An urban makeover in Manchester

Explore the newly renovated Dukes 92, the famous canal side bar in the heart of Manchester. Featuring stunning tiles from the concrete inspired Replicate range.

DUKES 92

EXPANSE
BOLD, GRAPHIC TILES

DRURY HOUSE
MODERN GEOMETRY

CARNIVAL
BRIGHT WALL STYLE

GEBERIT
NEW WARWICK HQ
Chairman
PETER BENTLEY
peterbentley@solusceramics.com

Managing Director
MARCO BENTLEY
marcobentley@solusceramics.com

Finance Director
RYAN BENNETT
ryanbennett@solusceramics.com

Commercial Director
STEPHEN BAKER
stephenbaker@solusceramics.com

Sales Director
DAVID OVERTON
davidoverton@solusceramics.com

London sales
BARRY TEASDALE
barryteasdale@solusceramics.com
JO BURLEY
joburley@solusceramics.com
JOHN ROSE
johnrose@solusceramics.com
MARK AYLIFFE
markayliffe@solusceramics.com
MARCUS BENTLEY
marcusbentley@solusceramics.com

Finance Director
RYAN BENNETT
ryanbennett@solusceramics.com

Commercial Director
STEPHEN BAKER
stephenbaker@solusceramics.com

Sales Director
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JOHN ROSE
johnrose@solusceramics.com
MARK AYLIFFE
markayliffe@solusceramics.com
MARCUS BENTLEY
marcusbentley@solusceramics.com

Editor's letter

Boulevard, new range. Versatile concrete tiles

Drury House. A workplace with a geometric theme

Fruits, new range. Vibrant colours for walls

Crowne Plaza Kings Cross. Luxury hotel in London

Amazon, new range. Wood veneer effect hexagons

Dukes 92. A bar with an urban garden style

Dewdrop, new range. Plain and patterned diamonds

Gibbett. Modern office environment

Expanse, new range. A bold, graphic range

Carnival, new range. A bright and lively collection

Asprey Park. Lavish London living!

Argilla, new range. Evoking a classic aesthetic

9 Baker Street. What's new in the London showroom

Interview with Darrell Cook. Get to know the Solus Ceramics team

The changing face of Solus Ceramics. Movements and appointments

Solus Ceramics CPDs. Free seminars for you to experience

WITH THE 11TH ISSUE OF QUARTER we are seeing some big changes at Solus Ceramics. Our Board of Directors has grown with the appointment of David Overton as Sales Director and Stephen Baker as Commercial Director, and the showroom at 9 Baker Street has been freshly updated with new products and an exclusive furniture display by Missana. More information on both can be found near the end of this issue.

As usual we are covering some fantastic new products including the retro, wood veneer inspired Amazon range and the delightful vibrance of the Carnival range.
A HIGHLY VERSATILE AND CONTEMPORARY CONCRETE EFFECT RANGE
Inspired by worn and weathered concrete slabs, Boulevard is a versatile range that conveys the sweeping, romantic atmosphere of a modern city environment, complete with the dynamic imperfections of urban life.

One of the most complete collections available, Boulevard features a wide variety of impressive sizes, from typical 300x600mm rectangles to dramatic 1200x1200mm large format pieces.

Made up of four core tones, great care has been taken to create a distinctive palette that works in harmony, which means that any of the colours from the range can be used together in complementary schemes. Embracing the trend for imperfection, the tiles typically feature many different evocative visual qualities such as speckles, scratches, scuffs and most noticeably, a chiselled edge.

This dramatic chiselled effect, whilst totally convincing, is actually the product of high-resolution printing and is not a physical aspect of the tiles.

Boulevard includes three different finishes for users to explore, including a slip resistant Natural finish, a highly slip resistant Structured finish, and a luxuriously sleek and polished Lappatto finish.

With such a wide array of finishes, the range lends itself to both interior projects and exterior installations on floors and walls. A 20mm thickness is also available in the Carnaby shade, which is ideal for raised floor systems, or for using outdoors in a loose lay application.

One of the many showpieces of the range, Boulevard includes an amazing hounds tooth style mosaic décor, which is sure to impress the design community.
BOULEVARD FINISHES, COLOURS, MOSAIC AND SIZES:

Available in Natural R10 (A+B), Strutturato R11 (A+B+C) and Lappato finishes. PTV results available upon request.

Ideal for exterior projects like balconies, patios and public parks.
A geometric themed workplace near Covent Garden

Drury House, a large, prominent office building set in the Covent Garden area, recently received a fresh and modern transformation by the team at Hale Brown Architects.

A stunning introduction to the building, the reception area was reconfigured and decluttered to maximise the layout, with part of the existing concrete waffle slab exposed to provide a feature over the new seating area.

A main theme running throughout the new areas, a triangle motif, was inspired by the unusual geometry of the building and can be seen in graphic designs on the walls, shaped lighting fixtures and with the large format triangular tiles that provide the subtle pattern on the floors.

Solus Ceramics worked with the architects to supply bespoke cut triangle tiles from the Monolith range, which is a stunning and attractive porcelain collection inspired by the appearance of concrete.

To create the interesting reception floor pattern, standard 600x600mm tiles were transformed using a process called water jet cutting. A tried and tested method of crafting complex shapes, water jet cutting creates incredibly precise cuts. >
A cost effective and environmentally conscious solution that minimises tile wastage and provides clean, crisp and smooth edges; water jet cutting can be applied to any of Solus Ceramics’ vast portfolio of ranges to create uniquely shaped tiles.

The triangle-inspired floor design idea was also carried through to the elevators and to the refurbished WCs on the office floors, with accents of colour added in the most trafficked areas.

Finally, unused areas in the basement were converted into a well-appointed bike store with new showers and a football pitch for tenants, creating a real ‘wow’ factor in the development.

THE FLOOR DESIGN CONTINUES IN THE BATHROOMS, WHERE ACCENTS OF COLOUR WERE ADDED

Water jet cutting is a fantastic way of creating unusual and sophisticated formats, from triangles as seen at Drury House, to hexagons, strips, rhombuses and diamonds.

Almost any range in Solus Ceramics’ vast portfolio can be cut to size, meaning that architects and designers can explore a huge variety of material effects from wood, to concrete and slate, and create unique and dynamic shapes.
A SURPRISING MIX OF TRADITIONAL STYLE AND VIBRANT COLOURS
A tropical mix of sweet and luscious glazed shades, Fruits is a vibrant and bright wall collection that is ideal for bringing a punch of fruity colour into any project.

Made up of nine main shades, the Fruits range covers a wide variety of tones from rustic coconut white, to strawberry red and a delectably juicy orange.

The colour quality of the plain tiles is particularly enigmatic, and whilst the tiles are vivid and bold, they by no means convey a solid, uniform hue. Each piece is unique, possessing a slightly hazy washed out appearance with some darker flecks that could be likened to watercolour paint.

The range is available in two useful sizes, 100x300mm and 200x200mm, which offers the user the flexibility to lay the tiles in a number of different ways.

Staggered joints, herringbone patterns or uniform grids are all possible, and different colours can be effortlessly mixed and matched to create unbelievable designs.

In addition to the core plain tiles, the range also includes a selection of 3D décor tiles that feature many different geometric patterns such as hexagons, diamonds, triangles and other complex architectural designs.

Each design has been artfully etched into the tile, creating a wonderfully tactile surface that looks incredibly eye-catching when applied to a feature wall.

The range features many delicately patterned options
A rich and colourful range that captures the natural beauty of fruit

Diverse and distinctive, the Fruits range includes two sizes and is available in nine feature colours. In addition, a number of different décor designs can be chosen in any of these colours, providing users with over a hundred different tile designs.
CROWNE PLAZA KINGS CROSS

A luxurious hotel located in the heart of central London

Located just a stone’s throw away from St Pancras International train station, Crowne Plaza Kings Cross is a newly renovated addition to the popular upscale hotel chain in central London.

Solus Ceramics collaborated with the team at Nous Design to supply tiles to more than 400 bathroom refurbishments within the hotel, which were carried out through a series of phased building programmes by contractors Connor Construction and ISG.

Formerly branded as a Holiday Inn hotel, the property remained open throughout the redevelopment, which also saw all other areas of the hotel refreshed and redesigned.

Solus Ceramics supplied more than 3500m² of wall and floor tiles to the en suite bathrooms for each of the bedrooms in the hotel. An interesting project, the hotel hosts a variety of differently styled rooms with an array of alternate bathroom designs, including full baths, walk in showers and DDA suites.

THE RUSTED EFFECT TILES PROVIDE A SPARKLING, ENIGMATIC QUALITY
Delightfully distinctive, the en suite bathrooms at the Crowne Plaza feature a nuanced style inspired by travel and the idea of destination. The rusty, metallic tiles reference the history and spirit of Kings Cross especially the aesthetic of train carriages from a bygone era. The use of wall to wall double mirrors create a vast sense of space, reflecting the rich texture of the specially produced tiles, which are similar in tone to those from the Ingenious collection.

The rusty bronze tiles are characterised by an array of rustic speckles, dappled elements and light flecks, with each piece showcasing a random variety of tones and alternating areas of patina.

To complement the scheme, Solus Ceramics also supplied the floor tiles, which were selected from the Mineral range. These modern brown tiles feature a heavily textured, slate effect anti slip surface, ideally suited to bathrooms, wet rooms and pool sides.

Discover the raw, rustic, metallic style of Ingenious

Inspired by the aesthetic of an industrial site, Ingenious takes the form of weathered steel plates. Metallic features and rusty stains provide a sense of warm, modern style.

Our view

Jo Burley
Solus Ceramics Area Sales Manager
joburley@solusceramics.com

An interesting and complex project, Solus Ceramics supplied tiles to the Crowne Plaza renovation over a series of phased refurbishments, which were carried out whilst the hotel remained operational.

No stranger to large scale, commercial projects, Solus Ceramics have the skill and knowledge to supply tiling material to any aspect of hotel design, from receptions, to pools and even external environments.

For more information about this project please visit our website
AMAZON
AN INNOVATIVE WOOD EFFECT,
HEXAGON TILE RANGE

NEW WOOD EFFECT RANGE
Hexagon tiles inspired by the tones and features of wood

A metamorphosis of wood, Amazon possesses the recognisable qualities of the natural material but reimagined into the high quality form of porcelain.

Inspired particularly by veneer, which is a thin slice of wood that is typically applied to a particleboard or other types of wood, Amazon features a bold, striped wood effect that has a distinctly retro appeal.

Amazon is a hexagon tile range that features a single, relatively large size and one finish. The Natural R10 surface is suitable for both wall and floor applications.

Available in three strongly hued variants, the tiles in the range all feature a similar dark core, but are distinguished by different wood effect colours, ranging from a very light cream to a dark brown.

Each core colour comes in a variety of ten different wood designs, which are randomly assigned to each pack of tiles. This means that when laid, the tiles will all look slightly different, helping to avoid the possibility of a user seeing repeated designs throughout a scheme.

At home or in a commercial zone, users can recreate the luxurious style of 70’s parquet wood whilst...
AMAZON | WOOD EFFECT

For more information about the Amazon range please visit our website.

Available in Natural R10. PTV results available upon request. All colours are available in 347x400x10mm.

Precatoria 2THC101

Pentandra 2THC102

Cecropia 2THC103

Each colour has 10 different tile designs which are packed randomly. Please ask for more details.

receiving all of the fantastic benefits of strong and durable porcelain.

First seen at the Icon House of Culture during Clerkenwell Design Week, Amazon has already been lauded by the design community as a top new trend.

A totally versatile range, Amazon brings together some of the most influential current trends including wood effect, the hexagon format and retro design, creating a truly unique and interesting surface material.

Perfect for both wall and floor applications
Manchester’s most famous canal side bar, Dukes 92 reopened its doors revealing a stunning contemporary look following a £1m refurbishment by owner Elle R Leisure last year.

The former stable block was originally converted into a bar in 1991, and the renovation marked the 25th anniversary of the enduring city centre hotspot, which is located next to lock 92, from which it takes its name.

Award-winning interior designers, SpaceInvader, were briefed to create a design that was to be respectful of the area’s industrial past by using existing features, and connect with the outside environment.

The 6,000 sq ft project, which was completed in just three months, saw the bar and restaurant stripped back to reflect its industrial heritage. The designers featured bricks, wood and black metal work, which were a nod to the building’s original use as a stable block for the horses that pulled the canal barges.

The focal point of the space was a 50ft long brushed brass bar with a spectacular full height diamond shaped bottle display above it.

Wooden floorboards were replaced with cream, concrete effect floor tiles from Solus Ceramics’ popular Replicate range, which is a porcelain product.
inspired by the raw look of cement fused with richly oxidised metals.

The large format, monolithic 750x1500mm tiles, which showcase an incredibly unique worn and weathered patina, feature throughout the venue and perfectly complement the large spacious environment.

Finally, architectural trellises, hung with beautiful plants and impressive full sized trees, feature throughout the interior, bringing the outside in with a stunning urban garden grotto feel.

James Ramsbottom, Managing Director of Dukes 92 and Alberts Restaurants said: “To retain the character of the old building, yet bring it into the 21st century, was always going to be a challenge but I think we’ve pulled it off and I’m really pleased with the result. It’s a glamorous space, yet with an understated elegance, and still very ‘Dukes’.

The large format, cream tiles were used throughout the venue.

A fantastic project that showcases the versatility of our cement inspired Replicate range. Typically designers opt for the more industrial themed grey shades, but at Dukes 92, the warmth of the cream tile really shines through, perfectly complementing the refined design scheme.

The large format 750x1500mm tiles possess a huge amount of character, with each piece showcasing a unique and interesting variety of tonal movement, markings and effects.
DEWDROP
A SERIES OF PLAIN AND CONTEMPORARY DIAMOND TILES
Explore a contemporary range of glazed diamond shaped tiles

Diamond tiles are becoming an increasingly popular format; so much so that one of Solus Ceramics’ most popular images on Pinterest features a wall clad with this iconic shape!

With such demand for interesting and modern geometric wall tiles, it was an easy decision to launch Dewdrop, a brand new diamond themed range, in this issue of Quarter magazine.

The range consists of seven colours, extending from a bright white through to a deep black and users can also explore a selection of spring-influenced shades such as a fresh sage and a breezy sky blue.

A multipurpose format, diamond shaped tiles can be laid in numerous different ways, achieving totally different looks depending on the intention of the user. Zig zag and herringbone patterns are extremely popular, as well as a pattern that creates chic hexagon shapes - the choice is up to the designer!

In addition to the modern and contemporary plain tiles, Dewdrop also includes an array of sensational
décor tiles that can be selected in five of the core colours. These special pieces feature one of two different printed motifs; rugged stripes or a graphic geometric design.

The most interesting aspect of the Dewdrop range is the myriad of possibilities offered by the different colours and décor tiles, as users can select each colour independently or mix and match pieces to create their own funky schemes.

Enjoy a slick gloss finish with the Dewdrop range.

DEWDROP FINISH, COLOURS, DECORS AND SIZES:

Available in Brillo finish.

Snowtop 5KSF001  Foggy 5KSF004  Whippy 5KSF005  Palm Tree 5KSF006  Bluemoon 5KSF007  Metorite 5KSF002  Jackal 5KSF003

Snowtop Decor A 5KSF001d501  Foggy Decor A 5KSF004d504  Whippy Decor A 5KSF005d505  Palm Tree Decor A 5KSF006d506  Bluemoon Decor A 5KSF007d507

Jackal Decor B 5KSF003d503  Metorite Decor B 5KSF002d502  Whippy Decor B 5KSF005d805  Palm Tree Decor B 5KSF006d806  Bluemoon Decor B 5KSF007d807

For more information about the Dewdrop range please visit our websites.
Swiss-based sanitary product distributor Geberit officially moved into a brand new, purpose-built office facility at the start of 2017, doubling the size of their UK headquarters.

Located on Tournament Fields, a landmark business park south west of Warwick town centre, the new development is home to more than 150 employees and saw the creation of 30 new jobs.

The state-of-the-art office covers 22,000 sq ft and also features a 400m² showroom showcasing some of the latest bathroom technologies and a new training academy, where retailers and installers can undertake free training modules covering the company’s products.

Designed by the award-winning team at Corstorphine + Wright, the HQ features tiles supplied by Solus Ceramics in the reception, showroom and toilet facilities.

Large format, 600x1200mm sized tiles from the impressive Tumulus 1 range take centre stage throughout the ground floor of the contemporary space, providing a solid grey canvas for the rest of the design elements to flourish.

Laid in a tasteful staggered style, the immense monolithic tiles help to create a sense of space and openness in the project, creating flowing, elongated avenues in the showroom, which are perfect for encouraging exploration.
In the bathrooms, Solus Ceramics supplied a variety of bespoke cut tiles from the Tumulus 1 and Forestry ranges. In order to meet the desired brief, the Sales Manager and fabrication team at Solus Ceramics created prototype design boards to show how bespoke cut tiles would look in the finished bathrooms.

To complement the modern scheme, metallic elements were added to the wall design, and a stylish copper grout was selected to enhance the appearance of the wood effect tiles.

Finally, Solus Ceramics also supplied the tiles that were fitted to the central staircase, which utilises an anti slip grip system.

A range inspired by the natural form of wood

The Forestry range, which can be seen in the bathrooms of this modern office development, is inspired by cross-cut wood. Each piece features dynamically textured and realistic concentric rings, reminiscent of the heart of authentic wood.
EXSPANSE
A BOLD, GRAPHIC TILE RANGE
Introducing the amazing Expanse range, a collection of porcelain tiles that feature trendy and chic graphic patterns in a mix of cool grey shades.

Inspired by traditional cement tiles, Expanse is made up of three plain colour options and a further 12 ornamental décors that are themed around geometric patterns.

Whilst the cubic designs and zig zags that are included in the range are becoming more common in the industry, Expanse does provide some unique ideas such as traditional gothic prints and a variety of exciting rhombus designs within the collection.

When used on wall or floor space, the tiles in the Expanse range create unbelievable geometric patterns that are guaranteed to become the focal point in any space.

With a Natural R10 finish, Expanse is well suited to commercial environments, and would not look out of place in a funky bar or an innovative restaurant chain. However, intrepid homeowners with a taste for brave, trend setting style, could also use this range in a bathroom or kitchen project.

All of the tiles in the range come in a rectified 200x200mm size, which means that users can comfortably mix and match any of the styles to create their own unique patchwork design.
For more information about the Expanse range please visit our website.

Available in Natural R10. PTV results available upon request. All colours and decors are available in 200x200x9mm.
CARNIVAL
A VIVID AND LIVELY COLLECTION
Carnival is a fun and joyful collection of colourful tiles that encompasses a complete rainbow of more than 40 dynamic and exciting hues. These flat, smooth and beautifully glazed tiles are available in three sizes including a typical 100x100mm format; the more unusual 140x140mm size; and finally a 70x140mm metro style.

Carnival covers an extensive swathe of colours, ranging from blue, green and orange shades to dark black tones. Some of the standout hues include lavish golden yellow, softly blushed salmon, deep cerulean and a popular turquoise.

A beautifully crafted range, Carnival communicates the notion of a luxurious artisan product, and possesses a delicate hand-made style aesthetic. The edges of each piece may be slightly imperfect, adding to the rustic character of the tiles.

The colouration of the range is incredibly vivid with each tile having slightly unique tonal qualities depending on how the glaze and pigment has reacted to the firing process. This means that the users will
A wide range of bright and vivid colours

Inspired by the bright and bold colours of carnival

A stunningly beautiful range, Carnival features a wealth of exciting and uncommon colours including subtle tangerine orange, luxurious green and a glorious sky blue. The gloss finish of the range is perfect for adding a sense of opulence to any space.

see slight variation from tile to tile, which should be regarded as an appealing feature of Carnival.

With a vast choice of colours, it is very easy to find complementary shades that work well in combination, and it could not be easier to use various different sizes and shades within the same scheme.

Carnival is an explosively vibrant range, saturated with a variety of exciting colours to explore and is a perfect way to achieve a multi-coloured interior.

CARNIVAL FINISH, COLOURS AND SIZES:

Available in Shine finish.

For more information about the Carnival range please visit our website.
ASPREY PARK

Luxury living accommodation with abundant character and elegance

Asprey Park is a private new housing development in North West London, situated equidistantly between Hendon and Mill Hill. This prestigious new address comprises 55 one, two and three bed apartments spread over five buildings.

Designed by signature architects City & Westminster Developments Ltd, Asprey Park has 41 unique variants of apartment and penthouse layouts, combined with outside area choices of balconies, garden or terraces.

Set beside the serenely tree-lined Ashley Lane, the development further boasts bespoke designed landscaped communal areas and private underground parking.

This contemporary development has been given every consideration to yield the developers’ trademark standard of build. After an extensive design and research phase, all apartments and penthouses look and feel luxurious, and all materials, fixtures and fittings come with assured durability.

Solus Ceramics were delighted to work alongside CAWD, a well-established company that specialises in developing both classic city architecture and creating exciting contemporary new developments.

The brief of the project was to supply wall and floor tiles to a number of family bathrooms, en suites and penthouse bathrooms across the entire

BATHROOMS FEATURE HIGH QUALITY PORCELAIN TILES ON WALLS AND FLOORS

Granada 3GPU501, Toowong 3GPU504
development, that provide a modern style and a luxury appeal.

Two complementary colours were selected in a dark and light grey shade from the mottled, concrete-effect Transcend range, and were specified in the classic 300x600mm format.

The tiles, alongside the high quality Italian sanitary-ware, stylish fixtures and luxurious interior touches, make for an elegant and timeless design, ideally suited to the target market of the development.

The brief for this project was to supply tiles that provided a modern aesthetic and offered a variety of complementary grey shades. Transcend, a popular and contemporary collection, which is characterised by a palette of subtle, neutral mottled tones, was the perfect solution.

Two complementary colours were selected and used throughout the whole development in a variety of different bathroom environments, creating a desirable, urban influenced finish that appeals to a broad demographic.

Our view

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ARGILLA
A CLASSIC AND SIMPLE NEUTRAL RANGE
Reimagining the look of natural stone with a modern concrete twist

Exploring the form of natural stone and concrete, Argilla is a simple and classic range that provides users with a subtle material for creating chic, modern and impressive interiors.

Mixing the recognisable textures of limestone and clay with the more imposing aspects of concrete like fractures and speckles, Argilla achieves an aesthetic that gently combines these two diverse influences.

Centred on a palette of four colours, the range encompasses a subtle neutral spectrum of shades that includes various grey tones and a soft brown.

The tiles are characterised by visual features such as scratches, speckles, veins and cloudy blotches that all contribute to create an evocative and rich aesthetic, that adds a familiar sense of style but with a modern twist.

Each tile features a relatively moderate amount of variation, meaning that when laid, no two pieces will look the same, providing unique, natural movement to every project.

Available in two sizes, 300x600mm and 600x600mm, Argilla offers a variety of options for users to create tiled floor and wall schemes.
A compact collection, the range offers a Natural R10 (A+B) finish, however this versatile, sandy surface texture provides technical qualities that are suitable for almost all commercial applications.

In addition, the tiles in this range are produced using 40% recycled material, which is perfect for users who are striving to meet accreditation for environmental awards.
THE NEW LOOK OF
BAKER STREET
SHOWROOM
WITH
MISSANA
2017 marks the third anniversary since Solus Ceramics opened their showroom at 9 Baker Street, their first dedicated showroom in the London area.

Serving both the architectural specification market and working direct with members of the public, the showroom is successfully positioned to meet the needs of a dynamic and progressive market that demands the highest quality and most innovative tiling products available.

The showroom is not only a place for clients to order material, but they can also examine full size tiles, browse through over 1,000 samples and discuss projects with a highly experienced and knowledgeable sales team.

With the success of the showroom, the team has grown quickly with Robyn Carroll and Salvatore Bruno joining the showroom manager Nicola Hellett, as sales consultants.

Robyn graduated from Writtle School of Design with a degree in Interior Design and Architecture in 2013 and joined Solus Ceramics from Crest Contracts, where she was Sales Executive for the East of England and London areas. As well as providing exemplary interior advice to clients, Robyn also takes care of the showroom’s social media channels, where followers can check out innovative and exciting design ideas.

Salvatore graduated in International Law from the University of Catania and moved to London recently. You might be thinking how law might relate to tiles, but interestingly his family actually own a ceramics factory and showroom in Sicily, where they produce and sell Lava stone tiles!

Keeping up to date with tiling trends is key to the innovative concept of the showroom, so Solus Ceramics guarantee that almost every time you visit you are sure to find something new on display. And now, visitors can experience more than just tiles!

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A new look Solus Ceramics showroom, with furniture display from Missana

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Recently Solus Ceramics has partnered with Missana, lauded producers of high-end, exclusive designer upholstered furniture, by providing exhibiting space at the Baker Street showroom.

Gracing the showroom, Missana has installed select pieces from the delightful ‘The Novelties’ collection, which is the first time these products have been showcased in the UK.

A growing and evolving collection, every piece of furniture in ‘The Novelties’ has been exclusively designed for Missana by different designers, both national international, emergent and well known.

Products on display include the Block Collection by Mut Design, Toadstool Collection by Maniquispaci, Okapi armchair by Perez Ochando, Trampolin bar stool by Cuatro Cuatro, Oslo chair, Oslo bar stool and also the Valentino bench all by Pepe Albargues.

A collection with an amazing design inspired by construction block toys

Block combines trendy design with comfortable materials and timeless colours, the final result, an awesome collection suitable for the most exclusive contract & hospitality projects.

The Toadstool collection allows an infinite number of combinations

Users can choose the preferred materials: marble, wood, golden plated metal and different coloured fabrics for different elements of the collection depending on their unique taste.

Okapi, designed by Perez Ochando
A transformative chair designed by Marc Venot

Quetzal surprises, attracts and traps. Designed by the renowned French designer Marc Venot, Quetzal features feather like pillows that can instantly be shifted to reveal an alternating colour. A perfect piece that transforms to suit the mood of any occasion.

The Trampolín chair is available in a wide choice of metal and fabric finishings.
Meet Darrell Cook,
Area Sales Manager covering the East of England, East Midlands and Yorkshire
by Paul Shepherd

As one of Solus Ceramics most recent recruits, we thought it would be a great opportunity to speak to Darrell Cook about his impressions of the company and also discuss the ins and outs of his new role.

When did you join Solus Ceramics?
I joined Solus Ceramics in April 2017 after spending almost 12 years within the tiling industry in various different roles from sales and technical support, to retail area sales. Prior to coming to Solus Ceramics I worked for a well-known Spanish ceramics manufacturer as a national specification manager.

What makes Solus Ceramics stand out from the crowd?
As well as having a fantastic reputation, Solus Ceramics employ some of the most well known and trusted experts in the specification industry. The company offers unrivalled service, and in particular can provide architects with fully customisable tile binders, samples, and PTV or LRV results direct to architects, often within 24 hours. With key relationships with over 200 factories, Solus Ceramics has access to a vast portfolio of the best porcelain ranges, and can source material that fits the most complex of briefs. In addition, with the in-house tile cutting service, Solus Ceramics can fabricate and customise any tile range into almost any imaginable format.

Tell us a little about your job?
As an Area Sales Manager, I work with architects, interior designers and other professional specifiers to champion the use of porcelain and ceramic material in their projects. As well as getting products specified, I also offer full technical support from installation to finish, providing guidance on slip resistance, light reflective values and the benefits of porcelain. I have particular specialist knowledge of ventilated façades, thin porcelain and large format tiling.

What trends should we be looking out for?
Calacatta marble effect porcelain, which typically features thick, bold and dynamic grey veining, is incredibly popular at the moment especially when used in large, mirrored formats. This is particularly well replicated by the Marbalite range, which also includes many other marble effects. Hexagon shapes and patterned tiles are of great interest to designers working on bar and restaurant projects, and the new Hybrid range masterfully merges both the hexagon format and a vast array of graphic patterns.
Experience CPD seminars with Solus Ceramics

Solus Ceramics are proud to offer a number of CPD seminars to professionals in the design industry. As part of their continuing commitment to customer support, CPD seminars are totally complimentary to any interested parties including past clients and new contacts.

These CPDs, which are all themed around the subject of tiles and tile installation, will help you to develop your knowledge and appreciation of diverse tile related subjects such as safety information, innovative tile products, British Standards and sustainable tile production.

CPDs can be arranged at a time to suit you and can be held at your own workplace or a meeting point of your choice, as long as sufficient facilities are available. Alternatively, Solus Ceramics welcomes you to take part in CPDs at their Birmingham HQ or their Baker Street showroom. In addition to taking part in one of our many CPD seminars, which is presented by a member of our experienced and knowledgeable team, Solus Ceramics will also provide a free lunch.

Solus Ceramics are happy to accommodate both small, intimate gatherings and large scale group sessions.

Big changes afoot at Solus Ceramics

Solus Ceramics are delighted to announce a development in the structure of their Board of Directors. Due to the continuous growth and ambitious future goals of the company, it became apparent that Solus Ceramics required a Commercial Director.

Stephen Baker has moved into this role to focus on key corporate account management, supplier relationships and product sourcing as well as marketing, technical, managing the Baker Street showroom and overseeing the creation of the highly anticipated architectural showroom in Clerkenwell.

Following an exceptionally intensive recruitment process, David Overton, who has been the Business Development Manager in the north of England and Scotland for the last 9 years, has been appointed Sales Director at Solus Ceramics.

Prior to his tenure with Solus Ceramics, David was Managing Director at Architectural Ceramics for 3 years and Sales Director at Architectural Ceramics for 10 years. He brings to the new role a wealth of knowledge and experience that will be sure to help the sales team and the wider business meet growth aspirations and deliver the long-term vision and strategy.

David said, “My background is building teams and developing people, and I hope that I can make a real difference to the company in this role. I hope to inspire those around me to work hard, feel valued and I would also like to bring a sense of fun to the sales office.”
Tired of seeing the same tile designs time and again?

Discover the Treasure range, a dynamic, colourful and memorable collection of patterned porcelain tiles sure to bring a shot of inspiration to any project.