



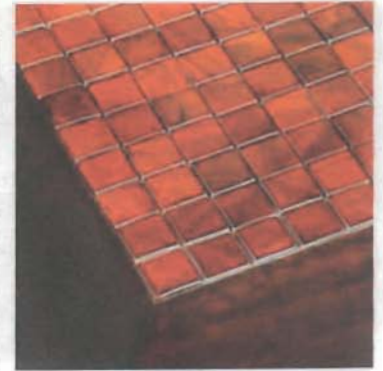
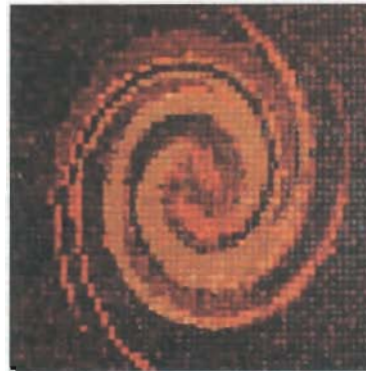
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Live@NeoCon 2003 The Art of Hardwood

By Yetta Starr, *Metropolis* Writer
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Following their success in cultivating exotic hardwood species in Costa Rica, American environmentalists Steve and Sherry Brunner formed Raleo, which translates as "thinning" in Spanish. With the help of another family member, Jake Brunner, who also has a horticulture background, the company produces refined sculptural furniture from over 30 types of hardwood, which the Brunners grow on their own farm in Costa Rica.



Product: Raleo Art and Furniture
Designer: Jake Brunner
Material(s): tropical hardwood
Manufacturer: Raleo, San José, Costa Rica
Web site: www.raleo.com

A single Raleo table or chair often contains several different tree species, from well-known varieties such as teak and mahogany to rarer types like wild tambran and madero negro. The company also utilizes this combination approach for pointillist-inspired art works, created from half-inch nuggets of wood. The pieces are individually selected for grain, texture, and color characteristics; polished; then assembled into larger mosaics.



Live@NeoCon 2003

Chromascreen Offers Beauty From In Between

 By Yetta Starr, *Metropolis* Writer

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There is a beauty in materials with translucent qualities, where light filters through the object to create layered space. Cesar Color has taken this translucence as inspiration for its liquid crystal technology, for use in lightweight acrylic or glass interior panels.

The resulting ChromaScreen is clear and void of the clumsy yellow residue that marred early '90s vision control technology. The system's interlayer is also completely adjustable, allowing for a spectrum of choices between opacity and transparency.

Says Claudio Cesar, company founder and glass maven: "It's a perfect medium to combine moving images for retail applications." Imaginewatching a runway fashion show on a glass wall as you shop: It could become a reality when venues see ChromaScreen's benefits.


Product: ChromaScreen Vision Control and Video Projection System

Designer: Claudio Cesar

Material(s): acrylic, glass

Manufacturer: Cesar Color Inc.

Web site: www.cesarcolor.com



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Live@NeoCon 2003 Stitch Textile Collection

By Yetta Starr, *Metropolis* Writer
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A collaboration between North Carolina firm HBF Textiles and the Atlanta-based TVS Interiors, the Stitch Textile Collection lives up to its name. Patterns exhibit sophisticated stitchery patterns inspired by daily objects; the lines have such identifiable names as Watchband and Seatbelt. This sense of playfulness is echoed in the products' textures: Melted Crayon, for example, is a durable, simulated leather that has a fluidity like poured pigment.



Product: Stitch Textile Collection
Designer: TVS Interiors
Manufacturer: HBF Textiles
Materials: recycled, non-blended, and blended polyester, nylon, rayon, and cotton fibers
Web site: www.hbftextiles.com

Besides a range of clear hues and tonal families, the seven products in the collection include contrasting matte and iridescent sheen finishes. The fabrics are also affordable, with three of the textiles retailing for less than \$30/yard. These coordinates offer an extra large selection of individual decorating possibilities.



Live@NeoCon 2003

A Non-Directional Carpet Tile

By Yetta Starr, *Metropolis* Writer

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While many carpet tile manufacturers have jumped on to the "randomness" concept of abstract patterning, Interface explores biomimicry's nature-imitating principles to a profound level with its i2 free-form modular line. Each carpet square has a slightly different pattern, with the variance producing beautiful textural effects.

But aside from the line's 27 designs, i2's product

developer and strategist David Oakey is touting another of i2's differences: Its non-directional construction. These carpet tiles can be placed in any order or direction (which speeds up installation), and they produce less waste (an attractive plus in these eco-conscious times).



Product: i2

Designer: David Oakey

Material(s): yarn, solution-dyed nylon fibers; fiberglass-reinforced vinyl composite that's virgin or recycled.

Manufacturer: Interface Inc.

Web site: www.i2byinterface.com



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Live@NeoCon 2003 A Magic Box for Tech Support

By Yetta Starr, *Metropolis* Writer
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Anthro Corporation, an Oregon-based manufacturer specializing in products for scientific and technology markets, may have snagged a silver Best of NeoCon award for iCart II, a compact support system for iMacs, but the company's new eCart also deserves notice.

Resembling a magician's play box, the eCart features removable metal panels, multiple fixed and sliding interior components, and

power access points; it also allows for machine ventilation. Rack rails are available to hold pressurized tanks, equipment, files, and bins. All of this in a mere 24" x 28" footprint.

Mullen calls his design "a niche product" that can be used anywhere a compact, enclosed mobile cart is needed, including labs, exam rooms, and operating theaters.



Product: eCart
Designers: Michael Mullen, Steve Linder
Material(s): sheet metal and high-pressure laminated industrial particle board; optional translucent Plexiglas doors and light-gauge metal accessories.
Manufacturer: Anthro Corporation
Web site: www.anthro.com