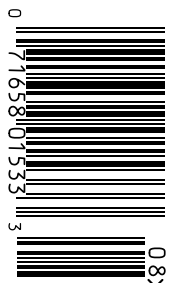


surface



AGENTS OF CHANGE

AUGUST 2011
DISPLAY UNTIL AUGUST 29





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02



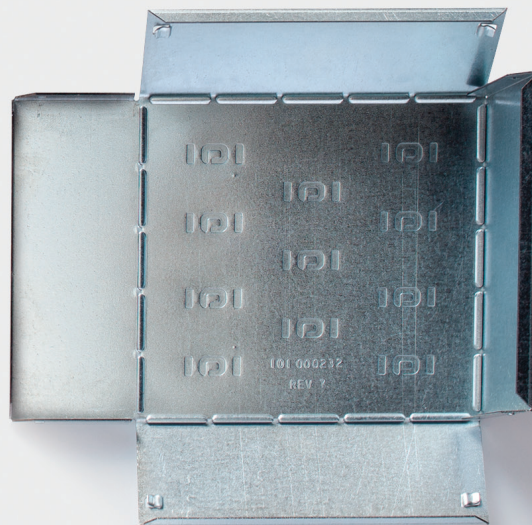
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For Mixed Use

THESE MATERIALS SERVE MANIFOLD FUNCTIONS, FROM COOKING TO DECORATIONS.

PHOTO TOM HAYES

In this column, we ask Material Connexion vice president Andrew Dent, Ph.D., to select six innovations set to influence what designers will be using tomorrow.

01 EcoEVA Marble is a sheet of 100-percent recycled post-industrial shoe insole waste, or ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA). While sheets of EVA aren't new, the recycling and sourcing process was once too difficult to

make worthwhile. However, Brazilian-based Jomo Thermomolding now has found a reliable way to create the molded material, allowing it to be used for a variety of packaging and containers.

02 As any cook can attest, plastic may be light, inexpensive, and colorful, but it won't hold up to high oven temperatures. Not so for Vectra LCP. An injection-molded polymer resin by multinational group Ticona, Vectra can be colored and machined like other polymers yet withstand heat up to 536 degrees Fahrenheit. It's also microwave safe, scratch-resistant, and has non-stick properties.

03 A completely new alternative to vinyl and polyurethane contract upholstery, the silicone-coated PLA (corn-based polymer) Silica textiles by Momentum Group are highly resistant to mildew, and they're antimicrobial and super durable, too. But what sets them apart is that they're suitable for healthcare settings and extended outdoor use.

04 We use cowhide for leather, so why not the cow's stomach? Netherlands-based designer Mandy den Elzen has begun producing what she calls Rumen—named after one of the four stomach chambers in a cow—to create this leathery decorative material. Tanned for more than two months, its tough, tactile surface can be formed over any frame.

05 Alerting consumers or retailers to sun exposure (think: bottles of sunscreen, sensitive electronics, et cetera), Blushing Bottles by Ohio-based Americhem change colors in direct sunlight via a thin outer layer made of thermoplastic elastomer (TPE) that incorporates a UV sensitive pigment. The colors each bottle change to and from can be customized.

06 Ohio-based Industrial Origami is much as it sounds. A scalable process applied to sheets of aluminum and steel, the patented technology uses precise cuts that allow each piece to be folded with ease. Everything from appliances to furniture can be created.—DAN RUBINSTEIN