

MARYLEBONE & FITZROVIA

JUNE 2017 • ISSUE 013 • £5

MAGAZINE



URBAN JUNGLE

Vertical gardens, sky pools and 3D-printed homes:
the future of architecture in the capital

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FAIREST of them all

The ultimate blank canvas in interior design, the humble wall has found a new lease of life at Salone del Mobile and beyond – from wireless speaker systems to leather panelling and intricate mosaics.

Camilla Apcar reports on when a wall is not just a wall

► Studioart has celebrated its tenth anniversary by reinterpreting its best seller, Leatherwall: a tiled covering that uses geometric combinations of squares, triangles, trapeziums, rhombuses and rectangles to create plush contemporary patterns (from €530 per sq m).

“Its versatility allows you to apply it in bedrooms, living rooms, hallways – we even have some collections that are waterproof,” says Dalle Mese. “You can use a feature wall with special patterns, shapes or colour combinations to

add to an ordinary room, or if a full wall would be too much, you could use Leatherwall as an artwork.”

The pieces are designed and sewn to fit by a team of ten, and the leather is supplied by Studioart’s own tannery in Vicenza, the Italian leather-making region. The anniversary collection includes three new styles to suit minimalist, modern and Romantic tastes alike, with padded three-dimensionality and stitching for additional texture.

Elsewhere on the tiling front, there is little rest for the Campana Brothers. They have followed their



candy cane lighting for Lasvit and hairy house in São Paulo – one of the duo’s first architectural projects, covered in palm fibre inspired by traditional Brazilian housing – with something a little more approachable for Bisazza, the glass mosaic firm.

“Our range of Cementiles encompasses ancient techniques with a modern twist,” says Donna Podger, Bisazza’s London showroom manager. The tiles are made from a mixture of fine cement, marble dust and natural pigments, then left out to dry for a week after being removed from their mould.

“A monochrome splash in a bathroom, a floral-inspired design for the kitchen, a geometric design to bring a hallway to life... the scope of use is vast,” Podger continues.



Appetite for artistic expression has found new ways to flourish



“The designers we work with like to push boundaries on making the best impression with walls.” Indeed, Paola Navone, Jaime Hayon and Tom Dixon have all lent a little of their own signature style to the Cementiles range in the past.

This year, the Campana Brothers’ take was inspired by the spirals found in a slice of agate rock. In shades of a single colour – green, yellow, red or blue – repeated rings come together en masse to form a full-blown 1970s retro vision (from £154 per sq m).

On a more intricate scale, Sicis on Dover Street takes tiling to new heights with Italian-made mosaics. These minute squares are one of the oldest forms of interior decoration, particularly popular with the ancient Romans, Greeks and Byzantines.

Sicis refashions Giuseppe Arcimboldo and Gustav Klimt’s work in materials as varied as marble or 24-carat gold, semi-precious stones and mother of pearl; conjures cityscapes and lifesize images of Marilyn Monroe; and best of all, creates mesmerising abstract designs that sweep through entire rooms.

When it comes to walls, the next few thousand years look set to be as full of creativity as the last. ■



CLOCKWISE
FROM CENTRE:
STUDIOART
KALEIDO PEARL
WHITE; STUDIOART
VECTOR BI-COLOR;
STUDIOART
LOSANGE; SAHRAI
LEOPARD CARPET