

materials update

PURE INNOVATION FROM CENTRAL SAINT MARTINS ▶

Recent winner of PURE's digital radio make-over competition Kalia Cox has created a concept for a porcelain radio, complete with perforations and LEDs that react to the unit's battery charge. This enables users to incorporate their own embroidery into the design. The Central Saint Martins student also won the competition's packaging category, suggesting a laser cut wooden box that complements her design and can also be used as a light box after unpacking. www.pure.com

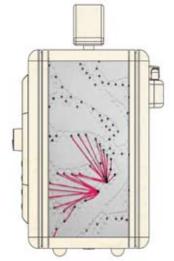
FROMENTAL REINVENT CLASSICS WITH ROGER THOMAS ▶

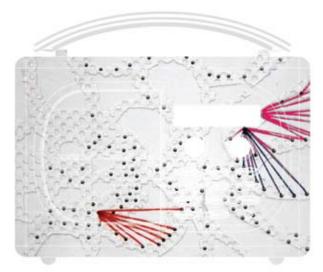
Handmade interiors house Fromental has collaborated with American designer Roger Thomas to create an exclusive collection of hand-embroidered and painted wallpapers, referencing decorative elements from the 17th and 18th centuries. Produced using paper-backed silk and metallic threads, the artisanal range will be launched at this year's Decorex, held in London this Autumn. Incorporating both delicate motifs and bold shapes, the brief collection effectively caters to all tastes. www.fromental.co.uk

HEATSWELL INSULATOR FOR COFFEE CUPS▼

Scott Amron's Heatswell coffee cups adapt the standard disposable vessel by adding a thermo-sensitive material to the design, which expands when heated. Replacing the usual insulating sleeve with this polymer does away with the use of coffee collars and allows for cups to be stacked easily, saving time, money and paper waste. Both non-toxic and fully biodegradable, Amron's material invention could pave the way for a new, smart, materials-focused approach to fast food packaging.

www.amronexperimental.com/ Heatswell.htm











■ INJECTING NEW LIFEINTO UPHOLSTERY

The Israeli based Bakery design collective's Gilli Kuchik has recently launched experiments in upholstery, combining the traditional use of fabric for furniture coverings with material injection technologies. Using a combination of high density and foam polyurethane, the Industrialised Upholstery project sees the common aesthetics of upholstered furniture challenged, resulting in a new direction for material usage.

www.bakery-design.com

FABRICS GIANTS JOIN FORCES IN UK AND IRELAND ▶

Globally recognised fabric house JAB International Furnishings has recently taken over distribution of Alcantara materials in the UK and Ireland. With the take-over comes an expanded range of Alcantara products as the company adds a new 73 colour collection to its selections.

www.alcantara.com www.jab-uk.co.uk

