

idfx

INSPIRATION FOR INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

www.idfxmagazine.com

THE FUTURE FOR FURNITURE

Will 2010 be a good year for interiors?

STORAGE FOCUS

Products, projects and profiles

Screen Sirens

Divide and conquer with our choice of the latest screens

DECEMBER 2009 / £4.99



ONE DESIGNER'S DIARY...

in which the walls have ears and the decor speaks volumes

2ND

JAIL BREAK

I get a bit carried away on a mammoth royal shopping spree at the temporary Highgrove Christmas store, situated in a drawing room at Clarence House, and end up carting heavy bags of organic hampers around various meetings. I end the day at an embroidery sale for Fine Cell Work, a charity that teaches needlework to long-term prison inmates. When one of the volunteers spots my Duchy of Cornwall bags, she confesses to her somewhat schizophrenic life — on Tuesdays she works at Highgrove as a garden guide and on Fridays helps out in prison.

7TH

CREASED UP

On a shopping trip with a client, we pass a Mayfair hairdressing salon owned by a slightly eccentric family who are clients of a colleague. On the day a sumptuous white carpet was laid at the daughter's new Docklands penthouse, my friend received a call to say the carpet was 'broken'. Unable to make sense of this unusual claim, he drove over to east London to find a small crease in the carpet resulting from the roll being crammed into the lift to get it to the top floor. He reassured the anxious client that the wool would spring back in a day or two and was relieved to get the message the next morning that the carpet was 'fixed'.

10TH

CHRISTMAS JEER

No festive season goes by without a client demanding at short notice that a piece of furniture or pair of curtains must arrive for Christmas. I am often tempted to repeat my laconic curtain maker's annual exclamation: 'They'll look just as nice in January, dear!' This year, an upholsterer confides, is worse than ever because even though the designers have been efficient and planned early, the clients aren't paying up until the very last minute. Understandably, the designers are unwilling to risk bad debt — so a few behinds will be sitting on threadbare dining chairs while their owners tuck in to the turkey this Christmas Day.

12TH

PINE AWAY

It's the time of year when I debate whether to have a proper tree — and face the new year prospect of hoovering up pine needles from three floors of communal stairway — or do something cutting edge (and non-dropping) with twigs. At least the fairy lights are never a problem. I now always follow a wise designer colleague's advice of planning a Christmas tree socket in every electrical scheme I do.



WHOLE LIGHT

BY MARCUS TREMONTA

WORDS REBECCA HOH

New York-based artist and designer Marcus Tremonta has added these slimline lights to his futuristic collection of luminaires, which made their debut at London's SuperDesign show. Whole Light and Vakpak continue Tremonta's theme of using materials that 'reflect the modern age'.

Both hanging pieces are created using incredibly thin, electroluminescent electronic paper as their light source, a flexible surface that Tremonta has been experimenting with for almost three years (and was first seen in his Paper Landscapes range shown at this year's EuroLuce). Leaps and bounds are being made with this technology as a result of its use in the competitive field of display lighting, for example, for billboards.

Electroluminescence is an optical and electrical phenomenon. It occurs when a material emits light in response to an electrical current being passed through it, causing the atoms of the material to emit photons. The electroluminescent material needs to

be sandwiched between two layers of conductors, the top layer needs to be transparent and, in the case of Tremonta's work, Perspex is used. Vakpak in particular takes advantage of way the material can be used in razor-thin proportions — the a double-sided light image is only 2-3mm thick.

Tremonta loves the way the material allows the light source to take on so many shapes. But he does not like to dwell on the technical side of his work, preferring to let the products do the talking.

www.treluce.com

