

*British Gypsum*

# livingstone, i presume

One of the many things we have been constantly impressed with at The Surface Design Show is the quality of speakers and debates on offer. There might be a recession on, but there's no cutting back from these guys in 2010.

The event, which runs from 16th-18th February at the Business Design Centre in Islington, yet again promises bags of interest and provocative discussion. Take, for example, the preview evening, which will open with a RIBA Live Debate on the Tuesday evening, which is intriguingly titled 'This house believes the road to recovery is paved with...Market reform? Green revolution? Small Government? Infrastructure? Radical leadership? Planning reform? Society?' – now there's a potentially explosive introduction. And this is what we need from our leading shows and exhibitions. All too often, like government and parliament, it is the liberal middle ground that is discussed – the various shades of grey. Just maybe, this will offer genuine opinion, radical thought and constructive, instructive ideas. We certainly hope so.

The economic certainties of the last decade have been blown away in the past two years and there have been countless recommendations, quick fixes and knee jerks emerging from think tanks and governments the globe over as to what to do next.

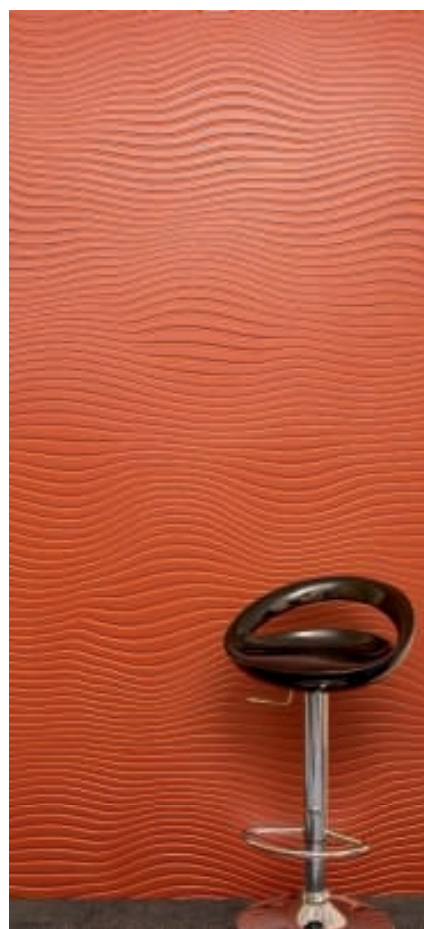
While recent months have suggested a degree of market recovery in the City there is little sign of the much desired 'trickle down' effect for wider aspects of the economy and society. For 2010, the most critical election year for a generation, what will be the policies and the big ideas

moulding our towns and cities in the coming decade? What can we do to capture the imagination and critical minds to ensure recovery in the UK does not revert to bad habits in good times?

RIBA Building Futures with The Surface Design Show kicks off election year with an open discussion of the options ahead for business, governance, ecology and society, and features contributions from leading thinkers including: former Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone; Executive Vice-Chair of The Work Foundation, Will Hutton; Chairman of Ramboll UK, Mark Whitby; and Chair of Engineering at Imperial College, Professor David Fisk.

Elsewhere, and running throughout the show, there will be a series of seminars which include RIBA lunchtime portraits, CPD's, the BRE Green Guide Theatre and the Construction Products Association

RIBA London brings together some of the best schemes from its 2009 Award year in two one hour lunchtime lectures. Two leading architectural practices, Grimshaw Architects and S333 Architects will profile landmark projects in the capital and reveal the drivers behind the schemes and the material considerations within them. This will follow with a discussion and questions to the project architects. RIBA CPD seminars provide educational focus and are a firm favourite at the show. Covering a wide range of topics, the seminars help▶▶▶▶▶▶



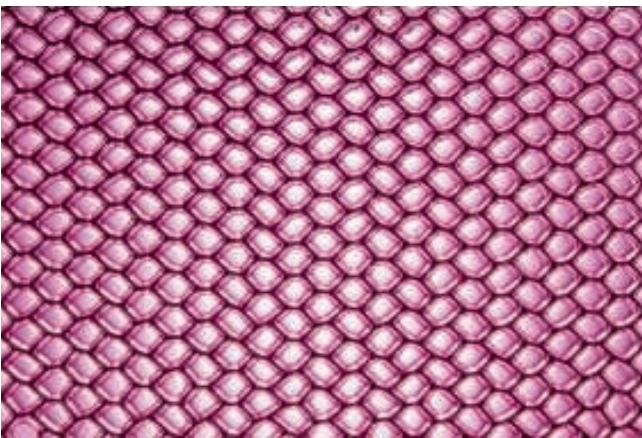
Muraspec



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Global



Mykon



Veritas

▶▶▶ attendees accrue CPD points and provide a greater technical insight into a range of subjects.

Day One of the BRE Green Guide Theatre takes a look at the 'Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products'. Clients are increasingly concerned about where the products they are buying come from and how they are sourced. What impact does their manufacture have on the environment? Has the workforce producing them been treated fairly? Some products have well established responsible sourcing schemes which answer these questions. This presentation describes BRE Global's scheme for third-party accreditation of responsible sourcing for construction products, including surface products, BRE Global's Responsible Sourcing Scheme.

Day Two sees The Green Guide and Environmental Profiles specifically focusing on flooring. The presentation will start by introducing the concepts behind the Green Guide to Specification, introducing the idea of Life Cycle Analysis and Environmental Profiles for material and how these form the basis on the Green Guide elemental

rating system. Links will be drawn with BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes paying particular attention to how flooring specifications (hard, soft and resilient) perform within the Green Guide and the significant environmental impacts associated with them.

Moving on, the Construction Products Association will provide visitors with a valuable insight into the new energy efficiency regulations to be implemented in April 2010 as well as explore the subject of responsible sourcing of building materials along with a workshop dedicated to the latest innovations in surface materials.

In this seminar John Tebbit, Industry Affairs Director of the Construction Products Association, looks at the changes in Part L for 2010 and how they will affect surface materials: Will materials that only do one thing such as structure or insulation be increasingly threatened by multi purpose materials? Will the need for vastly improved air tightness and thermal bridging dominate design to the detriment of other issues? The seminar will also cover the challenges and opportunities for building fabric as we

move to zero carbon homes by 2016 and other buildings from 2019. John is a member of the Government's Building Regulations Advisory Committee and a director of the Zero Carbon Hub for homes.

Jane Thornback, Sustainability Policy Advisor at the Construction Products Association, will discuss the different notions of what is meant by responsible sourcing of materials and products. She will highlight the recent work which has led to the issuing of the BRE and BSI standards on responsible sourcing of construction products and will provide examples of materials and sectors that will have recently been certified against the standards. Jane is a Coordinator of the Strategic Forum for Construction's Sustainable Construction Task Group, and sits on the Government and industry delivery board for the Strategy for Sustainable Construction.

This year's Surface Design Show will also host two exciting new feature areas: The Inspiration Centre is, well, exactly what it says – an area where companies new to the show will inspire you with their ideas and ▶▶▶▶▶

▶▶▶innovations. These are often smaller companies relying upon inspiration to grow in a competitive world. Want cutting edge? This one's for you!

The SCIN Centre, meanwhile, will introduce a range of the latest sustainable and green materials. Eco credentials, designing without waste, the longevity of materials and their potential for re-use will all be highlighted. We all have preconceived ideas about what is and what isn't environmentally toxic and in both cases there are surprises. For example, did you know that some of the preservatives used in treatment of wood can be highly toxic yet there is a new pvc vinyl flooring coming onto the market made with organic plasticisers based on plant origins? The SCIN will put a few of these myths to bed by showcasing a range of these products.

So what of the exhibitors themselves? Who, even at this pre-show stage catches our eye? Muraspec will be showing its RECORE Recycled Wall Technology, featuring 30% recycled content, including 10% recycled PET bottles. RECORE wallcoverings, the latest environmental option on offer from Muraspec, look, perform and cost the same as traditional contract grade fabric backed wallcoverings. Eligible for two LEED points, RECORE wallcoverings also feature water based inks and are fully recyclable at the end of their life. The first Muraspec RECORE design, Passaya, will be on display, offering a vibrant range of silk influenced colours.

Founded by Le Tissage d'Arcade, 2tec2 high tech flooring will introduce its Seamless Tile – 2tec2ST. This woven vinyl is easy to maintain, stain and water-resistant, simple to replace and thus ideal for commercial settings, with the added benefit of having the sleek, unbroken appearance of a wall-to-wall floorcovering, when fitted in a uni-directional pattern.

Bolon aims to be able to offer a completely environmentally adapted and climate-neutral product. As part of the Bolon Green initiative, there is now a revolutionary plasticiser. Thus, Bolon will be the first flooring enterprise in the world to switch to using plasticisers consisting of 100% renewable raw material, with their origin in the plant kingdom. The plasticiser will be included in the new 2010 Botanic collection and it is Bolon's goal to have it in all the products in its entire product range.

Veritas is being brought to the UK by CD (UK) Ltd. Veritas, the highly versatile, decorative resin panel, previously only available in the US, is now being launched in the UK. Veritas is a resin panel with five key elements; a textured or plain front panel, decorative interlay of your choice, your choice of colour, a backing sheet and all encapsulated in the thickness required.

Since 1988 Caesar has been synonymous with Quality Stoneware tiles Made in Italy, which combine technology, performance, functionality and aesthetics. E.motions is the new collection that conveys the natural beauty of stone. This advanced ceramic

design concept offers creative freedom thanks to three surface finishes and a slender thickness of 4.8 mm.

Mykon manufactures high quality surface solutions for the high end interior and architectural market. The geometric design of its product allows natural light to flood through while retaining sparkle, translucent quality allowing them to use the product for many applications such as panels, sliding doors, internal hinged doors, flooring, ceiling tiles and bespoke furniture.

Global TCT will be exhibiting for the first time to demonstrate its capabilities in 3D printing of large and small highly detailed architectural models, direct from CAD in five days and 3D printing equipment installations.

Limited Edition creates and markets luxurious, contemporary wall-to-wall and area carpets, characterised by premium quality materials and finishes, and legendary Belgian craftsmanship. Limited Edition is renowned for delivering tailor-made luxury carpets that meet the exacting tastes and specifications of each client.

The intriguingly named Tactility Factory is a new innovative company combining textiles and concrete – 'making hard surfaces soft'. This initial public launch will be showing a small range of surfaces with the potential to develop into 'off the shelf products' or bespoke panels.

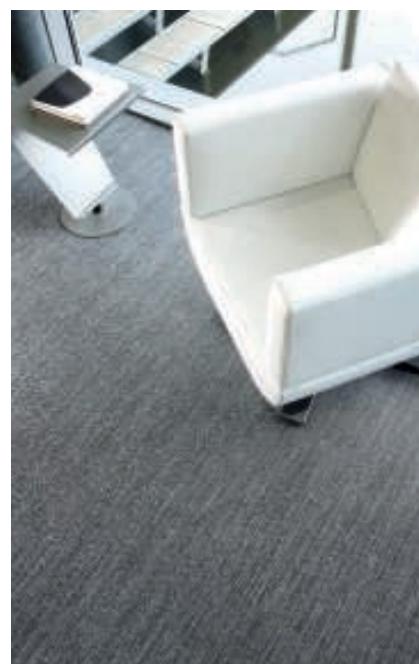
And that's just a taster. So get yourselves over to Islington, get inspired, get thinking and get involved. We certainly will be ●



Bolon



Architectural Textiles



2tec2