse by Jensen Architects. Go to contractdesign.com/inspirationsawards to learn more about these Inspirations Award recipients.

Inspirations 2018 will be awarded in Chicago during 2018 NeoCon[®]. Honored work will be featured in Contract Magazine print and digital editions and on contractdesign.com.

\$10,000 award grant contractdesign.com/inspirationsawards

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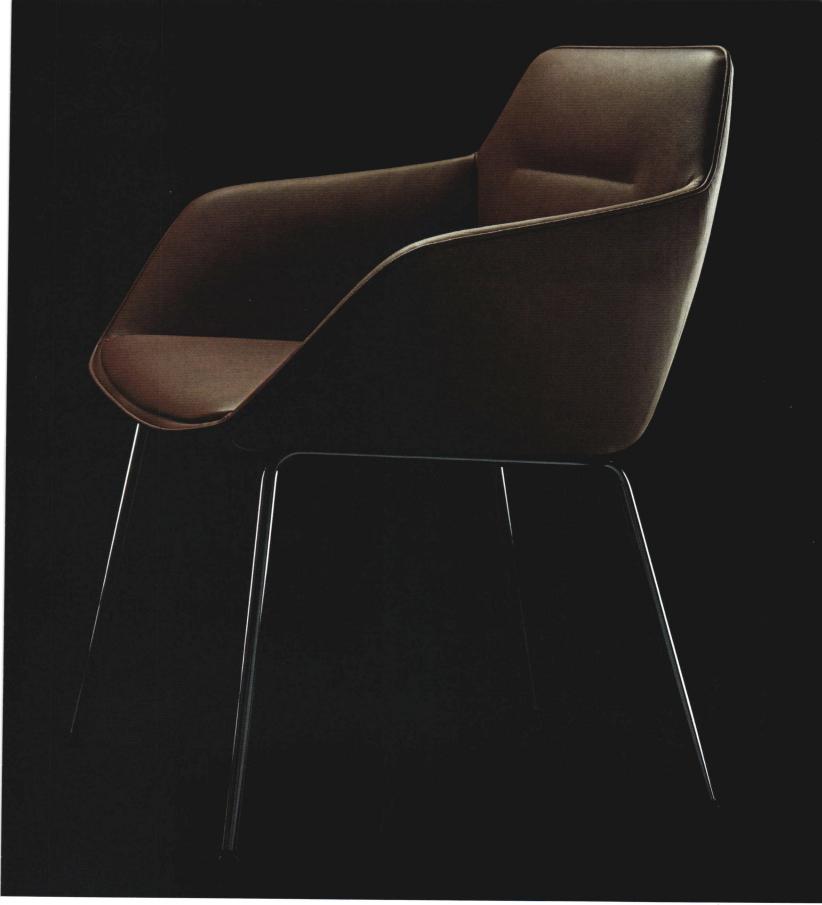




guest seating



Herman Miller



sachet | jehs+laub



signage



- 1 Takeform
- 2 2/90 Sign Systems
- 3 ASI
- 4 Magnuson Group
- 5 Peter Pepper Products

surfacing







- 1 Coria
- 2 Wilsona
- 3 Formic
- 4 Caesars
- 5 Cambria



Othoua Interior aware Join Contract magazine as we celebrate

winners of the 39th Annual Interiors Awards, the Designer of the Year, and Design Legend recipient **Joan Blumenfeld** of Perkins+Will.

Purchase tables and individual tickets at contractdesign.com/interiorsawards Reception 7:30-8:30am Breakfast & Awards 8:30-10:30am Cipriani, 42nd Street, New York

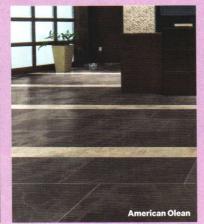


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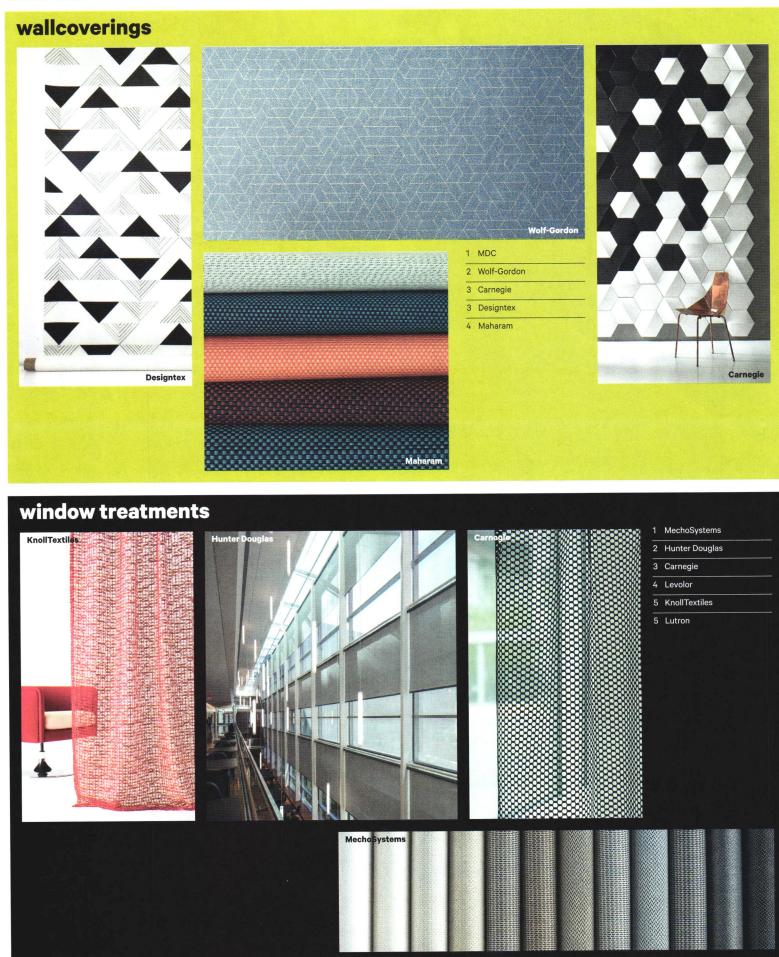
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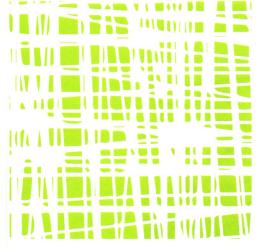
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IDEAS AND INFORMATION



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BE REWARDED WITH **\$5,000** FOR YOUR DESIGN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Anna Hernandez/Luna Textiles Education Fund award recognizes a female business owner whose firm specializes in interior design or product design and has been in business between 5 and 10 years. The recipient of this inaugural award will receive \$5,000 from the IIDA Foundation.

Visit www.iida.org to apply.

The deadline to apply is Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018.

For more information, contact foundation@iida.org or 888.799.IIDA.

The Anna Hernandez/ Luna Textiles Education Fund was established to honor the memory of Anna Hernandez, the awardwinning founder and president of Luna Textiles.

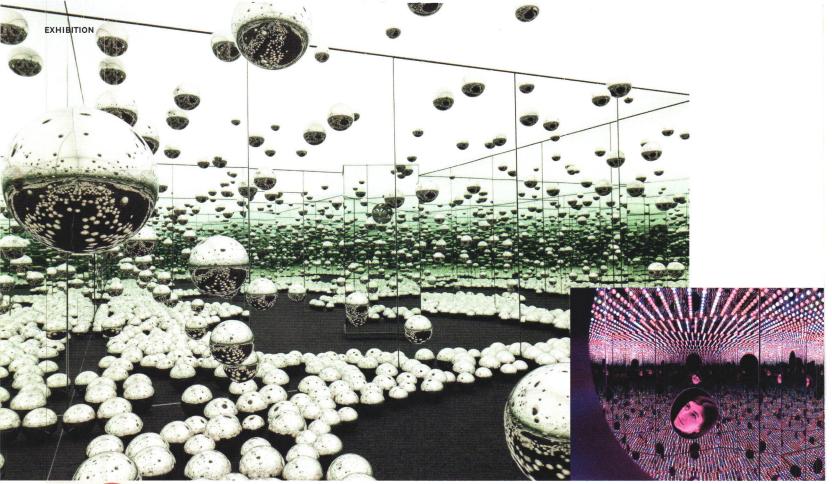
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Infinite Interiors Yayoi Kusama's immersive environments captivate, enthrall viewers



"Festival of Life," a sensory showcase of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama's iconic works, is on view through December 16 across two of David Zwirner's New York galleries. Regularly attracting lines with a wait time of three hours or more to enter, the exhibition includes two of her Instagram-worthy "Infinity Mirror Rooms," among other artworks. ["Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors," which includes six rooms, is concurrently on view now through January 1, 2018, at The Broad in Los Angeles and will travel to the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto from March 3 to May 27, 2018.]

In the New York exhibition, viewers are invited to peer through a pair of peepholes into one of the "Infinity" rooms, dubbed "Longing for Eternity" (above, right) to observe a kaleidoscopic collection of light bulbs arranged in a hexagonal pattern that adjusts in luminosity and hue to lend a seemingly ceaseless sensation. The second room, "Let's Survive Forever" (above, left) is experienced from within and accommodates six viewers at a time, who encounter a series of stainless steel balls—suspended from the ceiling and arranged on the floor—that suggest a similar sentiment of infinity through the reflected interplay of their silvery spherical surfaces set against the surrounding mirrors.

A trio of fantastically scaled flower-potted tulips is set at center stage in the sculptural installation "With All My Love For The Tulips, I Pray Forever" (left, pictured with Kusama), which envelops visitors in an immersive interior in which every possible surface is peppered by Kusama's signature red polka dots. —HAYLEY ARSENAULT