





## at your surface

The Surface Design Show is the UK's only event to focus exclusively on surface solutions for the built environment, and with the greatest range of features, talks and international exhibitors to date, the event showed why it has become a must-see event for architects, designers and specifiers.

Held at Islington's Business Design Centre, the show opened with the popular VIP Preview Evening which featured a special RIBA Building Futures live debate chaired by RIBA President Sunand Prasad. Focusing on the controversial subject of whether or not there is a place for professional ethics for architects in the new global economy, a passionate, and at times contentious, debate broke between the evening's four speakers – Irena Bauman, Indy Johar, Nicholas Ray and James Woudhuysen.

With James and Irena supporting the House's stand that professional ethics are outdated in the current climate – albeit from drastically differing viewpoints. James felt that sustaina-babble had diverted the attention of ▶▶▶▶





Forbo



Sunand Prasad

▶▶▶architects from adhering to their original calling, which is to build big and impressive buildings, while Irena felt that professional ethics should be a personal issue where architects benefited from the ‘fact’ that working ethically led to their own personal well-being.

Meanwhile, Nicholas and Indy took up the opposing argument with Indy stressing that professional ethics were at the core of everything that architects did. He stated that the existing code of conduct must change its focus from how to deal with clients to how architects dealt with every element of the building their designing interacts with both the present and future communities they will exist in.

Whilst on the subject of evening activities, the following night’s Gala Evening also provided an occasion for visitors to come to the show while experiencing a certain buzz. The evening featured an insightful presentation by the multi-award winning designer Sebastian Conran, which encouraged all designers to remember the importance of authenticity in the materials they design, manufacture and specify. Sebastian has worked with a number of the world’s leading surface manufacturers, including exhibitor ege carpets, whose Conran-designed Visual Textures range was launched at the 2007 Surface Design Show.

Sustainability was at the core of many of the exhibitors new products and the show recognised the importance of this by having the dedicated Green Surfaces zone which featured the Mix Interiors’ eco café. A number of exhibitors joined together to display an impressive selection of the most visually inspiring, sustainable, recyclable and▶▶▶

### TRENI IN PARTENZA

LINEA	ORA	DESTINAZIONE	STAZIONE	ORA	DESTINAZIONE
1	15:19	MILANO C. LE	1	15:19	1
2	15:26	BRESCIA	2	15:48	3
3	15:33	VENEZIA S. V.	3	15:48	4
4	15:43	BOLOGNA	4	15:48	5
5		BIANCO C. LE	5	15:51	6

INFORMAZIONI GENERALI SERVIZIO

### TRENI IN ARRIVO

LINEA	ORA	DA	STAZIONE	ORA	DA
1	15:19	MILANO C. LE	1	15:19	1
2	15:26	BRESCIA	2	15:48	3
3	15:33	VENEZIA S. V.	3	15:48	4
4	15:43	BOLOGNA	4	15:48	5
5		BIANCO C. LE	5	15:51	6



►►renewable materials available for contemporary building design. This impressive collection of environmentally friendly products was devised in response to calls from the architects and designers who felt that it was key that Surface Design Show exhibitors put an emphasis on sustainable products.

This year's event also featured a number of exciting new companies and zones which highlighted the breadth of innovation and inspiration currently being undertaken in the manufacture and design of surfaces for the architecture and design industries. Some of the industry's most creative manufacturers exhibited their latest designs under the Surface Innovations banner, including patination specialists Capisco, stretch ceiling providers Barrisol and solid-surfacing manufacturer Velstone.

heading around the stands, there was much to admire. Muraspec unveiled three new creative designs at show, with a strong focus on cultural design imagery, luxurious shades and sumptuous textures. Visitors to the stand found the latest trends and innovative ideas for wallcoverings, including the Indian ethnic styled design that is the inspiration behind Sri Lanka. The classic silk effect texture leaves a luxurious finish, whilst the extensive colour palette offering both rich and subtle shades makes Sri Lanka an exquisite product. The intricate pattern is repeated to create a beautiful feature wallcovering, suitable for all interior areas.

Drawing upon ancient cultural design imagery and symbols, Tattoo has an interesting and contemporary twist. The delicately hand drawn line detail is ►►►►►►►►



*Miraspec*



Florim Ceramiche Cerim



Geaves

combined with subtle metallic and pearl highlights, that shimmer through to create a rich but extremely versatile product. Available in rich colours, Tattoo is bursting with style and opulence.

Geaves Surface Solutions launched a series of exciting new display finishes and products for the retail industry from Italy at the event. These included Wave – a dynamic finish suitable for a range of applications and features. The design of Wave provides a soft, sinuous weave across its surface, which alternates between shiny and opaque and gives the surface a textured, structural feel. Domino is a modern, refined texture designed to bring out the brilliance and softness of each surface and which is reminiscent of a mosaic style. Luxury is the result of an innovative rotary printing system applied to high pressure laminate, this range creates an iridescent light effect across its surface, which provides a ‘dream-like’ atmosphere, whilst Vibrazioni is a functional, versatile line which combines spherical, textured finishes with a range of colours that create ‘light vibrations’, characterised by a three-dimensional style.

Mykon specialises in the manufacture and design of a wide portfolio of surface solutions from partitioning, panels, screens, doors, ceiling tiles, flooring and bespoke furniture materials, and launched three exciting new product editions at this year’s Surface Design Show. Alucolite are a range of aluminium skin faced panels – making this versatile internal and external cladding solution both light and durable. Alucolite can be easily curved, folded and slotted to achieve any desired result. This can even be achieved by using conventional tooling. The





▶▶▶▶ panels can be finished in either a metallic or PVDF paint enabling them to co-ordinate with any proposed colour scheme. Stratolite is a range of high performance stone, marble and granite composite panels, which are formed from stone sheets bonded together with a honeycomb and aluminium sheet backing. This results in the panels being lighter, easier to work with and provides sound and thermal insulation. Ciottolli is a distinctive range of unique stone and crystal glass mosaics. Mykon's extensive range consists of an array of textures and finishes including clear and iridescent crystals. A wide colour spectrum is available enabling flexibility and easy colour match for any design requirement. Ciotolli really shines when used on walls, floors and areas such as swimming pools creating dramatic and sought after effects.

The Selection, Leeuwenburgh's new collection of innovative wood veneers, was, we are informed, launched simultaneously at The Surface Design Show and at the ZOW Furniture Accessories Fair in Germany. The Selection offers an entirely new and contemporary look to traditional hardwoods in its exciting Vinterio veneers – apparently the first true real wood veneer innovation in over 60 years – together with some species we had not have seen before. Contemporary colours, a wide selection of lacquer finishes and textures ranging from matt and silk to open pore and sand blasted providing even greater choice. If that's not enough The Selection provides a further innovation in its range of smoked veneers, creating further new design opportunities.

Florim Ceramiche Cerim's Bloom covering integrates the porcelain stoneware ▶▶▶▶▶



*Mykon*



Forbo



Mykon

►►► floor tiles collection. Made in a white body, it has a polished and shiny surface, resulting in a contrasting polished-mat effect. Bloom is an original and innovative collection within the Cerim range, both for its colours as well as for the modern and sharp graphics of its decorations. ARCHITECH, meanwhile, was created from research based on concepts of conscious architecture and organic matter. The collection was defined through a renewed conception of designing that promotes harmony between man and nature and the creation of a balanced system between constructed ambience and natural environment. The in-depth work on the material was inspired by the simple aspect and logic of the structure present in the ground and was then identified in the shapes and rigorous surfaces designed by man. Sand, soil and rock are harmoniously integrated with elements of urban and natural scenery.

One thing we did not expect to view at the BDC was office furniture, but Forbo surprised us with its impressive new Furniture Linoleum collection - a unique and sustainable new surfacing finishing material. Comprising two distinct product ranges - Desktop and Walton Crocodiles, the new collection adds a distinctive finishing touch that they are hoping will change the way discerning furniture designers and manufacturers think about surfacing materials. Desktop consists of 20 elegant colours while Walton Crocodiles, as the name suggests, are embossed with a delicate crocodile pattern and come in four mono-chromatic tones.

We'll have one of each - and make it snappy! Sorry! ●