

# +Positive spaces™

THE MAGAZINE 2020



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## Designing for a sustainable future

NIGEL STANSFIELD

## Ecopuncture – transforming architecture and urbanism in Asia

NIRMAL KISHNANI

+Positive spaces  
**Better products.  
Happier people.  
Healthier planet.**

**Interface**

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+Positive spaces™ is a magazine published by Interface that reaches out to the architect and interior design community. It showcases a mix of cutting-edge interior design projects that Interface has been a part of, as well as opinion leader commentaries on topics such as industry trends and sustainability.

The publication also communicates news and updates from Interface; including product, sustainability and innovation stories.

In conjunction with the magazine, there is an online blog version at [blog.interface.com](http://blog.interface.com) that includes additional content from around the world and is constantly updated.

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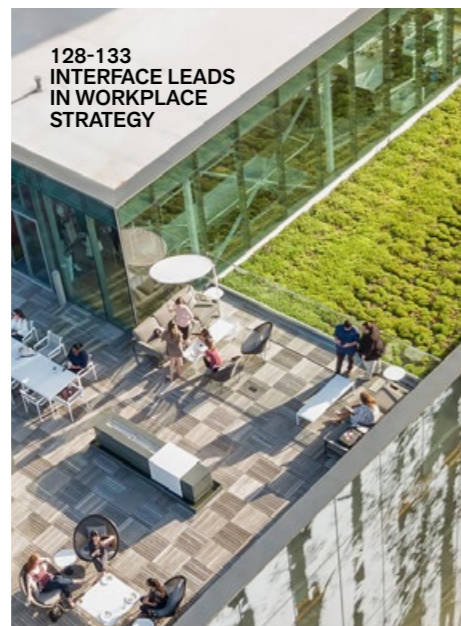
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**Carpet** - Step this Way in Ebony  
**LVT** - Walk About in Warm Ash

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Base Camp, Atlanta

This issue of **+Positive spaces™** – the **magazine** marks a proud moment for our team to share some of the great work we have ongoing in the region, update you on our business progress, recap our sustainability mission, Climate Take Back™, and provide a brief introduction as your new regional leader.

**A short history**

A trained textile technologist – an expert in yarn, carpet and carpet manufacturing – I joined Interface in 1997. Since then I have spent each day dedicated to the betterment of the company. Early on in my career I was tasked with upgrading our manufacturing systems to ensure our business operated using cutting-edge technology. I travelled the world working with colleagues in all our manufacturing sites and our sales teams to understand customer wants, needs and expectations from a global organisation. It

was a fascinating time and afforded me the opportunity to really learn about the business.

From 2004 to 2016 I held various roles in the business from Innovation Director, EMEA, to Senior Director, Product and Design Innovation, EMEA and Vice President & Chief Innovation Officer, Global. Throughout this 12-year period I drove product development, design, collaborative working and focused largely on inclusive and sustainable business growth. The focus for sustainable growth came early in my innovation career journey when our Founder, Ray Anderson, had his “spear in the chest” moment. This resulted in our commitment to eliminate any negative impact we had on the environment by 2020 – our Mission Zero®. Proudly, we recently announced success on Mission Zero – a significant milestone for our business and our industry. We will come onto celebrate this later in the magazine [\[see page 10\]](#). >



**Nigel Stansfield**  
President Europe,  
Africa, Asia &  
Australia

# Designing for a sustainable future

**At Interface we help our customers create high-performance interior spaces that support well-being, productivity, and creativity. Ultimately, we want to make a positive impact on the sustainability of the planet. These are powerful commitments that have kept me in the business for over two decades.**





WeCare International Preschool

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After nearly 20 years in the business, in 2016 I became the President of the EMEA region. At the same time, we launched our new mission, Climate Take Back, which aims to reverse global warming and create a climate fit for life. One of the highlights of my career leading the EMEA business was launching our backing innovation, CircuitBac Green. A high-performance modular carpet tile backing created using a mix of carbon negative bio-plastics and mineral filler. This composite marked the most sizeable innovation in backing and offered customers the first carbon negative alternative to current backing materials.

In recent years, we have evolved our organisational model to strengthen how we go to market. With our customers at the centre, our commercial leaders (who oversee each market) have built business units, supported by our central team,

to ensure each market can realise its potential. This local decision-making with central support model led to us combine the EMEA and APAC business, into a new powerful EAAA (Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia) region. On January 1st 2019, I was honoured to become President of the newly formed EAAA region.

During my time with Interface we have led our customers, colleagues and industry on a journey to revolutionise the manufacturing of floor products. We have expanded our product portfolio, introducing luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) and acquiring nora® rubber floor, and proven that profitable business does not have to come at the expense of the environment. More recently we announced that our products are carbon neutral at no extra cost to you. And there is more to come.

**Our family**

Proudly, Interface is now home to a family of products: carpet tile and resilient flooring, including LVT and nora® rubber flooring. Interface acquired worldwide rubber flooring leader, nora® in 2018 as the perfect complement to our carpet tile and LVT. Having both hard and soft flooring options as part of one product family ensures you can create endless commercial applications to produce functional spaces that have a positive impact on people's lives and the planet.

To support the Interface family of products we created centres of excellence for each discipline, ensuring decision-making is closer to you, the customer. I know through my various roles within Interface the importance of local market expertise and we have made this a priority as the business grows.

Our goal is always to ensure our customers have access to the products that meet the needs of their specification and design with the climate in mind. From experience we know that no two projects are the same. Each year our design teams analyse trends, consumer patterns and, with our product team, create hard and soft flooring collections to inspire and delight.

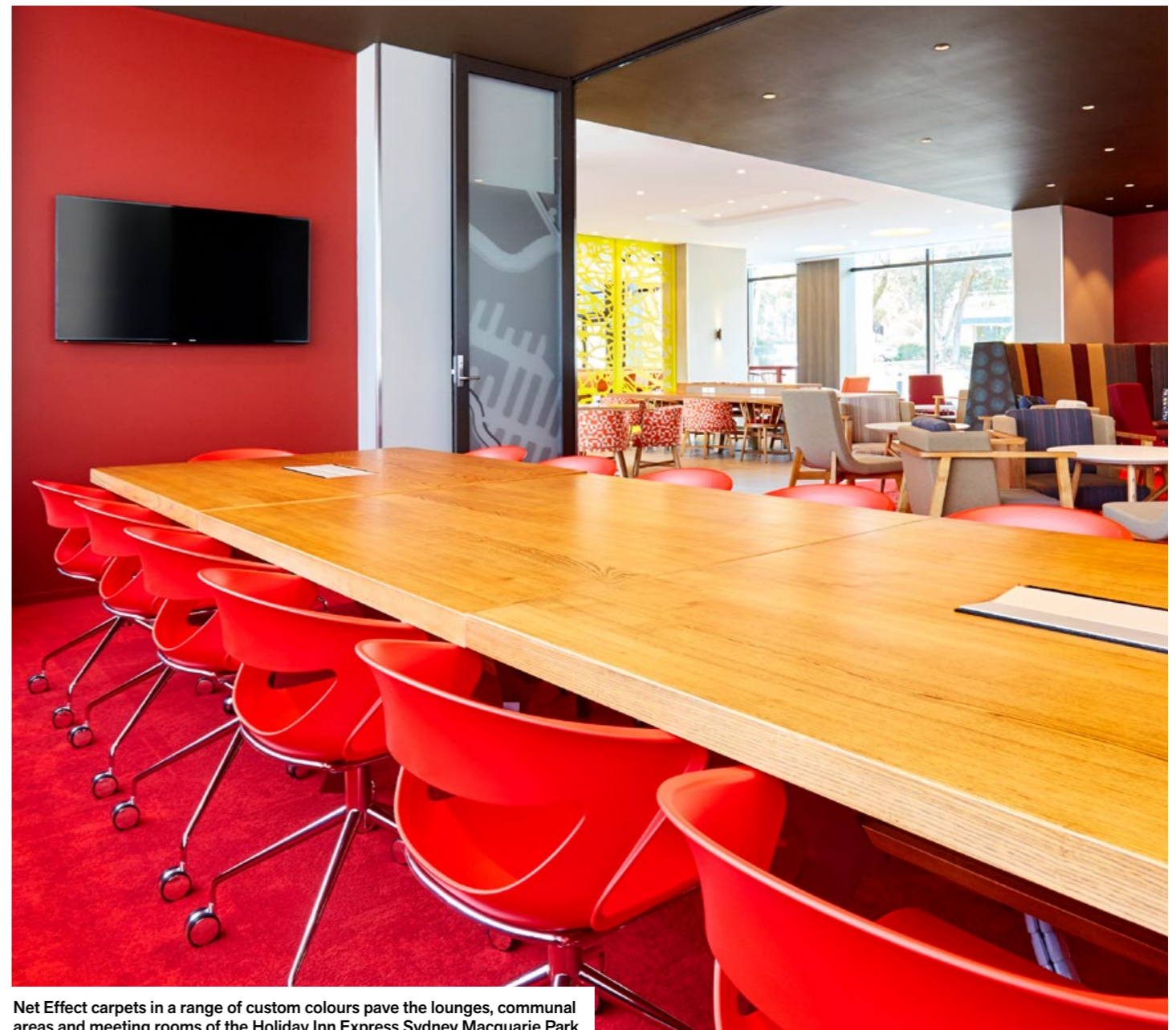
Our recent project with OUT-2 Design, WeCare International Preschool project in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, created to help children explore, create and connect with the world, is an example of

inspired working. You can read the Design Showcase later in the magazine [see page 28] in it, founder and managing director of OUT-2 Design, Andrew Currie, shares his design inspiration behind creating this safe haven and why he considers Interface a logical choice for interiors.

From mood boards to customer colourways and sustainable design we are seeing our product design and concept design teams immersed in the project timelines for customers. A great piece of design I viewed on a recent trip to Australia was Pro-invest Hotels Group [see page 60]. They are future proofing

their portfolio, designing with the climate in mind. For Interface, it's great to see such a sizeable hotel group working to achieve goals aligned to our own.

Similarly, Informatica, the cloud data management company, recently created a new workspace in Bagmane Tech Park, Bangalore, India with the focus to reduce its carbon emissions. For suppliers hoping to work with Informatica, this means their procurement process only selects the most environmentally friendly manufacturers. That's why we are so proud that Informatica [see page 96], has chosen to work with Interface again and again. >



Net Effect carpets in a range of custom colours pave the lounges, communal areas and meeting rooms of the Holiday Inn Express Sydney Macquarie Park

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**Sustainability**

As I mentioned, our Founder Ray Anderson set the company on a different path in 1994 when he announced our sustainable vision, that we later named, Mission Zero. This mission that Interface should eliminate any negative impact on the environment by 2020 was bold and opened my eyes to the possibility that business could engineer change. Our vision proved career changing and personally impactful.

As a design-orientated and innovation-led organisation, our purpose breathed new life into every function and gave renewed meaning to our operations. Twenty-five years on we know big, scary targets engineer the best change. Today, this mission still drives us to do more.

As part of our Mission Zero commitment we reimagined the product creation process and began with waste. Whilst I held the positions of VP Product and Innovations, EMEA we explored inclusive business models with a focus on social sustainability issues and wealth creation streams for all in the supply chain. Along with our yarn partner, Aquafil, and the Zoological Society London, we trialled a programme tackling ocean bound plastic. The goal was to transform discarded fishing nets into recycled yarn for our carpet material stream whilst providing artisanal fishing communities with an income stream alongside social and environmental benefits. Over seven years, the Net-Works programme has worked with 40 communities across three countries to collect over 224 tonnes of

discarded fishing nets and provided over 2,200 people with financial opportunities. It's good for business, the environment and for the local people.

We have transformed our factories by tackling waste and moving to renewable energy sources, making substantial progress to reduce our carbon footprint. Each day our colleagues operate against a framework to systematically measure and reduce environmental impacts across the business.

As Interface neared the realisation of Mission Zero, it became evident the climate conversation has moved up the global agenda. With the commitment made at the COP21 (Conference of the Parties) by 196 global leaders to keep global warming below two degrees



Celsius nations are looking to drive their own innovations. The expectations of business are changing, away from a "responsible" mindset to positive impact.

With this view we reconvened our Eco Dream team members, including Paul Hawken, Janine Benyus, Bill Browning and others to help envision the next stage in our commitment. We knew we needed to identify our next ambitious goal as 2020 came into our sights.

In 2016, we launched our next mission, **Climate Take Back™**, which aims to reverse global warming and create a climate fit for life by focusing on four key areas:

- **Live Zero**  
Do business in ways that gives back whatever is taken from the Earth.
- **Love Carbon**  
Stop seeing carbon as the enemy and start using it as a resource.

- **Let Nature Cool**  
Support our biosphere's ability to regulate the climate.
- **Lead the Industrial Re-Revolution**  
Transform industry into a force for climate progress.

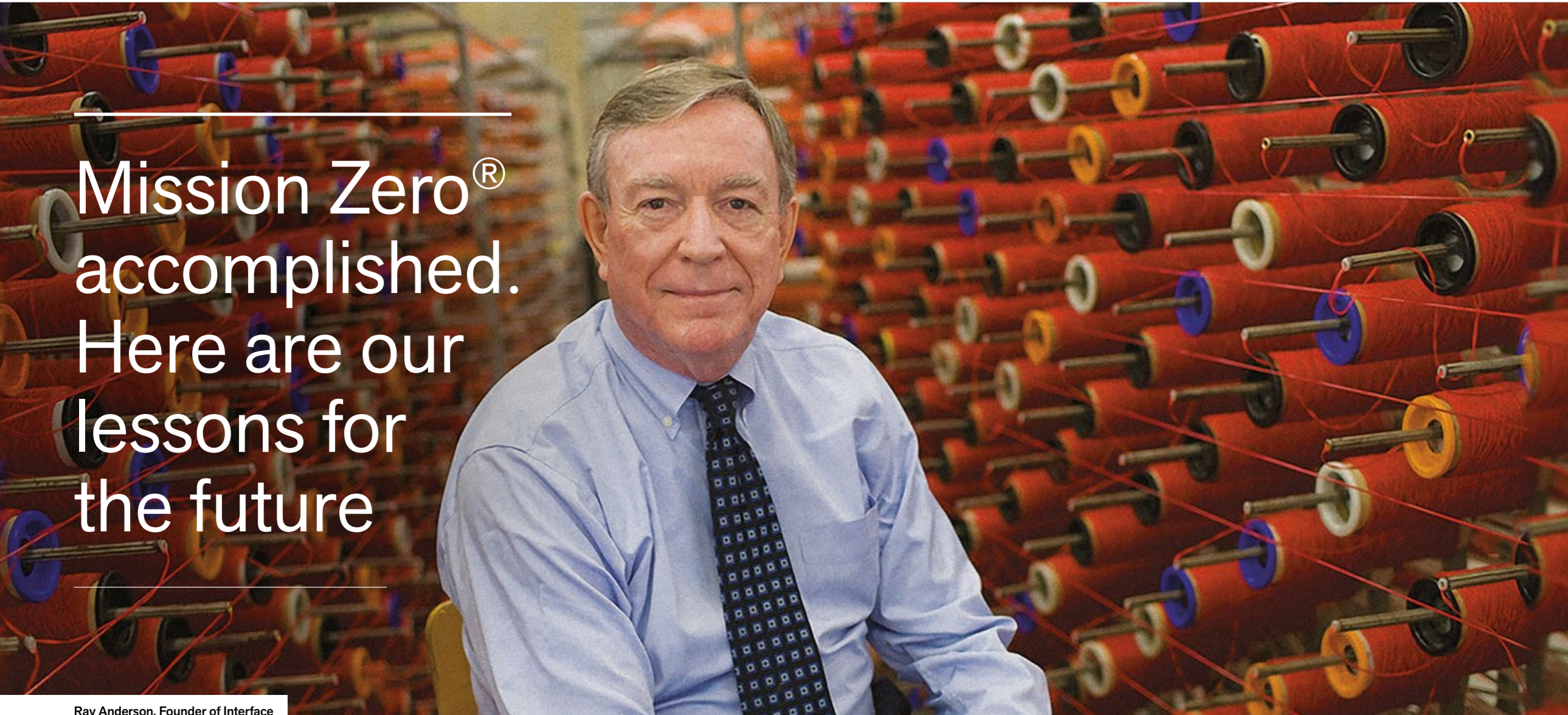
In a bid to explore how to implement these practices into our own organisation we actioned a plan to create the world's first carbon negative prototype carpet tile. The tile, known as "Proof Positive" demonstrates that it is possible to create a product that actually benefits the environment. After the tile is made, there is less CO2 in the atmosphere than if it had not been manufactured in the first place.

Then, in 2018 we announced our pledge to become carbon negative by 2040. A step to achieving this is our **Carbon Neutral Floors™** programme. Every carpet tile, LVT or rubber flooring you purchase from us is now carbon neutral.

We achieved this after more than two decades of work to reduce our product carbon footprint combined with the purchase of a small amount of offsets to make up the difference.

Charting our 25-year sustainability journey is important to us, not simply to see how far we have come but also to help other businesses achieve their own sustainable goals. We recently launched the Lessons for the Future report which provides nine lessons designed to help others advance on their own journey to sustainability. It is a celebration of our achievement of Mission Zero but with a keen eye of what comes next. You can read more about the report [on the reverse page](#).

Finally, I want to thank you for your business and the opportunity to introduce myself. Without our valued customers, we could not be able to pursue our mission. Do enjoy the rest of this edition.



# Mission Zero® accomplished. Here are our lessons for the future

Ray Anderson, Founder of Interface

## On November 4, 2019, we proudly announced our Mission Zero® success ahead of our original 2020 target.

Over the past 25 years, we drove significant improvements across all key sustainability metrics internally and throughout our supply chain to help meet our objectives. And we galvanised others along the way to implement more sustainable business practices. This created a positive ripple effect that

helped us not only achieve but also extend Mission Zero far beyond our original intentions – our direction and influence has helped countless others reduce their environmental footprint and work toward net zero impact within their own organisations.

Based on 25 years of effort and commitment in pursuit of sustainability, we published our Lessons for the Future report, which provides a roadmap for other companies to Live Zero and a path to the future for our next moonshot, **Climate Take Back™**. In it, we dive into nine lessons we've learnt along

our Mission Zero journey – nine ways to change your business and the world. These include shooting for the moon – setting bold, uncomfortable goals for your business and thinking beyond incremental results; being transparent – and talking about challenges and successes so your industry can scale faster; taking a circular approach – creating a circular system for materials and products to become a more sustainable company; how a wrong turn can lead to the right result; and more.

Read Lessons for the Future at [interface.com/25anniv](https://interface.com/25anniv).

## Mission Zero progress

After our founder Ray Anderson's famous "spear in the chest moment" in 1994, we created aggressive sustainability targets, working swiftly to develop a plan to reduce our business's impact on the environment.

We focused on reducing impact in three key areas of the business: our factories, products and suppliers. Over the last 25 years, we've made remarkable progress in these areas, greatly reducing our footprint in nearly every capacity, including:

- **69%** reduction in carbon footprint of our carpet tile products
- **96%** reduction in greenhouse gas emissions globally
- **89%** renewable energy use across our factories globally, with 100% renewable electricity
- **99%** renewable energy use in our U.S. and European manufacturing sites
- **46%** reduction in energy use per unit of production to make products globally
- **89%** water use reduction per unit of production in factories globally
- **92%** reduction of waste to landfill across global business



We are excited to show that it is possible to create a product that is actually beneficial to the environment. If we can do it, anyone can do it. And if anyone can do it, everyone should

**Jay Gould**  
Interface CEO



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As of January 2019, we achieved an important milestone. Every flooring product that we sell – carpet tile, LVT and rubber sheets and tiles – is now carbon neutral across its full lifecycle. After significantly reducing the carbon impact of our manufacturing operations and supply chain, we compensate for the remaining emissions through the purchase of carbon offsets.

**Creating a ripple effect**

Along this journey to zero, we have done much more than reduce our own environmental footprint. Through sharing our progress and mentoring others, we have influenced countless others around the world to create change within their communities

and their businesses. We've sought to measure and share these positive impacts using the SHINE Handprint Methodology to translate this influence into tonnes of carbon.

We created the conditions needed to exceed our Mission Zero goals in two areas quantified and verified using the SHINE Handprint Methodology: our supply chain and through a landfill gas project. In the first area, we collaborated with our nylon supplier to develop a yarn with recycled content, the positive effects of which extended more broadly through the industry as the supplier sold this yarn to others. Additionally, looking for a replacement for natural gas, we worked with the city of LaGrange, Ga. to develop a local



To change everything, you need everyone. Here, an Interface Thailand employee from the yarn preparation team taking care to minimise yarn waste

landfill gas project, creating a ripple effect when the city sold excess gas to another manufacturer.

The impact of these two projects alone created a handprint of 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) during the years they were active.

Learn more about how we've created a ripple effect in [Lessons for the Future](#).

**Looking forward**

Proud of the progress made thus far with our moonshot goal Mission Zero, we set our sights even higher with Climate Take Back in 2016, which aims to create a movement to reverse global warming. We are working ardently to develop processes and products that create a positive impact on the world,

and in 2018, set out to become a carbon negative company by 2040.

We look forward to creating more positive impacts through our product portfolio and to working with you to spread these ripples through partnerships and collaboration. In the words of our CEO, Jay Gould – “We are excited to show that it is possible to create a product that is actually beneficial to the environment. If we can do it, anyone can do it. And if anyone can do it, everyone should.”

**Read and share our Lessons for the Future report at [interface.com/25anniv](https://interface.com/25anniv). And if it speaks to you or inspires you in any way, we'd love to hear how. Do get in touch with us – together we can create a climate fit for life.**

\*Note: All numbers are through 2018 and applicable to the production of Interface carpet tiles only



# Climate change is the defining issue of our times

By Dr Sally Uren, Chief Executive, Forum for the Future

**We are currently moving out of the weather patterns that human civilisation has relied on for the last 4,000 years and into uncharted territory. With every new piece of research comes signs that climate change is already happening, and faster than we thought possible.**

In response, media coverage and popular culture references are becoming more widespread. Society's awareness across the world of this urgent challenge is higher than it has ever been. Business is also stepping up, making commitments to drastically cut carbon, and in many parts of the world, joining hands in collaboration with governments. We are also seeing many experiments with carbon sequestration and other technological innovations. The built environment sector in particular is taking a hard look at its key materials such as cement and its energy use.

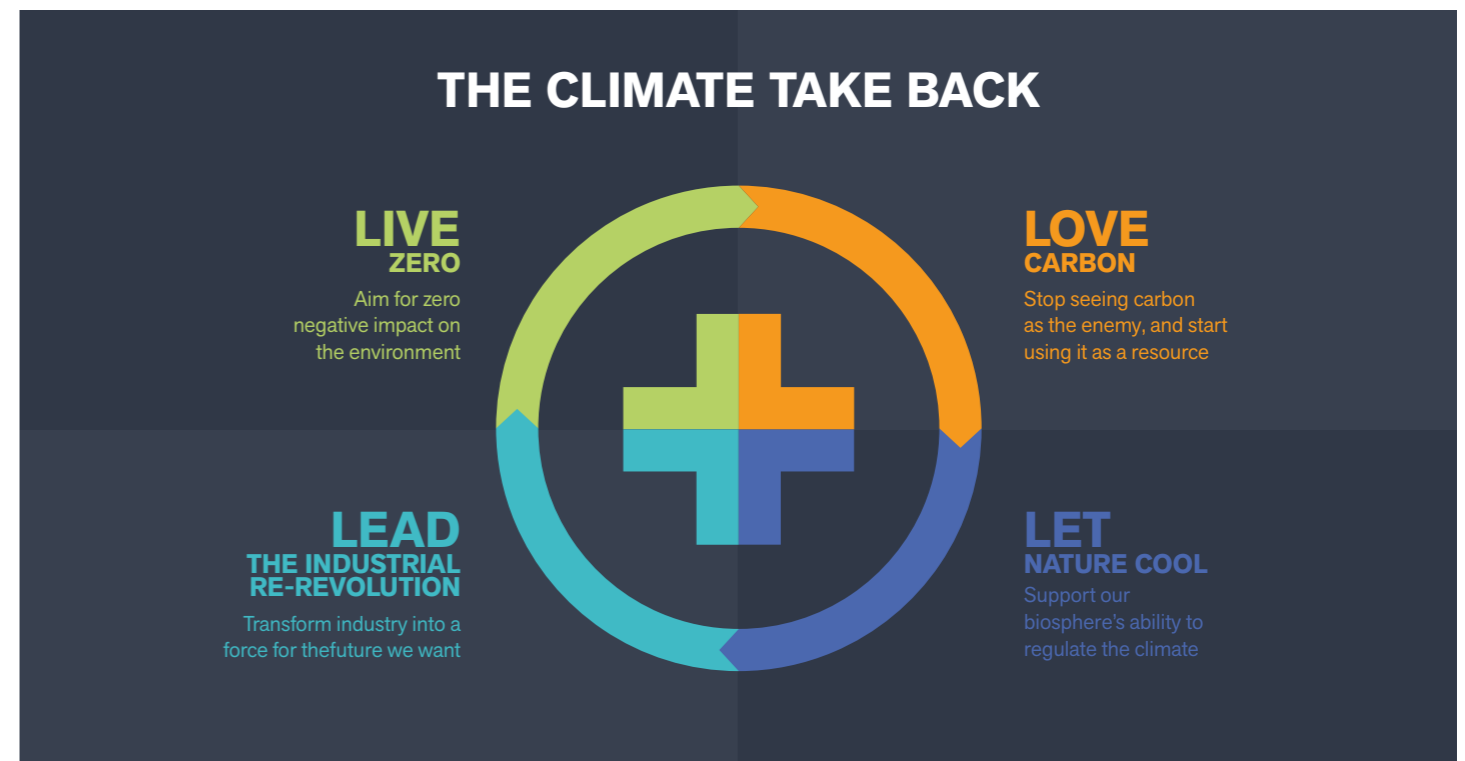
**But this activity is not enough**

As I write this, the next generation, across the world, is telling us all to step up, now.

This is why we at Forum for the Future are standing by Interface as they embark on their next big journey, **Climate Take Back™**. By taking a positive attitude to the enormity of climate change, and with a central focus on innovation, Interface recognises the scale of the challenge but avoids paralysing its key stakeholders with fear,

all of whom are central to the delivery of its ambitious plans. The four pillars of:

- **Live Zero,**
  - **Love Carbon,**
  - **Let Nature Cool** and
  - **Lead the Industrial Re-Revolution**
- set out clear ways that business can grasp the opportunity in reversing the trend in global warming. The case studies shared in this publication and the discussions that the Forum, Interface and CSR Asia teams have convened in India, China, Japan, South Korea and Australia have inspired us, and bring glimmers of hope to an otherwise bleak, >







Metamorphosis: A piece of land, before and after two years of the Afforestt programme. Photograph by Afforestt



The Kubuqi desert has been nothing short of transformed. Photograph by Elion Resources

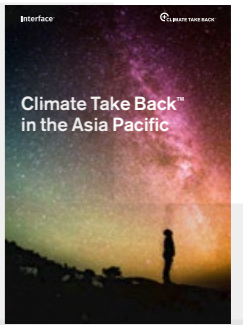
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and often terrifying, picture. From mindset and strategy shifts at Infosys in India, to building a business out of gaming to reduce personal footprints at Ant Forest in China, pockets of Live Zero can be witnessed in the Asia Pacific. Shining a light on these flashes of positive practice will hopefully inspire others to follow. Afforestt's high biodiversity reforestation techniques in India are a great example of Let Nature Cool.

Making a business from sustainable reforestation helps demonstrate that reforestation isn't just the realm of government and NGOs. From demonstration and awareness raising products such as Graviky Ink, to pilots of Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) technology, to driving the recarbonising of soils through regenerative agriculture, carbon is effectively being used as a resource as part of action under the Love Carbon

pillar. Making it viable to remove CO2 out of our atmosphere will be key to mitigating climate change. Close to our heart at Forum is the increasing number of collaborations blossoming in Asia. We see international networks such as RE100, national community hosts such as Japan Climate Leaders Partnership and industry specific initiatives such as the Better Building Partnership emerging as part of the Lead the

Industrial Re-Revolution pillar. The next step here is moving from mass commitments to massive scale action. These are all positive signs of things to come, and Forum will continue to support Interface in their efforts to accelerate and scale the Climate Take Back here in the Asia Pacific. As the home of some of the world's fastest growing economies, this region has the opportunity to be the engine of climate innovation.



**Our report, Climate Take Back in APAC, brings you a snapshot of organisations in the Asia Pacific taking impactful and inspiring action to address global warming. Download it now, add to these solutions and help to scale them up. Because to take the climate back, we must lead the revolution together.**

[interface.com/ctb-apac-report](https://interface.com/ctb-apac-report)

Proof Positive, the world's first carbon negative carpet tile prototype, has a carbon footprint of negative 2 kg of CO2 per square metre. Photograph by Interface

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# *How +Positive Spaces™ can create a healthier planet*

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**Can a built space not only have a positive impact on those who occupy it, but also on the environment outside the building? We believe the answer is yes.**

Buildings of the past simply focused on the function and aesthetics of a space. As construction processes evolved, it became apparent that some of the development, design and product choices were having a negative impact on the environment (and in many cases, the well-being of those occupying the space). This led to the development

of green building practices, with the aim to reduce the environmental impact of buildings. Buildings account for a large amount of land use, energy and water consumption, and air and atmosphere alteration. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), reducing the amount of natural resources buildings consume and the

amount of pollution given off is seen as crucial for future sustainability. Today, we're taking an even stronger position toward protecting the environment. Sustainability efforts should be about more than just minimizing our negative impact, but exploring how to actually have a positive impact on our planet. >



**Why it matters**

According to NASA: On Earth, human activities are changing the natural greenhouse. Over the last century, the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil has increased the concentration of atmospheric CO2. Under the auspices of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (a group of 1,300 independent scientific experts from countries all over the world) concluded that industrial activities have raised atmospheric carbon dioxide levels from 280 parts per million to 400 parts per million in the last 150 years. The panel also concluded there's a better than 95 percent probability that human-produced greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide,

methane and nitrous oxide have caused much of the observed increase in Earth's temperatures over the past 50 years.

**Specifying carbon-responsible materials and processes**

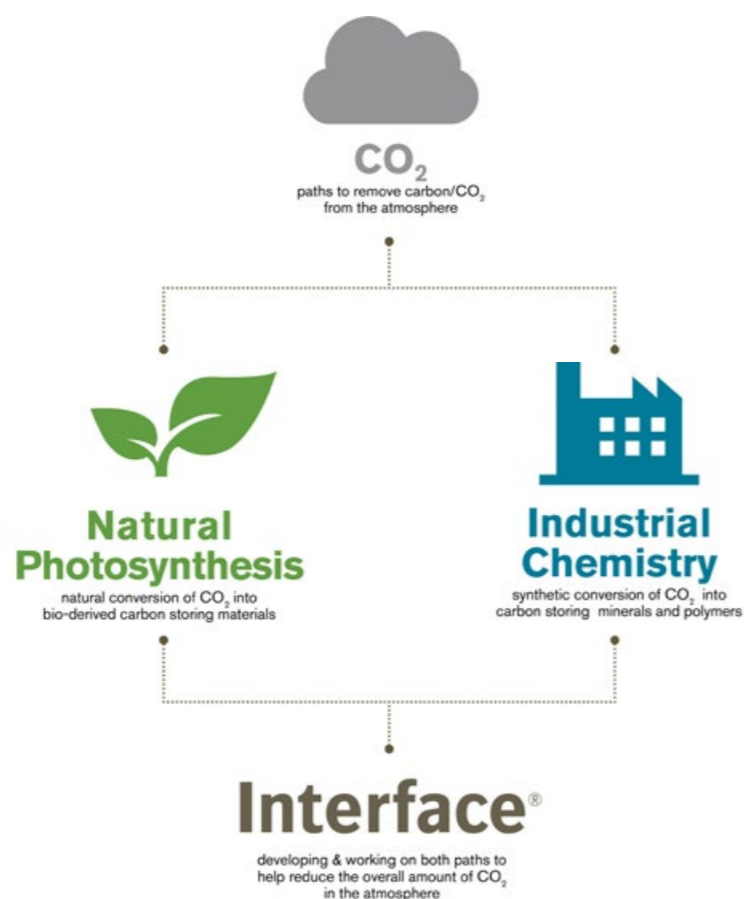
While cars and industry are the most obvious sources of carbon emissions, the built environment is a major contributor. According to the International Energy Association, two trillion square feet of new and rebuilt buildings will be constructed in cities worldwide over the next 35 years. To put this in perspective, humans are building the city of New York every 35 days over that amount of time. Buildings contribute to 40 percent of all annual CO2 emissions, and they consume huge amounts of electricity (for lighting,

heating/cooling, security, etc.) – in fact, 75 percent of all electricity produced in the United States goes toward keeping buildings operational. For any building, it's not just electricity usage that adds to carbon emissions, but also the materials and processes used to create them. So, reducing this embodied carbon is the most urgent challenge of all.

Global warming affects all of us. And while it's a major concern for many businesses and individuals, sometimes it's difficult to know how to have a positive impact. At Interface, one positive step in the climate change direction is our Carbon Neutral Floors™ programme, which helps our customers lower the carbon footprints of the spaces they design.



**THE CARBON CAPTURING PROCESS, HOW IT WORKS**



All Interface products are now carbon neutral across the entire product lifecycle. In 2018, we retired over 450,000 tonnes of verified carbon offsets as part of the Carbon Neutral Floors programme, equivalent to the carbon absorbed annually by nearly 2,000 square kilometres of forest. That's two times the size of New York City.

Taking a holistic approach to carbon neutrality, we begin with raw materials we use and continue through manufacturing, transportation, maintenance and ultimately end-of-life product takeback and recycling through ReEntry®, and other disposal methods. Because Interface has already reduced the carbon footprint of our products to the lowest levels in the industry, it is economically viable –

and more importantly, environmentally responsible – to achieve carbon neutrality through the supply chain of the products and the purchase of carbon offsets.

Through the Carbon Neutral Floors programme, we can also provide information to each customer to help them understand the carbon impact of their purchase. For each flooring purchase, we can calculate the estimated carbon reductions and present that documentation to the customer at the project or total global purchase level. For example, for every 1,000 square metres of Interface flooring sold, the company will offset carbon emissions equivalent to a car travelling 40,000 kilometres, or one trip around the Earth.

“Architects and designers, flooring contractors and end users are beginning to see that their decisions – the products they specify and buy – have a direct impact on our climate. By specifying Interface products, they can do their part to address embodied carbon. And, we need to work together to elevate embodied carbon as an opportunity and to shine a light on those that are taking the lead. Now with every purchase, our customers are joining us in this important endeavor,” said Interface Chief Sustainability Officer Erin Meezan.

And Interface is also joining forces with Gensler as part of MaterialsCAN (the Materials Carbon Action Network), a diverse collaborative dedicated to reducing the embodied carbon footprint >



The Bullitt Center stands as a shining example of the accomplishments the Foundation has achieved in its quest to remain at the forefront of the sustainability movement. Photograph ©Nic Lehoux

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of our built environment. Recognising that the carbon burden associated with the tons of materials going into building and urbanisation projects is immense, Gensler is focusing on opportunities to turn this around and drive carbon out of building materials.

### The living building challenge

So, it's clear we're not the only ones asking how built environments can help create a healthier planet. The International Living Future Institute has posed the question: "What if every single act of design and construction made the world a better place?"

In response to this question, the organisation has developed The Living Building Challenge, the world's most rigorous proven performance standard for buildings. People from around the world use this regenerative design framework to create spaces that give more than they take. Living Buildings are:

- Regenerative buildings that connect occupants to light, air, food, nature, and community.
- Self-sufficient and remain within the resource limits of their site.
- Create a positive impact on the human and natural systems that interact with them.

The Bullitt Center, in Seattle, Washington, became the first office building to earn Living Building certification, in April 2015. Located on a site that was a forest filled with Douglas fir trees before European settlement, the building was designed by the Seattle-based Miller Hull Partnership to function as a tree would. "Not only does it provide shelter and sustenance for its users, like a tree would for deer, elk, birds, and squirrels, it also produces its own energy from the sun and rain, it doesn't produce toxins, and it recycles its waste as nutrients," according to Bullitt Foundation President Denis Hays. The 52,000 square-foot, six-storey building, which is owned by the Bullitt Foundation,

stands as a shining example of the accomplishments the Foundation has achieved in their quest to remain at the forefront of the sustainability movement.

### LEEDing the charge

Since its inception in 1993, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has been working to mitigate the effects of climate change through green building. USGBC's LEED rating system helps achieve buildings, neighborhoods and even cities that use less energy and fewer resources and have a lower carbon footprint. More than 2.4 million square feet is LEED certified every day, with more than 94,000 projects using LEED. And it's in more than 165 countries and territories.

Through specific, credit-based strategies and rigorous standards, LEED guides builders and occupants alike to structures they can be proud of, structures that add as little as possible to our world's greenhouse gas emissions and water and energy use. Of the 100 total points in LEED v4, 35 reward climate change mitigation strategies. These include four different greenhouse gas emissions reduction credits, as well as credits for sustainable site location, access to public transportation, water use, energy performance, carbon offsets and life cycle impact reduction.

### Journey toward a climate fit for life

In the context of our take – make – waste manufacturing business, Interface has taken a hard look at what it means to run a business sustainably. We asked ourselves: If nature designed an industrial process, what might it look like? The fundamentals of nature became guides for how to run our business – using renewable energy, fitting form to function, recycling everything, creating no waste. Using these lessons, we set similar goals for our business, to run on renewable energy, to eliminate waste from

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our operations, to recycle and then reuse the materials from our products.

On average, approximately 70 percent of a material's carbon footprint is attributed to raw material extraction and processing. So, in order to impact our total carbon footprint, Interface has looked at how to redesign our products to promote a healthier planet. In the case of our Proof Positive prototype tile, we're accomplishing this goal by incorporating natural, plant-derived material throughout the carpet tile

to create a product that actually benefits the environment. The plants from which these resources originate have grabbed carbon from the atmosphere – in fact, harvesting the materials does not necessarily entail killing the plants – and that carbon then enters the closed system that Interface has been developing for the last two decades.

We're also addressing the back of the carpet and how it can impact the carbon released into the atmosphere. Recently introduced in the European market, our

CircuitBac Green backing is created with a mix of a bio-plastic and mineral filler and is the first step in the commercialisation of our Proof Positive prototype tile. The combination includes a bio-based component that provides a carbon-negative alternative to existing backing systems, meaning it absorbs more carbon than it emits during its production. As a result, there is less carbon in the atmosphere.

Our new sustainability mission, Climate Take Back™, challenges us, and others, to

contribute to a space that nurtures us all: our planet. At Interface, we're optimistic about reversing global warming. Together, we're taking steps to create a climate fit for life and an environment that supports us all. We know it's possible.

We believe we can reverse global warming if we focus on four key areas:

1. **Live Zero**, – Do business in ways that give back whatever is taken from the Earth.
2. **Love Carbon**, – Stop seeing carbon as the enemy, and start using it as a resource.

3. **Let Nature Cool** – Support our biosphere's ability to regulate the climate.

4. **Lead the Industrial Re-Revolution** – Transform industry into a force for climate progress.

**Be part of the solution**

We know we're not on this journey alone. In a recent global survey, we discovered that 95 percent of climate experts and 91 percent of emerging business leaders also believe we can create a climate fit for life. In the built environment, the challenge is

how can we create spaces that not only provide positive experiences for those who use them, but also for the planet as a whole. The solution lies in taking a hard look at the energy usage and processes and products that go into a space, including manufacturing and life cycles. The ultimate question is: How can this space give back more than it takes?

**Climate change is undeniable – and reversible, if we work together. Join us at [interface.com/climatetakeback](https://interface.com/climatetakeback)**

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IMPACT ON GLOBAL WARMING.  
THAT'S WHY ALL OUR PRODUCTS  
ARE NOW CARBON NEUTRAL.

Interface®



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We've done the math. We know your flooring's impact on global warming. That's why every flooring product that we sell is carbon neutral. We'll calculate your flooring's impact on global warming and ensure it's offset – at no extra cost to you.

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Every flooring product that we sell – whether carpet tile, luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) or nora® rubber – is carbon neutral.

We achieved this after more than two decades of work reducing the carbon footprint of our products combined with purchasing verified carbon offsets to make up the difference. All at no extra cost to our customers.

Since 1996, we have reduced the greenhouse gas emissions from our manufacturing by 96 per cent and the average carbon footprint of our carpet tiles by 69 per cent – the lowest in the industry. While we continue to reduce our emissions and work towards our goal of becoming carbon negative by 2040, offering Carbon Neutral Floors represents a key milestone in our journey.

Global warming impacts all of us. Choose **Carbon Neutral Floors** and lower your carbon footprint with one positive step.

All the Design Showcases featured in this magazine have Interface Carbon Neutral Floors installed. The table below shows the impact our customers have made by designing with the climate in mind.

Featured Design Showcase	Square metres of Carbon Neutral Floors installed	Tonnes of verified carbon offsets retired	What this means in terms of the number of kilometres driven by a car
WeCare preschool, Vietnam	865	9	35,433
NUS School of Design and Environment 4, Singapore	480	5	19,685
A.B. Paterson College, Australia	2,960	36	141,732
Monterrey Institute of Technology, Mexico	71,227.25	734	2,887,490
Holiday Inn Express Newcastle, Australia	3,136	34	134,122
Richmond Hotel Tenjin Nishi Dori, Japan	1,385	14	55,075
Schlumberger office, India	3,135	34	133,858
Informatica office, India	1,565	19	74,744
Daimler and Mercedes-Benz office, Indonesia	4,000	69	271,654
Reckitt Benckiser office, Indonesia	740	8	31,496

Kudos to these organisations for helping to prevent the carbon emissions equivalent to those from a car driving 95 times around the earth – or five times to the moon and back – from going into the atmosphere. For specifying Interface Carbon Neutral Floors, a total of 962 tonnes of verified carbon offsets were retired on their behalf.

DESIGN SHOWCASE

# A dream school

OUT-2 Design creates a dreamlike preschool for **WeCare** and its children



Perched atop Moss carpet tiles from the Human Connections collection

**WeCare is a premium international preschool in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, boasting a multidisciplinary team of teachers and psychotherapists committed to delivering high-quality educational experiences to young children.**



Playful LED cloud lights divert the children's attention from the exposed ducting

The school's founder, Huong (Victoria) Tran, MSMFT, wanted to create a safe and stimulating space that is designed to maximise the potential of every child. An environment that helps them to explore, create and connect with the world while learning the value of love, respect and diversity. Taking on this unique design brief is the kind of challenge that interior designers crave, but that makes it no less daunting when you consider that this space has the potential to transform the lives of the children who play and learn within its walls. OUT-2 Design

were chosen based on their experience in the education sector, their design philosophy and their approach to sustainable interiors.

To Andrew Currie, founder and managing director of OUT-2 Design, it's clear why they were such a good fit: "In all of our projects there is an element of discovery, but here we could really amplify it."

Climate change is a real and urgent issue for Andrew. He believes "there can be no question that our negative impact on the environment as humans can and must be >



In all of our projects there is an element of discovery, but here we could really amplify it

**Andrew Currie**  
Founder and managing director of OUT-2 Design

- Product**
- Composure™
- Cubic & Cubic Colours
- Human Connections™
- Colour Me
- Drawn Lines™
- Design**
- OUT-2 Design
- Installation**
- Antrade

<

reduced." OUT-2 Design's policy is to source materials that minimise a project's carbon footprint, but he is sceptical of the sustainability credentials presented by some manufacturers: "Interface is a stand-out exception, and for many years it has been a leader and a pioneer in this regard, which makes it a logical choice for our projects."

Andrew appreciates the fact that our products are aligned with OUT-2 Design's creative, political and social principles: "Interface is a leader in environmental responsibility

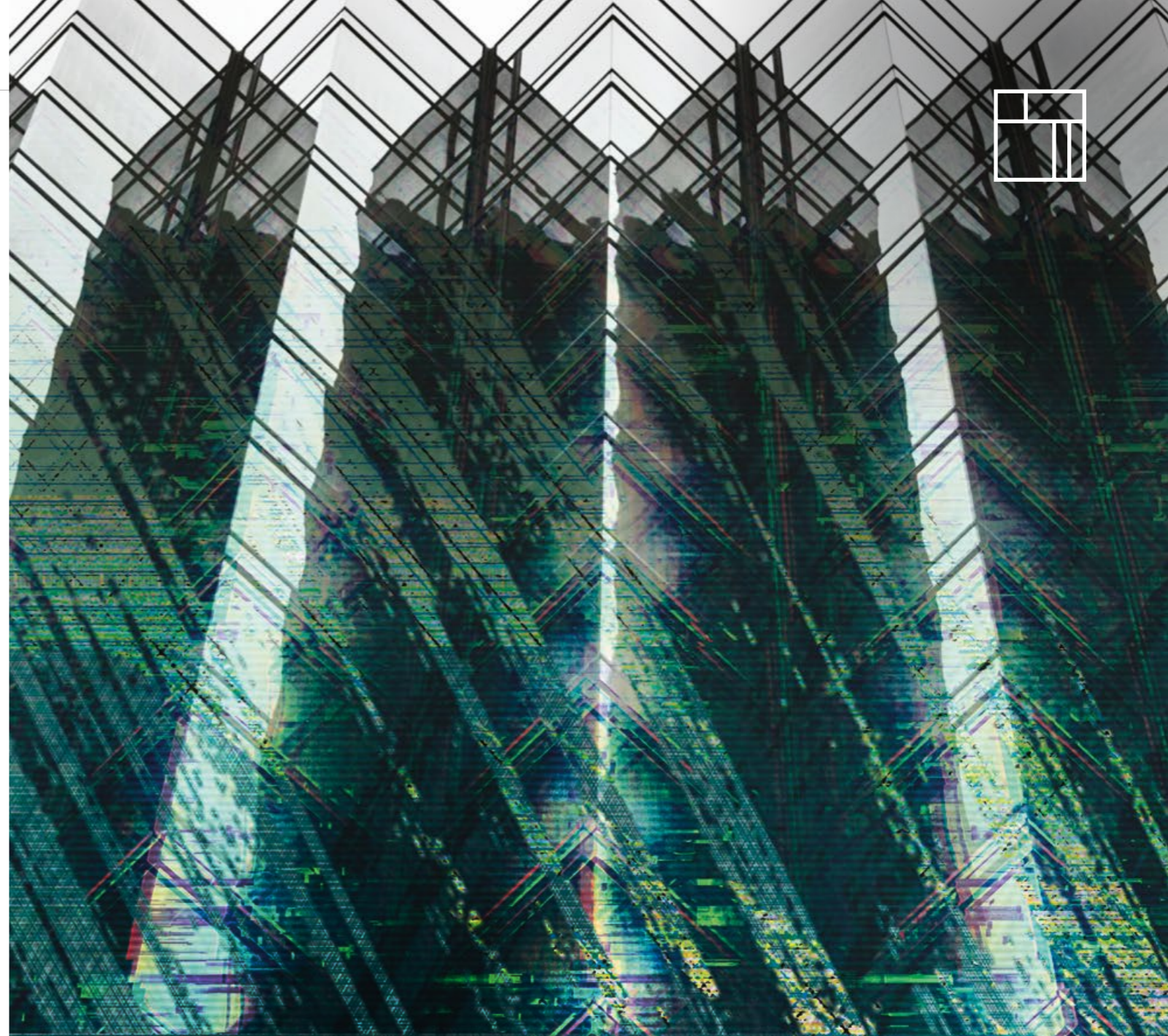
and their staff and partners are among the most professional in the industry. We view design as collective creation and a collaboration, so this is important to us."

In the past his team have found Interface's broad range of materials, colours and textures a little overwhelming, but this time they worked closely with our in-house design team to realise a complex and compelling flooring design.

"This collaborative process allowed us to elevate the design beyond what would normally be possible," he added. >



Creating organic, whimsical shapes with a seamless blend of carpet tiles from our Composure collection and Drawn Lines luxury vinyl tiles



## Drawn Lines™ Collection

Our Drawn Lines LVT layers filament-fine marks in varying weights and rhythms, creating a prismatic geometry in an array of scales. Softly pooling areas of light and dark with no visible repeats. This product pairs beautifully with Interface's Visual Code carpet tiles.

**To learn more and order samples visit [interface.com/drawnlines](https://interface.com/drawnlines)**

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WeCare founder Huong (Victoria) Tran, MSMFT with founder and managing director of OUT-2 Design Andrew Currie

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The finished space is truly remarkable. For the children, it must be just like being in their own real-life cartoon. There are very few straight edges within the space while colour, texture, transitions, doorways and pathways stimulate the senses. The school is bright and unusual without being overwhelming. Every walkway, room and hiding space invites children inside. The flooring plays a very important role in this, moving from carpet, to hard flooring and back again. Here the flooring is promoted to something that can directly engage the user, instead of being a passive part of an interior design.

This use of different textures and unusual transitions is only possible because of the Interface integrated flooring system. Different textures and materials can be combined to create irregular patterns and shapes without the use of transition strips. The angular patterns of Drawn Lines, a hard-wearing luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) interplay with soft, textured carpet from the Human Connections™ collection. This is used to create small tricks of the eye wherever you look. Doorways seem to cast an impossible shadow, crawl spaces reflect their shape onto the floor and colours from the walls merge into the floor.

Although the space only has windows on two sides, natural light is maximised using portholes and glass walls to project the light into the double height rooms and corridors. As the sun moves across the sky the changing light transforms the colours and spaces. The corridors create drama and intrigue by twisting through the building and obscuring the final destination – evidence of OUT-2 Design's trademark discovery philosophy.

The high ceilings also created a design challenge for the team. There was a fear that some sensitive children could be disturbed by the high exposed ceiling and ducting work, so LED cloud-shaped lights were installed. This



Near the central playground, carpet tiles from Composure and Human Connections meet to form delightful and intriguing shapes

cleverly diverts attention away from anything scary and adds to the dreamlike quality of the classrooms.

WeCare's staff love how the space feels much bigger than it is and that there is always something interesting to discover. Andrew tells us that he gets the most satisfaction from seeing people make discoveries and engage with the spaces that his team create, "and to witness the joy this brings." You can tell that this is the most rewarding part of his job when he says, "The children particularly like the corridors, the way they seem to never end, and how they are filled with interesting portholes, small doorways, and nooks they can occupy and hide in. A favourite safe space is the egg chair that sits next to the communal art space, and everyone loves the cloud lights!"





A tropical portico. Photograph by Rory Gardiner

**Located within the National University of Singapore (NUS) School of Design and Environment, Singapore's first new-build net-zero energy building, SDE4, is a living embodiment of sustainable and human-centric design.**

Designed by Serie+Multiply Consultants with Surbana Jurong, the building epitomises our Live Zero principles by demonstrating how to leverage biophilic, low-carbon design to enhance comfort and wellness in a tropical climate.

Professor Lam Khee Poh, Dean of the NUS School of Design and Environment, said, "The successful completion of SDE4 demonstrates that stringent energy targets for buildings in the tropics are achievable."

"Through a well-executed integrated design process, the building will also provide a

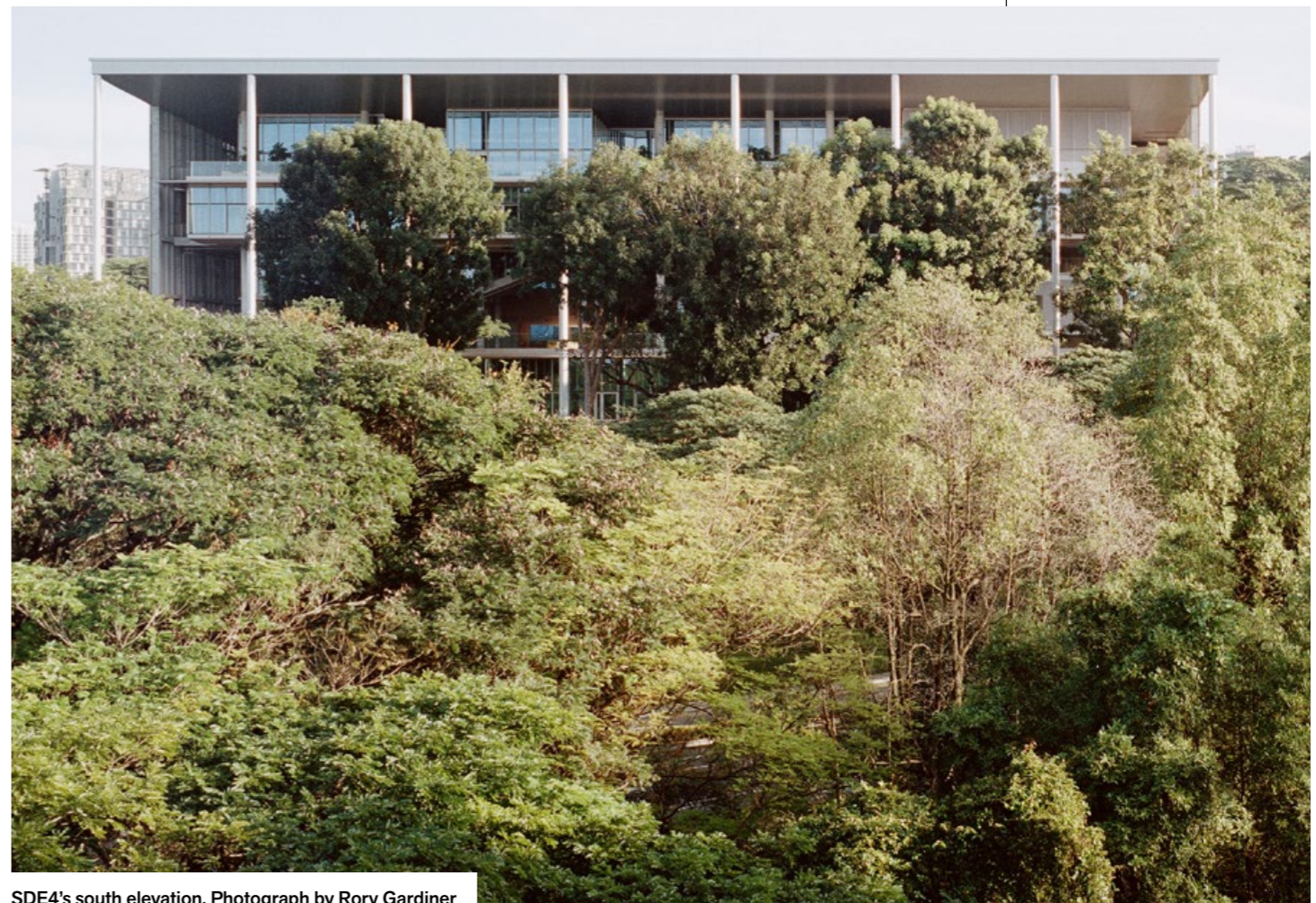
comfortable and biophilic experience coupled with a low carbon footprint."

SDE4's shallow plan depth and porous layout allows for generous natural ventilation and lighting. Working with double facades on two sides of the block, its large overhanging roof helps to keep the interior cool. And its cutting-edge hybrid cooling system ensures that each room is supplied with 100% fresh air, cooled at slightly warmer and more humid levels than that from conventional air-conditioning systems – making for an incredibly comfortable environment. >

**Product**  
East Coast

**Design**  
Serie+Multiply  
(interior designers)  
Surbana Jurong  
(architects)

**Installation**  
Contrac Image



SDE4's south elevation. Photograph by Rory Gardiner

DESIGN SHOWCASE

# Net zero energy building

Carbon Neutral Floors™ in Singapore's first new-build net zero energy building, **SDE4**



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Atop the building's roof are 1,200 photovoltaic panels, hard at work absorbing the sun's rays.

The net effect is a design school that can accommodate more than 500 students and staff, built to consume only as much energy as it produces.

Lam explained, "We can expound great theories and great strategies through our lectures and seminars, but at the end of the day, our students' first-hand experience is equally important when it comes to supporting theory with practice."

This is also why the School paid particular attention to the selection of materials, choosing Interface's Carbon Neutral Floors for its Information Resource Centre (IRC) and Executive Rooms – stunning examples of great design helping people to work smarter.

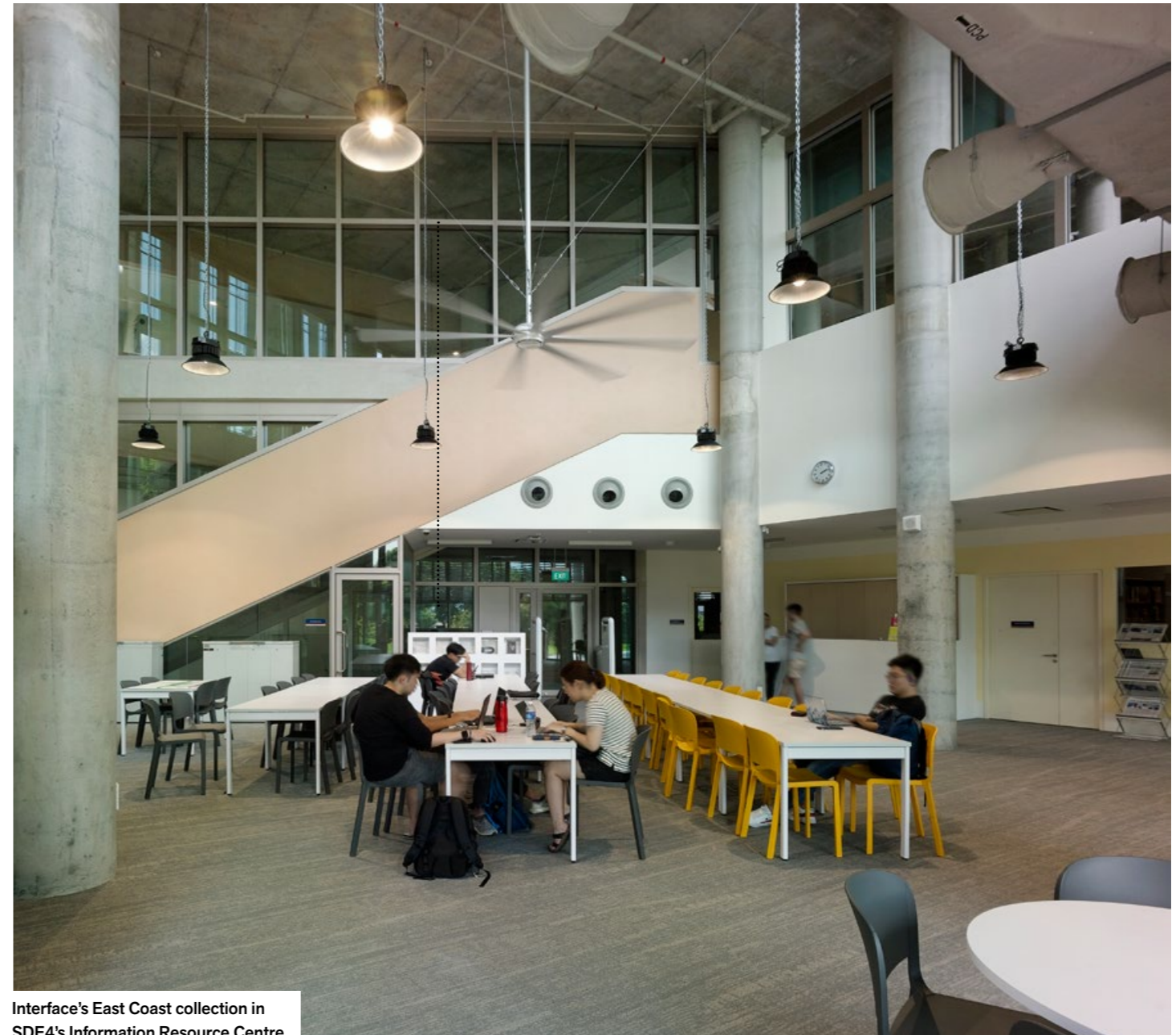
Stepping into the IRC, a soothing tropical breeze from the silently rotating ceiling fans washes over you. The room's lengthy glass panels draw nature into the space, making you feel like you are in the middle of a garden.

Your eyes are drawn to the sunlight streaming in through the windows and landing on the soothing cool griegie of the floors. Inspired by the natural coastline, Interface's East Coast collection re-creates the organic shapes of the water and sand as waves crash upon the shore – random, layered and multi-directional.

According to Chris Lee, Design Architect at Serie + Multiply, "one of the key features of SDE4 is the deliberate use and celebration of the raw and natural characteristics of the materials."

This ethos is echoed everywhere else in the building – most noticeably in the natural textures of its towering concrete pillars.

"We left the materials as raw, delicate, and as true as possible," Lee said. >



Interface's East Coast collection in SDE4's Information Resource Centre



Through a well-executed integrated design process, the building will also provide a comfortable and biophilic experience coupled with a low carbon footprint.

**Professor Lam Khee Poh**  
Dean of the NUS School of Design and Environment



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Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the School is that it came with a negligible extra cost compared to similar, industry-standard models. "The building has... demystified the general perception of cost for sustainable buildings... SDE4 changes the argument that green buildings cost more," said Giovanni Cossu, Senior Manager of the NUS School of Design and Environment.

SDE4 has been awarded the Green

Mark Platinum certification and will be the first building at the NUS to be certified under the WELL Building Standard. Among other steps, the School used good construction practices such as choosing materials with low VOC content and storing fabrics like carpets in specially designated areas.

Dr Nirmal Kishnani, Former Vice Dean (Special Projects) of the NUS School of Design and Environment, told us about next steps for the School now that SDE4

has officially opened.

"There is a bigger challenge ahead, and this is how this building is put to use. We have to educate the users; we have to excite them. We have to prepare them for how this building is going to perform and how they must interact with it."

"This is a really important part of the process that we've been discussing; it is a closing of the loop from drawing board to use."

While two buildings in the School are currently being renovated, a third will be redeveloped as a net-positive energy, net-zero water, wellness-certified and low-carbon facility.

Kudos to the School for designing with the climate in mind and lowering their carbon footprint with Carbon Neutral Floors – and for proving that with smart design, sustainable outcomes don't cost more. Together, we can take the climate back.





School proves  
built-environment  
is the “third teacher”



**Officials at Community Consolidated School District 59 (CCSD59), just outside Chicago, have a vision of 21st century education.**

They believe the built-environment can support educational outcomes in a big way, functioning as a “third teacher”— with smart boards, connectivity, collaborative open areas and dynamic, multi-use, experiential spaces that feature an abundance of light. But it all starts with the floors, according to Tony Rossi, executive director for facilities and operations.

One of the most modern school systems in the country, the district serves nearly 73,000 residents within 62 square kilometres. And it has made nora® premium rubber flooring standard for all of its facilities, including

classrooms, corridors and entry areas across 11 elementary schools, an early learning center and three junior high schools.

“The floor has remained looking new without an intrusive maintenance process that could otherwise affect our student and staff use of spaces,” Rossi says. He adds that the district has a million square feet of total area to maintain.

Enhanced acoustics and slip resistance are also important to the district, which uses state-of-the-art building materials and interior finishes, paying close attention to their chemical composition, environmental impact and cost over time.

**The products featured in this project are noraplan® sentica and custom noraplan® flooring.**

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Carpet: **Works Unite**  
Colour: **Flint**  
Installed: **Ashlar**



Carpet: **Works Stream**  
Colour: **Granite**  
Installed: **Monolithic**



Carpet: **Works Atom**  
Colour: **Russet**  
Installed: **Monolithic**

DESIGN SHOWCASE

# Visions of elevation

LVT meets **A.B. Paterson College's** vision to elevate physical & mental health in education

**A.B. Paterson College – a private school based in Queensland, Australia – leads by example through excellence. When the opportunity arose to expand, the facility – The Winton Centre – was conceptualised in detail to set a new benchmark in design innovation and technology for an active and healthy learning environment.**

The Winton Centre spans over 4,500sqm across 3 levels, housing multi-functional spaces catering for Early Learning years students and Prep – Year 12 students as well as teachers and parents. Making it a hub to gather, learn, socialise and work together symbiotically.

"The vision was centred around A.B. Paterson College students and staff," said Andrew Brewer, Architect and Associate Director of Burling Brown Architects. "The design brief required a great understanding of their behaviour and needs so this new space could benefit

the physical and mental health of its occupants."

### Happier community

The school conducts continual research into elevating their teaching methodology by embracing different learning styles. And research has shown student engagement to directly correlate with their well-being. This lends importance to a human-centred design. This new space enables freedom to choose how they want to experience their curriculum activities through >



**Product**  
Level Set™  
Net Effect™

**Design**  
Burling Brown Architects

**Installation**  
Alder Constructions



This facility will set a new benchmark for schools and make a difference to the learning of all students

**Brian Grimes**  
Principal and Chief Executive Officer, A.B. Paterson College



oceans, less virgin materials used, and a new source of income for 40 coastal communities in the Philippines, Cameroon and Indonesia.

**Meet performance and durability**

The dedicated Early Learning area is packed with fun colours and structures for curious young minds to play on and climb. This area required openness, allowing the indoors to meet the outdoors for direct access to play. The floors needed to be robust. Interface luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) was selected for its high-performing nature, offering dimensional stability and durability that resists scratching and scuffing even in the most challenging environments.

The natural look and feel of Interface LVT was also a winning factor. "The Early Learning area takes the dual approach of bringing the outside, inside and the interior influences out," explained Brewer. "Albeit a space that demands robust finishing and a balance of textures and patterns, Interface LVT was chosen for its soft, natural timber appearance."

**Better acoustic**

Spatial and material considerations were made to manage the acoustics with the use of acoustic panelling and Interface flooring. Research has proven that school planning and design can have a profound influence on concentration and learning outcomes. To reduce disruptions and distractions, Interface's LVT was specified for its best-in-class performance in reducing impact sound and floor-to-floor sound transmission. Interface's LVT comes with the Quiet Mark™ certification, an international award programme for excellence in low-noise technology and solutions to unwanted noise.

"This facility will set a new benchmark for schools and make a difference to the learning of all students," said Grimes.

"The students are extremely proud to know that we have considered such important environmental impacts in the construction of this Centre, which stands as a reminder of what can be achieved with thought and inspiration."

The students are extremely proud to know that we have considered such important environmental impacts in the construction of this Centre, which stands as a reminder of what can be achieved with thought and inspiration

**Brian Grimes**  
Principal and Chief Executive Officer, A.B. Paterson College



diverse learning styles. At the push of a button, all 160 seats in the multi-functional lecture theatre compact toward the wall, converting the lecture or music hall to a dance or theatre space. Students will gain confidence in presenting and do group work utilising large interactive screens in various project spaces.

**Well-being inspired by nature**

Exploring around the school you will discover Australian native plants and animals everywhere, from the playground, the façade mural and on the custom furnishings which feature native colours and textures inspired by the Australian landscapes and the school's heritage. Curved glazing was ingeniously engineered to maximise the natural light and views of the Gold Coast.

"Many design references point back to nature and its preservation, to evoke the feeling of happiness and joy," said Brewer. "Maximising natural daylight was crucial."

**Healthier planet**

The design involved a play of juxtapositions. The exterior features strong, sharp lines and transitions to flowing curves, soft finishes and organic patterns as you move into the building. This shift of thresholds invokes a subtle sense of well-being in its occupants. When smart design and environmentally-friendly choices in building materials are incorporated, both occupants and the greater earth can benefit in more ways than one.

"If one is to truly educate students on the importance of our impact on climate change and the importance of responsible sourcing of products and services, then it is important that we live by such standards," said Brian Grimes, Principal and Chief Executive Officer of A.B. Paterson College.

The carpet used goes beyond basic flooring, created from a system that takes back discarded fishing nets to be made into new carpet. The benefits? An impactful ripple effect for cleaner





DESIGN SHOWCASE

# Designing for success

With **Monterrey Institute of Technology**

By Sonya Lehner – Digital Marketing Manager

**In the higher education market, competition for the best students is fierce. And once those students get on-campus? It's all about keeping them.**

While there are endless strategies around student retention, what is clear is that students need to be engaged beyond just academics. The growing importance of social integration through activities, organisations and support services highlights the need for colleges and universities to offer ever more amenities for their student populations. Experience becomes a key part of student engagement. And with the increased emphasis on the whole student experience, schools have to think about whether their campus facilities are keeping up.

**Tackling retention with design**

The Monterrey Institute of Technology – known as Tec – is a private university based in Monterrey, Mexico. As one of the most academically-recognized universities in Latin America, Tec consists of 31 campuses in 25 cities throughout the country. However, the university knew it needed to modernise its facilities in order to attract and retain the next generation of learners and innovators. With that in mind, Tec launched a new mission to update its spaces with design that was fresh >



All images by Berry Flores

**LIBRARY**

**Product**  
Menagerie I  
Menagerie II

**Design**  
YAZAKI  
RDLP  
Gilberto Rodriguez

**NUEVO SUR**

**Product**  
Cubic & Cubic Colours  
Monochrome  
Level Set™  
Flor & Super Flor  
Reclaim

**Design**  
O2A

**CCM SPORTS**

**Product**  
Aerial™ Flying Colours  
On Line & Off Line  
Flor & Super Flor  
Level Set™

**Design**  
O2A



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and colorful – a far cry from its corporate-feeling image.

According to Hernán García, Tec's Vice President of Culture and Experience, "We decided that we wanted to have very flexible, collaborative spaces. And what we wanted from these spaces is that they become places where people want to stay, gather, and spend time working with others as a team. Because of that, we designed spaces keeping people in mind."

### Matching a partner to the mission

Tec chose Interface as a flooring partner on this overall project because of a shared vision on biophilic design, well-being, and sustainability. As student needs were changing, it was important that the university's built space reflected and accommodated those needs. Tec felt that Interface was the right partner to implement this vision on the floor.

### Implementing biophilic design

Biophilic design is the practice of using textures, materials, and patterns reflective of nature within interior spaces. Bringing the outside in has two distinct benefits: it blurs the boundary between inside spaces and the external environment, and it enhances the mental and emotional well-being of those who work and navigate within these spaces.

Tec embraced the concept of biophilia as part of its design philosophy and wanted to incorporate biophilic design in its facilities projects. Several spaces featured obvious biophilic elements such as green walls and floors that were representative of natural textures like wood, stones and grass. Rene Sanchez from the Interface Design Studio had this to say about the approach: "We sought to apply Interface's standards of biophilic design >



Image by Berny Flores



Image by Berny Flores

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and +Positive spaces, with a lot of natural light, nature elements and colors, and above everything else, carpet tiles that could merge with all of this."

**Thinking sustainably**

For Elsa Romero, Tec's Director of Spaces, "the most important part of working with Interface was its commitment to the environment, recycling and sustainability."

Several years ago, Tec adopted a mission around sustainable development. With this new mission, Tec has implemented not only more education and research on sustainable development but also adopted university-wide sustainability initiatives. This includes energy efficiency improvements, material recycling and water usage, as well as updated criteria for new building construction and retrofitting existing buildings. Because of the university's concern about the

environment, it was important for them to choose partners and suppliers that aligned with its sustainability mission. Interface was an easy choice.

**The first project is a "go"**

One of the first big campus projects undertaken was the library on Tec's flagship Monterrey campus. Each of the building's six floors has its own purpose, with an open design that allows spaces to be dynamic. University officials wanted >

Image by Berny Flores





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to encourage student collaboration, so the furniture is reconfigurable, and the layout is open. Likewise, they wanted the floor design to be just as dynamic, while still adhering to a common theme.

“When it came to the Library specifically, Tec already had a defined color scheme and a very modern concept and image. What we tried to do here, together with them, was to regionalise the concept of what Mexico is; to borrow the concept of papel picado and convey it in the floors,” says Interface’s Rene Sanchez.

Papel picado, or confetti, is the brightly-colored paper used during celebrations like Cinco de Mayo. Throughout the Library are pops of vibrant blues, yellows and oranges that call back to the university’s Mexican roots and invite people to linger and enjoy. Keeping to the open concept, Interface created floor designs that allow for many possible uses – no space is strictly defined

for only one purpose, just as Tec had envisioned.

### Evaluating mission success

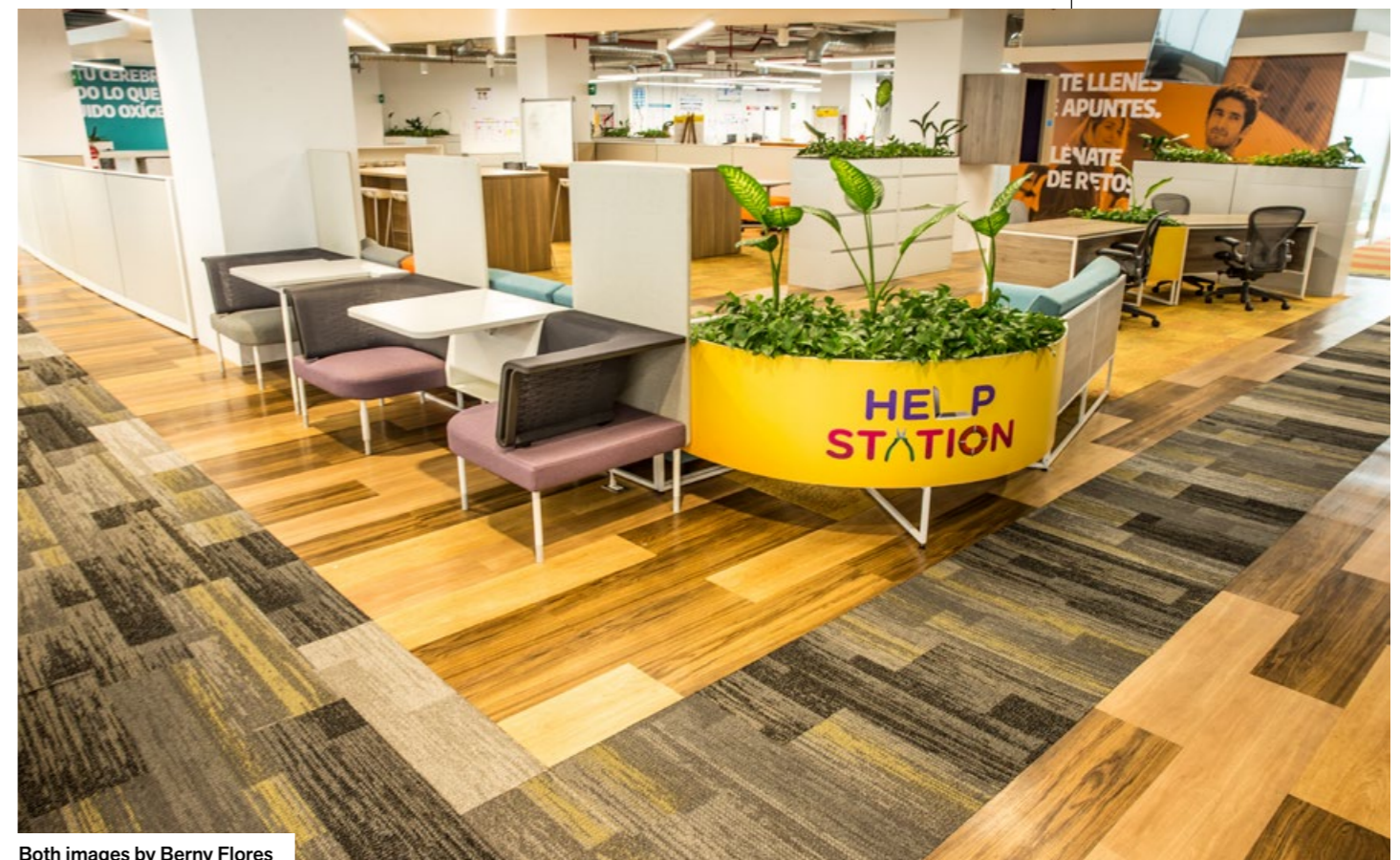
Overall, Tec officials feel its evolution has been good both for the university and its students. “The transformation of these spaces has given us many good results. The most important result is that we are increasingly seeing more people working in teams, communicating and sharing resources,” according to Hernán Díaz.

Tec knew that its outdated facilities were a weak point in being able to attract and retain students. Ultimately, it wanted to create spaces that were comfortable and that would encourage students and staff alike to feel ownership of how they worked. By improving its built environment and partnering with manufacturers that align on the university’s design and sustainability missions, Monterrey Institute of Technology is moving rapidly into the modern era.



The most important part of working with Interface was its commitment to the environment, recycling and sustainability.

**Elsa Romero**  
Tec’s Director of Spaces



Both images by Berny Flores



# Patient-centered culture at heart of all decisions at Slidell Memorial Hospital

**Slidell Memorial Hospital is a 229-bed acute care hospital located in the heart of Slidell, Louisiana, part of the New Orleans metropolitan area.**

Opened in 1959, the community-based hospital is all about the patient – a place where leaders have adopted the saying, “Feel better faster,” as they work to get patients into beds, healed and on their way home as quickly and safely as possible. noraplan environcare™ premium rubber

flooring from nora systems, Inc. covers much of the three-story facility, offering durability and slip resistance. According to Anita Becker, director of critical care services, it also supports a quiet, healing environment. “Quiet is something we take very seriously, because there’s a lot of literature that supports the fact that quiet time is paramount for patient recovery. Something that contributes to that and helps would be our flooring system. You don’t hear the footsteps. You don’t hear the cart going down the hallway. Because all of that is absorbed through the floor.”

Just as significant, the floor contributes to that all-important first impression visitors and patients have as they enter the hospital. “It might not matter what type of care you provide,” says Anita Becker, director of critical care services. “If the environment is not right when they walk in the door, then you’ve already done a disservice to your families.” Easy-to-maintain nora flooring consistently looks good and regularly supports the hospital’s commitment to compassionate care and a patient-centered culture. Adds Singley, “Installing nora is just all around the right thing to do to heal the patient.”

According to Jeffrey Singley, director, with responsibility for environmental services, nora is an integral part of the hospital’s master facility plan to keep the building up-to-date and improve its efficiency based, in part, on the successful installation of nora flooring in the hospital’s intensive care unit (ICU) more than 10 years ago. “Today,” says Singley, “the floor is proven, it’s working and there are no issues. It’s seamless.”

One of the most important features Singley points to is the floor’s simple cleaning regimen, which eliminates the need for strippers and the application of finishes and sealants. “Floor finishes, stripping and waxing – it’s all a thing of the past. There’s just no need for it anymore, not when you have this product.” Singley adds, “The cost savings in floor finish, floor stripper alone, and having to do it twice a year, has probably saved our department budgets about 18 percent annually. From a productivity standpoint, you’re able to increase man hours for our floor techs and have them cover more areas. It has dramatically brought cost savings into our organization, to where it’s been reflected in our operating budgets.”

The floor also ensures improved productivity, freeing Singley and his staff to address other areas. “It allows me to focus on bigger things and conquer other tasks,” he says, advising others in his shoes to, “Look at products like nora that are going to make your job easier and allow you to work smarter, not harder. Our efficiency gives a whole new meaning to “Feel better faster.”

This simple cleaning regimen benefits patients, too, as Anita Becker, director of critical care services, explains. “Our patients are very sensitive in the ICU to smells and to sounds. So, the fact that we don’t have to use heavy equipment to clean our floors or heavy chemicals to clean and strip them is a wonderful addition to the system. We also see a tremendous gain in our room turnover.”

Becker’s praise for the floor does not stop there. “One of the things that makes our flooring so wonderful is that we have flash coving that extends from the floor up the wall. There are no corners or crevices for dirt and grime to get into.”

She also appreciates the floor’s ability to help protect against slips and falls, the result of a cleaning regimen that eliminates the need for finish products and the floor covering’s slip resistance feature. “Slip resistance is important in the hospital, because, oftentimes, we are moving at a pace that requires us to move more quickly and respond promptly to our patients, without any hesitation due to a fear of falls, trips or slip hazards.”

In addition to reducing the incidence of slips and falls, premium rubber flooring significantly reduces glare coming from its surface, again attributable to the absence of finishes. Explains Becker, “As far as glare, in an environment like the ICU, where there are so many different stimulants coming

from so many different sources, glare is something the flooring takes away.”

Staff also appreciate the benefits rubber flooring delivers, particularly at the end of a long shift. “My caregivers are impacted by the flooring every day, every hour, every minute of every 12-hour shift they work. They walk miles and miles in the course of a single day, so having a flooring system that supports them and provides comfort makes all the difference at the end of a 12-hour day, or a 25-year career,” says Becker.

Durability, too, is important, especially in the new service corridor, which sees forklift traffic, linen carts, infectious waste carts, wheelchairs and a considerable amount of foot traffic. It’s no wonder Singley describes the corridor as “one of the toughest areas to maintain and keep presentable.” But he is quick to add, “I can clearly say that it is one of the easiest corridors to take care of because of nora. It is easy to clean, it is aesthetically pleasing and it is not breaking down.”





# Welcome to spaces people love to stay in

**Many things go into making a perfect guest experience. The design of guest rooms and public spaces is one of them – and a big part of that is the floor.**

Interface Hospitality's modular flooring enhances interiors, and brings them to life. Plus, it's flexible. Mix-&-match styles and textures to create zones, multi-use lobbies and totally unique spaces. Designed with high levels of quality, creativity and sustainability, this is flooring that stands out.

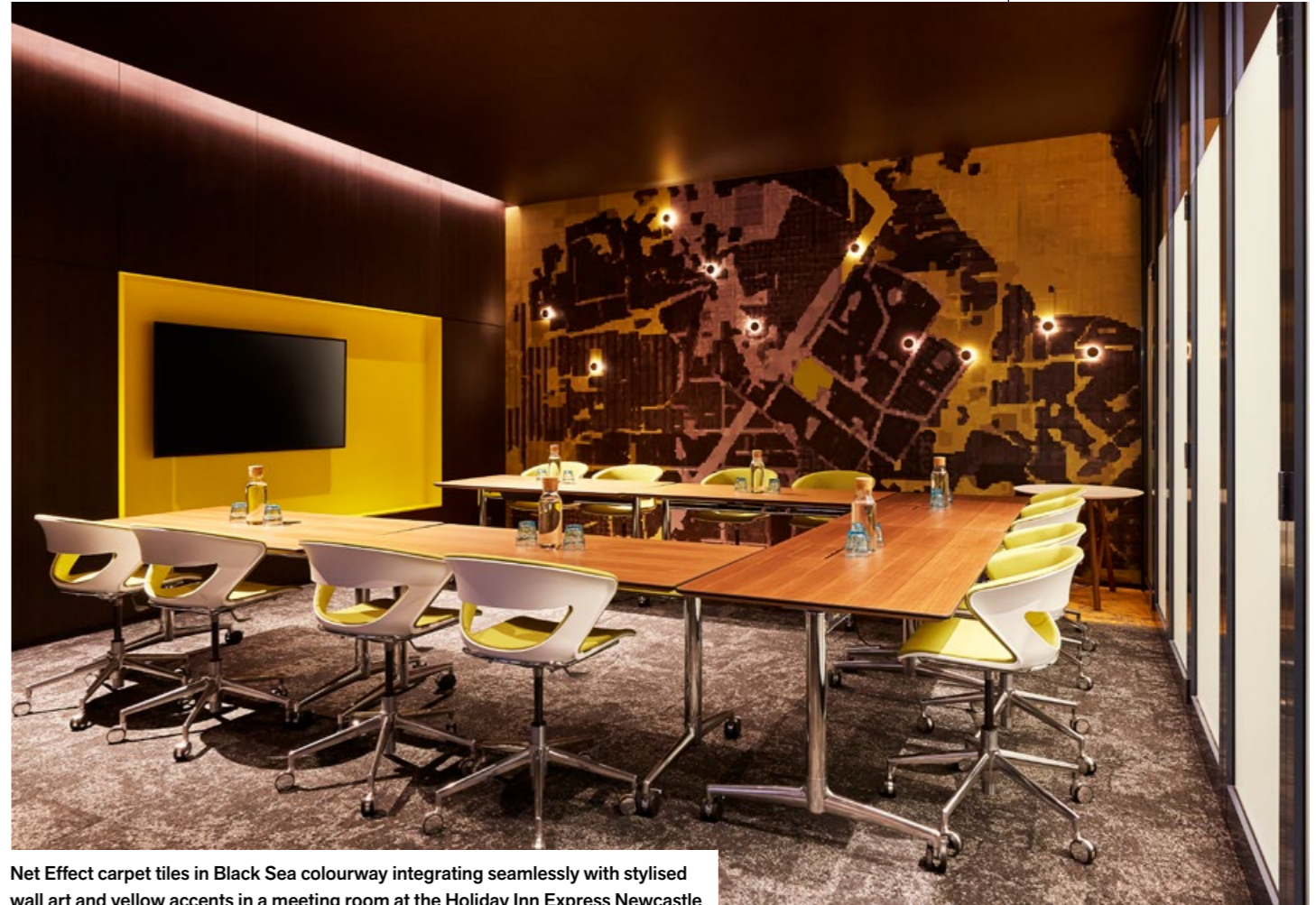
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Net Effect carpet tiles in Black Sea colourway integrating seamlessly with stylised wall art and yellow accents in a meeting room at the Holiday Inn Express Newcastle

DESIGN SHOWCASE

# Investing in the future

Pro-invest Group makes its **Holiday Inn Express** hotels an attractive investment

**Boutique investment firm Pro-invest Group is currently working with InterContinental Hotels Group to roll out the Holiday Inn Express brand across Australia and New Zealand. The Sydney-based investment group specialises in private equity real estate and real estate asset management.**

Through its subsidiaries, Pro-invest Developments and Pro-invest Hotels Group, the company oversees the entire development and hotel management process from acquiring land, designing and building the hotel, planning and fitting the interiors, as well as running the day-to-day hotel operations.

Pro-invest Hotels Group's managing director, Phil Kasselis, believes controlling the entire hotel development process puts the company in a unique position: "The ability to challenge conventional thinking is a big advantage to us as a hotel developer, owner and operator as we benefit from our ability to adapt to change and try new things." >

**Product**  
Fastforward  
Net Effect™  
Portmanteau

**Design**  
Joseph Pang Design  
Consultants



Net Effect carpets in a range of custom colours pave the lounges, communal areas and meeting rooms of the Holiday Inn Express Sydney Macquarie Park

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This also helps to make their real estate projects more attractive to investors – those who aren't just concerned with profits or short-term gain, but are looking for sustainable, future-proof hotel investment opportunities. A meticulously planned hotel development backed by a strong international brand and built to the highest sustainability standards ticks all the boxes for today's savvy investors.

Buildings are responsible for approximately 23 per cent of Australia's carbon emissions, so Kasselis sees climate change as a problem that the hospitality industry must address. As well as working closely with sustainability initiatives such as Hotel Owners for Tomorrow and producing regular sustainability reports, he sees new purpose-built hotels as the key to reducing the impact that buildings have on the environment. "It's a significant advantage to be able to future-proof our hotel portfolio, not just from a technical perspective but also with the introduction of environmental standards and initiatives. By having control and oversight of a hotel's entire lifecycle we can implement sustainability measures and derive tangible advantages, such as reduced utility bills and operational expenses."

Pro-invest also recognises that sustainable hotels are appealing in other ways: "Developing our hotels in the most environmentally friendly manner possible has benefits beyond finances, it helps us to improve our product offerings and stay ahead of the competition."

**A positive effect**

As part of the procurement process, Pro-invest considered local suppliers as well as some overseas suppliers from South East Asia. "Interface has a well-established reputation in providing a product that is fit for purpose, makes commercial sense, is good for the environment, while being aesthetic and sustainable," Kasselis said. "We collaborated with Interface's Sydney office and our interior designer Joseph Pang to select carpet designs for our public areas and guestrooms."

Established in 2004, Joseph Pang Design Consultants is a Sydney-based specialist hospitality interior design studio. Its owner Joseph Pang told us that he had selected Interface products for previous hospitality projects because of "their modern design, low maintenance, longevity and – most importantly – their highly flexible application."

A carpet tile that calls to mind the unmistakable movement and rhythm of the ocean, Interface's Net Effect™ collection is a common sight in Holiday Inn Express Hotels in the region as Joseph's team have used it in every hotel. Net Effect is made from 100 per cent recycled yarn, which is partly made up of fishing nets collected by locals in small fishing villages in the Philippines, Cameroon and Indonesia through our Net-Works initiative. A collaborative project in partnership with the Zoological Society of London that began in 2012, this inclusive business model tackles several problems at once: fishing nets are removed from coastal environments, reducing marine plastic that wreaks havoc on marine life; local families earn a fair wage for the nets they collect; community banks, set up by Net-Works, provide financial services to local families; while the next generation learns the value of taking care of the environment.

Discarded fishing nets are collected by hand from the shoreline and directly from fishing businesses when the nets have become damaged, preventing them from being thrown into the ocean in the first place. The nets are then compressed and tied into bales by the local communities >



We are strong supporters of Interface and its flooring products. Interface has great credentials and we're big admirers of your mission to eliminate any negative environmental impact by 2020. Our investors and our employees can't wait to see how Climate Take Back produces new ways to remove carbon from the atmosphere

**Phil Kasselis**  
Pro-invest Hotels Group's managing director



Sky above, sand below, peace within. Working with Joseph Pang Design Consultants, Pro-invest created an extraordinarily relaxing guest experience at the Holiday Inn Express Brisbane Central using our Fastforward carpet tile collection



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using a special machine. The bales are collected and delivered to Aquafil, a partner of the Net-Works programme and manufacturer of the recycled Nylon yarn we use in many of our carpet tile collections.

**Mix & match**

The interior design theme created by Joseph Pang Design Consultants for Holiday Inn Express isn't the standard corporate hotel design. They have developed a bold mix and match style – a reaction to the overuse of minimalism and perfectly matching interiors. Bright colours, printed patterns and a mix of furniture inspired by different eras combine to create something fresh, welcoming and homely. Vibrant patterned rugs are a cornerstone of the mix and match trend, which allowed the design team to embrace some of our most exciting patterns and colourways.

The theme is a progression from the interiors seen at other Holiday Inn Express hotels around the world, which sometimes include red as a highlight colour in furnishings, but otherwise play it safe with browns, greens and blues. The mix and match theme is also used in recently opened locations outside of Australia and New Zealand, but Joseph Pang Design Consultants have taken it a step further, with brighter colours, more unorthodox printed patterns and more striking floor coverings.

For Pro-invest, Interface flooring is an important part of the Holiday Inn Express brand in Australia. According to Kasselis: "Our guests are exposed to the Interface flooring product throughout their journey at the hotel, as they progress from the lobby to their rooms, through to the meeting and conference spaces. The look, feel, and overall quality of the flooring product contributes to the overall image of Holiday Inn Express hotels."

This use of bright contrasting colours can be seen at Pro-invest's first Holiday Inn Express in Australia, built in 2016 in the Macquarie Park suburb of Sydney. The hotel achieved 4.5 stars out of a possible six on the National Australian Built Environmental Rating System (NABERS) that measures environmental impact – the highest of any hotel in Australia at the time. Blues, greys and browns – the standard colourways for Net Effect – are used throughout the hotel, but Joseph's team wanted a striking red for the lounge area, so we



Our Portmanteau carpet tiles, chosen for the communal lounge at the Holiday Inn Express Adelaide City Centre, are both shamefully lush and good for the planet

manufactured a custom colour to their exact specifications. The custom tile was used to create shimmering watery pools within a larger carpeted area.

Elsewhere, vibrant yellow divider screens and royal blue cushions complete the look.

A more refined mix and match interior design was used at Holiday Inn Express Newcastle on the east coast of New South Wales, which opened in March 2019. Here bright colours are reserved for highlights such as cushions and light fittings. Stylised intricate patterns take centre stage, from the map designs seen on walls and dividers, to cropped lettering on cushions and the ocean-inspired carpet design of Net Effect.

The Holiday Inn Express Newcastle was one of the first buildings to take advantage of Interface's Carbon Neutral Floors programme. Choosing Interface's Carbon Neutral Floors resulted in the retirement of 34 tonnes of carbon offsets, helping to prevent the same emissions as a car travelling 134,122 km from going into the atmosphere.

**Modular benefits**

Pro-invest has also introduced operational initiatives that benefit the environment, such as allowing guests who stay for more than two nights to opt out of housekeeping services and phasing out single-use plastics. This drive for operational sustainability was also a factor in the procurement process, since our modular flooring system means individual tiles can be removed and replaced. "In the event of accidental spillage carpet tiles can be repaired easily compared with the time and effort of replacing a large area of broadloom carpet," Phil explained. "This avoids having unsightly stains in public areas or having guest rooms out of order for extended periods of time. Not being able to sell a room due to water damage or staining can be avoided with modular carpet."

Phil sees the advantages when it's time to refurbish too: "With modular flooring, we can replace our flooring gradually, either room by room or floor by floor without overly disrupting the business. Traditional broadloom carpet usually requires hotels to shut down whole areas for long periods of time and remove all of the furniture."

**Like-minded partners**

Since 2016, when Pro-invest began working with Interface, the group has noticed a big uptick in enquiries from investors about sustainability and climate change. "That's why it was important to us to partner with Interface as a supplier of carbon neutral floors. Our organisational culture is undergoing a shift towards sustainability, so we must continue to roll out our initiatives that our staff and investors can believe in and stand by. Partnering with reputable providers such as Interface is a priority for us."

We appreciate Pro-invest Group's commitment to reducing carbon emissions – and it seems the feeling is mutual. "We are strong supporters of Interface and its flooring products," Kasselis added. "Interface has great credentials and we're big admirers of your mission to eliminate any negative environmental impact by 2020. Our investors and our employees can't wait to see how Climate Take Back produces new ways to remove carbon from the atmosphere."



In an Accessible Room at the Holiday Inn Express Brisbane Central – bringing the ocean indoors with Net Effect in Pacific colourway



# Waves of change

**Net-Works'** ripple effect on ocean-bound plastics

By Jon Khoo – Regional Sustainability Manager

**When mismanaged, plastic is anything but fantastic. An estimated 8 million tonnes of plastic entering our oceans every year and plastic production remains at over 300 million tonnes of plastic every year, from which over 50% is for single-use purposes. We are at risk of drowning in plastic – it's a very visual and tangible reminder of a climate emergency.\***

Since 2012, Interface have been partnering with conservation charity, the Zoological Society of London and yarn-supplier Aquafil on **Net-Works** – a project aimed at turning waste into opportunity. Operating in the Philippines, Indonesia and Cameroon – Net-Works sees artisanal fishing communities collect and sell discarded fishing nets into a mainstream

supply chain for nylon – with the nets regenerated into yarn for Interface's carpet tile collections.

Waste is given a market value – and the supply chain is democratised. As a direct of Net-Works, over 64,000 people are benefiting from a healthier marine environment and 2,200 families have been provided with access to finance.

\* See [science.sciencemag.org/content/347/6223/768](https://science.sciencemag.org/content/347/6223/768) and [plasticoceans.org/the-facts/](https://plasticoceans.org/the-facts/)

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Working alongside similar projects such as Bureo – together we have proven that it is possible to create an inclusive supply chain for discarded fishing nets that builds resilience, whilst protecting our ocean.

In the last year, it has been exciting to see our Net-Works partner and yarn-supplier Aquafil work with National Geographic to shine the light on how brands such as Prada are incorporating fishing nets and waste carpet into their products.

At Interface, one of the aspects we are most proud of is the ripple effect that Net-Works has had on ocean-bound plastics. Over seven years the project has sparked plenty of interest and discussions on how tackling ocean-bound plastics should have a social impact edge. Together we've sought to demonstrate what is possible and to help connect views and new initiatives.

In the early days, this was something the Net-Works partners were proud to do behind the scenes. However the emergence of projects such as [NextWave Plastics](#) has been a great way for Interface and partners to contribute more and scale a solution for ocean-bound plastic.

NextWave Plastic members are establishing ocean-bound plastics as a commodity to decrease the volume of plastic waste before it enters the ocean. At Interface we are delighted to be standing shoulder to shoulder with large brands such as Dell, IKEA, HP, Herman Miller, Humanscale, GM and Trek working to create environmental and social benefit through creating the first global network of ocean-bound plastics supply chains.

In 2019, HP launched the HP Elite Dragonfly and the HP Elite Display, respectively the world's first laptop and monitor designs made with ocean-bound plastic intercepted in Haiti. At Interface, we look forward to learning from HP and fellow NextWave members too.

The potential impact for NextWave Plastics is significant – and beyond what Net-Works could have achieve alone – at the last Our Ocean Summit the group pledged to divert a minimum of 25,000 tonnes of plastics, that's the equivalent to 1.2 billion single-use plastic water bottles, from entering the ocean by the end of the year 2025. That's a significant amount of material that could and should have a systemic impact – benefiting society and biodiversity too, alongside transforming waste into opportunity.





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*For the moment.*  
In the moment.

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**In every life there are moments of perfect clarity. Moments when our hearts rue the day, our spirits soar and we're connected with those we love. Moments of tranquillity, peace. Fulfilment. When we're one with the world, and in touch with our purpose. When we realise that time is a luxury and every moment is treasured.**

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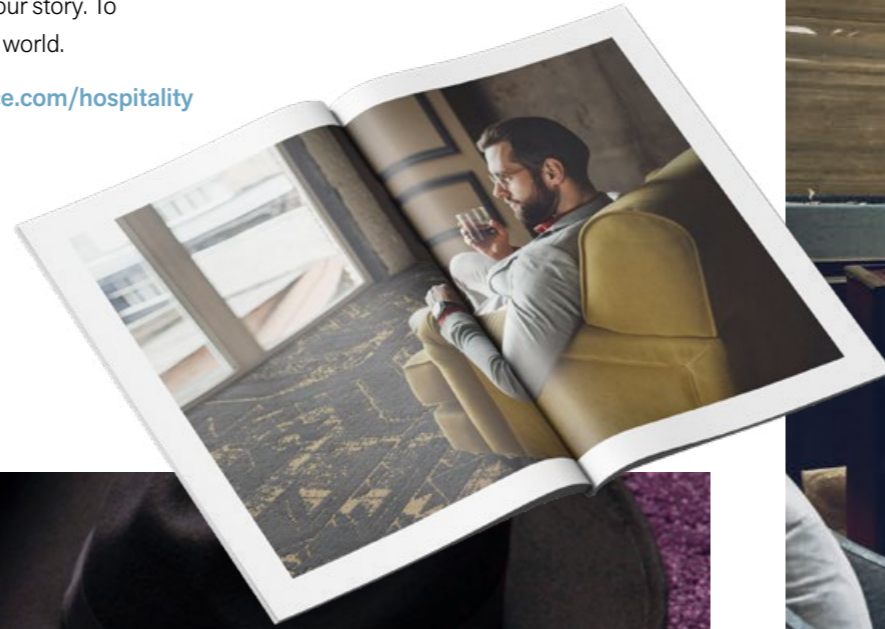
Memories of moments shared, of experiences savoured, of dreams realised and adventures completed. All these moments tell the stories of our being and illuminate the meaning of our reality. As we strive for a better tomorrow, we can look back on the chapters of our lives. And the moments that defined us. Head in the clouds. Feet on the ground. Moments that have added to our stories with vivid colour and unshakable hope for the future.

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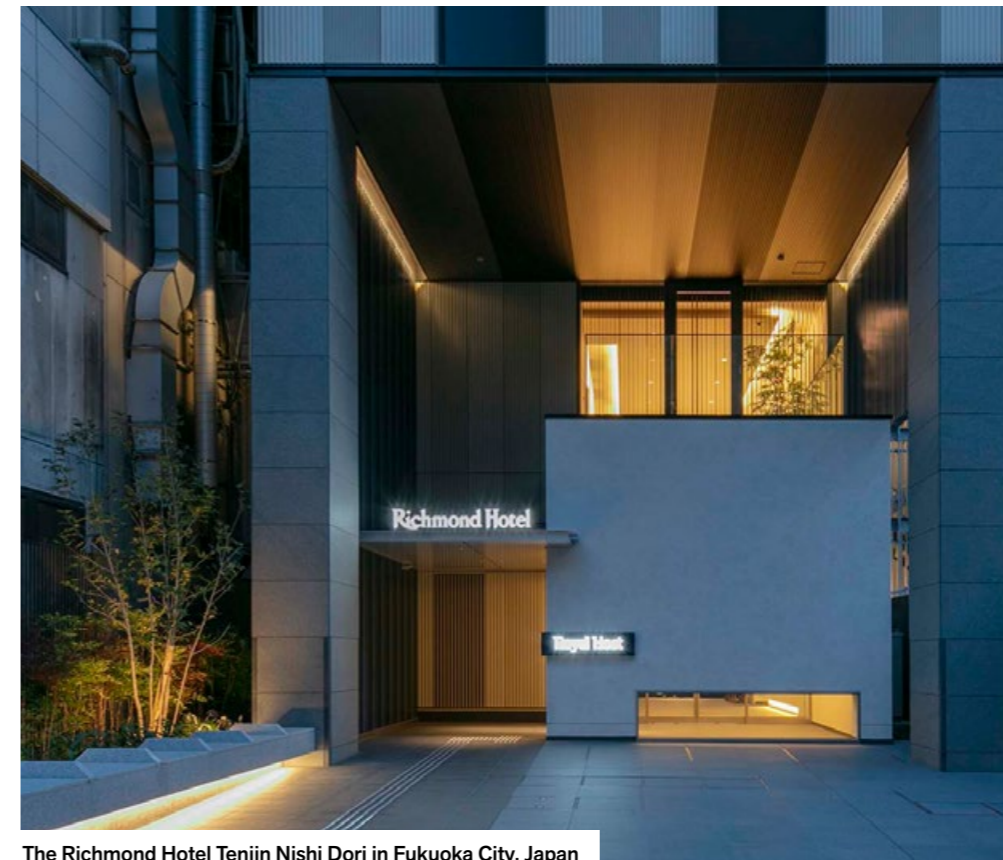


DESIGN SHOWCASE

# Colours with culture

An expertly crafted interior for the **Richmond Hotel** in Fukuoka, Japan, by the Takenaka Corporation

**Established in 2004, RNT Hotels runs more than 40 hotels throughout Japan under the Richmond Hotels brand. The group also manages restaurants, cafeterias and coffee shops. Opened in 2019, the Richmond Hotel Tenjin Nishi Dori is a new construction in Fukuoka City on the north coast of Kyushu Island.**



The Richmond Hotel Tenjin Nishi Dori in Fukuoka City, Japan

RNT's design brief for the interior specifically asked for the use of carpet tiles, but called for a finished look that doesn't have the obvious square pattern of carpet tiles. They also requested an original design with flooring that would provide superior comfort underfoot, durability and texture. To give the hotel a uniquely local flavour, RNT also wanted to use the five colours of Hakata-ori – a traditional Japanese textile produced in Fukuoka for more than seven centuries – as inspiration.

Originally Hakata-ori textiles were only used to make obi, the colourful sash that is tied around the waist when wearing a kimono or other traditional Japanese clothing. Today, Hakata-ori is also used to make handbags, scarves and other accessories. The colours that are interwoven to make the textile each have a significant meaning, for instance, red means courtesy, happiness, and prosperity while blue means honour, calmness and peace.

With this in mind, RNT Hotels called upon the skills of Naoki Kimura, chief of the design department at the Kyushu office of the Takenaka Corporation. A family business for more than four centuries, it began as a small carpentry firm building wood-framed temples and is continuing the traditions of Japanese master builders today. Through his work, Mr Kimura hopes to benefit society by passing on the best possible work for future generations: "We want to contribute to the sustainable development of society by creating architectural space that is in harmony with the environment. Design starts from drawing a single line, but it makes a huge contribution to our urban lives." The Richmond Hotel Tenjin Nishi Dori complies with the requirements of Japan's recently passed Building Energy Efficiency Act, which sets limits on building efficiency and requires the building to be certified after construction. >



We want to contribute to the sustainable development of society by creating architectural space that is in harmony with the environment. Design starts from drawing a single line, but it makes a huge contribution to our urban lives.

**Naoki Kimura**

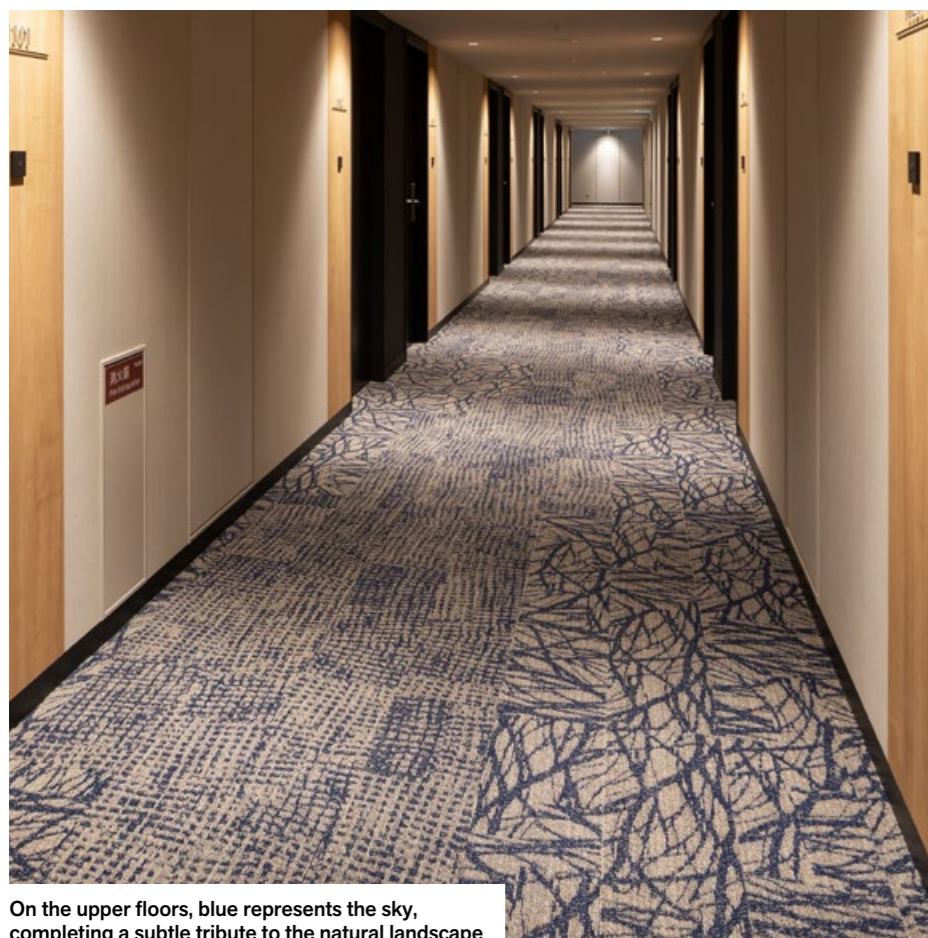
Chief of the design department at the Kyushu office of the Takenaka Corporation

**Product**  
Good Natured

**Design**  
Takenaka Corporation



For the middle floors, red carpets are a nod to majestic trees



On the upper floors, blue represents the sky, completing a subtle tribute to the natural landscape

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Thus it was apt that Interface floors, all of which are carbon neutral, were selected for the Richmond Hotel Tenjin Nishi Dori. Apart from Interface's suitability for this project as a world-leading carpet tile manufacturer, the Takenaka Corporation chose to use our products because creating texture and matching the five colours of Hakata-ori textiles were a priority for their RNT Hotels.

"RNT made a final decision based on design, but durability and maintenance were important too," Mr Kimura added. "Good Natured, the chosen carpet collection used in corridors, has a complex pattern so wear cannot be seen. As the corridor is wide, the pattern looks very beautiful."

For Mr Kimura, one thing that stood out working with Interface and our dealer partner Kawashima Selkon was our tireless delivery of various floor designs and sample tiles.

RNT Hotels wanted to create a space with an urban, residential feel that would appeal to female guests and tourists – a modern, spacious hotel that is nothing like the cramped business hotels seen in many Japanese cities. To achieve this Mr Kimura proposed a relaxing interior where people can feel at home. "We carefully examined the dimensions such as ceiling height and corridor width in order to make people feel comfortable." It was also important to consider the well-being of staff, so a generously-sized staff room with windows – which is not always the case – was incorporated into the design.

The Good Natured collection was installed in the hotel's corridors, with each floor featuring either a red, blue or green accented design that closely



On the lower floors, organic patterned tiles from the Good Natured collection blend seamlessly into one another to recreate the design and shape of the uniquely Fukuoka Hakata-ori sash, with green carpet symbolising the earth

matches Hakata-ori textiles. Good Natured emulates the natural flow of a tree's spreading roots and climbing bark, reaching up through branches into a leafy canopy. The collection is made up of five different patterns that can be used together or alone to create seamless, earthy pathways and large scale designs.

In the corridors of the Richmond Hotel Tenjin Nishi Dori, these organic,

intertwined patterns were used by Mr Kimura and his team to mimic the patterns seen in Hakata-ori: "We created woven patterns and stripes using linear and curved lines in three different colours. Blue carpets, used in the top three floors, represent the sky, while red carpets symbolising tree trunks line the middle floors. And for the lower floors, we've used green carpets to allude to the earth."

And so guests at the Richmond Hotel Tenjin Nishi Dori can look forward to experiencing a beautiful homage to Hakata-ori – a gem of a tradition that's unique to Fukuoka alone. By designing spaces that work in harmony with the environment, the Takenaka Corporation has created a truly peaceful home away from home where guests can escape the bustle of city life.



Nirmal Kishnani



Nirmal Kishnani has created an extraordinary manifesto for the transformation of human settlements and the pulsing, generous, living world that we call nature. With sensitivity, brilliance, and knowledge of current realities, Ecopuncture proposes and demonstrates the possibilities inherent in a systemic approach to our buildings and cities, integrating the needs of humanity and nature into tapestries of innovative design. A critically important book that comes at a crucial turning point in the life of the planet

Paul Hawken

# Ecopuncture – transforming architecture and urbanism in Asia

By Maxine Chen – Sustainability Communications Specialist

## An interview with Nirmal Kishnani

Combining 15 years' experience in design practice with over a decade of research and teaching, Nirmal Kishnani scrutinises the space between frontline theories and drawing-board pragmatism. A seasoned advocate for sustainable design and a long-term friend of Interface, he has been a part of the sustainability conversation in Asia, advising on projects and policies that affect design practice.

Nirmal teaches at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore, and is Programme Director of the Master of Science, Integrated Sustainable Design. As Editor-in-Chief of FuturArc magazine, he has been responsible for new platforms that report ideas and champion thought leaders. In 2008, he co-initiated with BCI Asia two design competitions,

FuturArc Prize and FuturArc Green Leadership Award, for which he is resident jury chair.

Nirmal's newest book, Ecopuncture – Transforming Architecture and Urbanism in Asia, presents an alternative prism for design thinking, one that seeks interconnectedness of systems and scales. Paul Hawken – whose own book, The Ecology of Commerce, inspired us to transform our business into one that does no harm to the environment by the year 2020 – has called it a “critically important book that comes at a crucial turning point in the life of the planet.”

We sat down with Nirmal to learn more about the motivations behind his book, and the importance of putting nature at the heart of all that we design together. >



A vast number of species now call the resort home, including 25 mammals, 36 species of butterflies and 35 species of reptiles and amphibians. Photo credit: Jetwing Hotels Ltd





Residents of Jinhua City enjoying the biophilic space. About 2.1 million people visit Yanweizhou Park every year. Photo credit: Yu Kongjian Turenscape

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**Why have you written Ecopuncture?**

There are many, like me, who see a gap between the targets we set and the actions that are needed. This gap rides on the assumption that if we do less harm, the aggregated impact of all we do is enough to address the crises of climate change and species extinction.

Let's assume for a moment that Green buildings – the ones that actually perform as promised – are being built fast enough to keep pace with change (they are not!), the question remains: is this the answer to a problem that has ballooned in scale and complexity? Asia has seen unprecedented social fragmentation and ecological losses over the past 3-4 decades. We continue to destroy pristine natural systems to support growing urban populations. The way we design buildings and plan cities, the way these are then operated, is a big part of the problem. It is also a key to the solution.

The challenge moving ahead, I think, is two-fold. First, we see buildings as standalone objects. As a result, a building that does nothing for the neighbourhood or natural systems might earn a Green certificate because it has an efficient cooling system and

saves energy. Second, we have convinced ourselves that all we need to do is consume and waste less. Less is better, and technology is the answer. Buy a better chiller, install LED lights, etc.

My book upends these assumptions. I argue that we crossed the proverbial line in the sand some time ago; and that to do less harm is no longer enough. We now need to do good. Every act of design has the power to degenerate or regenerate the wider system. It can fragment or restore social and ecological links. And so, why not do the latter? The concept I advocate, ecopuncture – like acupuncture – is akin to a needle inserted into a living system-of-systems, to trigger a positive response and restore the whole. We must lower consumption, yes, but we must also create a surplus of capitals. Each project can generate resources (energy, food, water), revive social networks, repair ecological space.

**But who would do this? And why?**

The book presents 16 case studies that, like most projects today, faced constraints of budget and time. What we learn from these is that we must adjust the lens of decision-making, we need to reframe the definition of cost and returns.

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### What has surprised you most about these case studies and gives you the most confidence about the future?

Four years ago, when I started this book, I was looking for projects in Asia that had the capacity to heal and regenerate. The benchmark was the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital in Singapore, which was featured in my previous book, *Greening Asia – Emerging Principles for Sustainable Design* (2012). It functions well as a healthcare institution, but it is also a social hub for the community around it, and an ecological space that attracts fauna from nearby nature reserves. Its goal of creating a biophilic space – one that improves human well-being – was expanded to a bio-centric space, one that cares for all life.

I was surprised by how many projects do the same. The movement to do good has traction in Asia. It is championed by thought leaders who offer design solutions and prototypes. This is reason to be hopeful, I think.

### Where are the biggest opportunities, and what are the risks if these opportunities are missed?

The low-hanging fruit is policy. To thrive, ecopuncture needs a level playing field and a redistribution of cost. We cannot rely solely on the goodwill of well-meaning developers. The market will not move fast enough on its own, nor will the voluntary actions of a few add up. We need stronger, more decisive triggers for change.

### But why should policymakers act?

Well, if every building produces some of the energy it needs, some of the food or water it consumes, if it recharges groundwater, sequesters carbon and creates ecological habitats, this will reduce infrastructure costs at the city scale and, importantly, save lives. The question here, as with everything, is the timeframe against which we assess impact. We need stretch targets and a long-term vision. And that

can only come from governments and policies. Without these, the Asian city will sink further into squalor, unable to tackle the trifecta of urbanisation, resource scarcity, and climate change.

### What do you hope the book will achieve?

To start, we need to debunk the idea that we are doing OK; complacency is our worst enemy. Second, we need to find new ways to act, new pathways to accelerate change. The design-construction sector throughout Asia is conservative and deeply entrenched in a business-as-usual approach. This book will rock that boat; make us question what we do at the drawing board. Beyond that, I hope it becomes a framework to reboot planning policies and teach design.

### Who you think would find it most useful?

Principally, it will be of use to design practitioners, policymakers,

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Yanweizhou Park's network of swirling bridges connects the two halves of Jinhua City once once divided by rivers. Photo credit: Yu Kongjian Turenscape



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developers: it offers them a new lexicon of capitals, one that goes beyond financial capital. Students of design and planning will find it empowering because it restores optimism. We can make a difference. Ecopuncture offers a causal link between action and outcome.

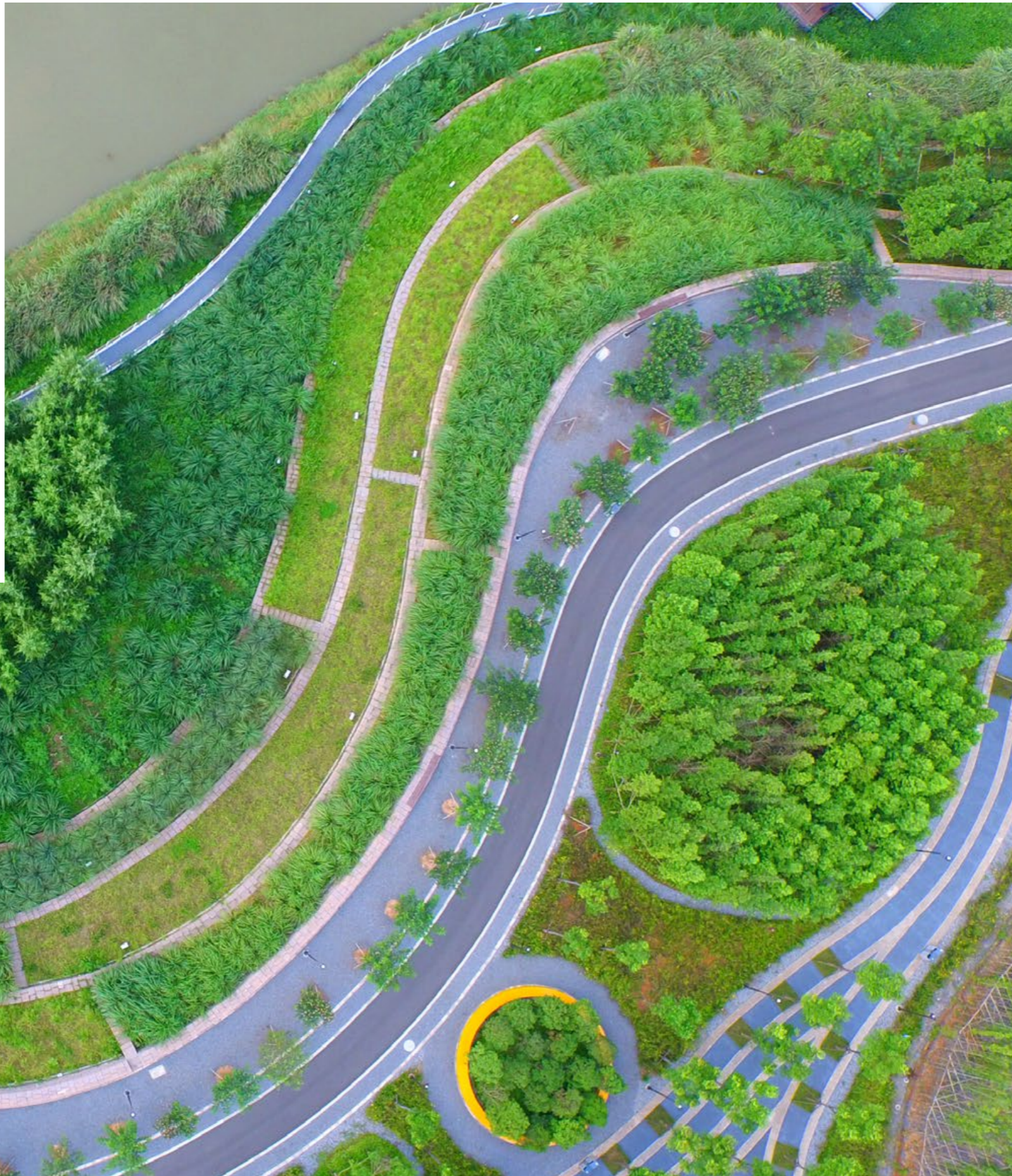
**Tell us a bit more about your research team.**

I relied heavily on two researchers – Alakesh Dutta and Ramkumar Thambiraj – who documented the 16 case studies. Heather Banerj assisted in the initial drafts of the case studies; she was also responsible for the video documentary that was produced in parallel with the book. Trinh Phuong Quan led a team of students who were tasked with creating the book’s illustrations. It was important that the approach – systems-thinking and human-nature partnership – was visually brought to life.

**How do you feel about Interface and our journey? Where are the opportunities for us and our customers to do more?**

Interface leads the conversation on climate change. Notwithstanding constraints, you set far-reaching targets and then figure out a way to meet them. You demonstrate that profit is not at odds with ethics. It takes courage to bet on your convictions, to be the first, to move against the grain of convention. This is, in my opinion, leadership.

The challenge for every manufacturer, I suppose, is to innovate on production and procurement, upstream, and educate the customers, downstream. I know that Interface is invested in both ends of that continuum. This puts you in a position to make a real and lasting difference.



Once a derelict site, Yanweizhou Park in Jinhua City, People’s Republic of China is now a vibrant community space. With its wetlands restored, the area has become a sponge, drawing flood waters into the ground. Photo credit: Yu Kongjian Turenscape

Head to [interface.com/jyu](https://interface.com/jyu) and [interface.com/ywz](https://interface.com/ywz) for sneak previews of two of the 16 case studies featured in Nirmal’s book – Jetwing Vil Uyana in Sigiriya, Sri Lanka and Yanweizhou Park in Jinhua City, Zhejiang Province, People’s Republic of China. “Context is everything; it tells us where to begin, which systems matter, how to frame a problem and value outcomes,” said Nirmal. “Beyond the two seen here, the book contains an even wider range of scales and contexts. There are small and big projects, buildings and parks, private and publicly funded developments.” A documentary film accompanying the book, titled The Ecopuncture Interviews, is also available at [ecopuncture-asia.com](https://ecopuncture-asia.com).

**Intrigued? Write to us at [enquiry.asia@interface.com](mailto:enquiry.asia@interface.com) to request for a complimentary copy of Ecopuncture: Transforming Architecture and Urbanism in Asia.**



companies increase efficiency and limit their environmental impact by driving technological innovations in exploration, drilling and production. In Newsweek's Green Rankings 2017 Schlumberger was ranked first in the US energy sector and seventh in the world in recognition of their commitment to sustainability.

Edifice were chosen for this project specifically for their track record in sustainable architecture and design and care for the local environment. Their designers look to go beyond green certifications by being genuinely sustainable. As Prashant Sawant, regional director at Edifice Pune, told us: "We believe sustainability should be the single quality that distinguishes our designs."

Having designed and built the net-zero carbon headquarters of India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Edifice are proven experts in sustainable architecture. Which is why our Carbon Neutral Floors™ were such a big factor in their decision to use Interface flooring on this project. "It was the foremost selection criteria,"

Prashant explained. "More important than look and feel. Interface ranked highest in the selection process specifically because all its products are carbon neutral."

Our Carbon Neutral Floors help progressive design companies like Edifice create low-carbon, socially responsible interiors. Prashant believes this holistic approach to sustainability is integral to their work: "Reducing a building's carbon footprint reduces its running costs, improves employee morale, raises property values and improves LEED scores. Buildings become environmentally responsible, healthier places to live and work."

Yet for Prashant, our wide range of design styles was still a major factor in the selection process: "Interface keep coming up with fresh designs and relevant themes with real context. Each product has a story as to why that particular design has come into existence. It isn't just a random product with a new pattern. This is inspiring and a huge contribution to the design world." >

**Product**  
Human Connections™  
Urban Retreat®

**Design**  
Edifice

DESIGN SHOWCASE

# An island sanctuary

Edifice creates a Mediterranean resort for **Schlumberger** in India

**Schlumberger is the world's largest oilfield services company, employing over 100,000 staff and providing exploration and production expertise and technology to the global energy industry.**

For their new 8,360 square metre offices in Pune, 150km southeast of Mumbai in India, Schlumberger wanted to create an experience unlike any of their previous offices. Architects and interior design firm Edifice were chosen to take on

Schlumberger's brief to design an interior with a unique ambience that both visitors and employees could enjoy.

As a key player in the non-renewable energy sector, Schlumberger is committed to helping oil and gas



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The Edifice design team, comprising Ravi Sarangan, Gomati Balachandran, Sameeha Joshi and Prashant, decided to split the two floors of Schlumberger's office space into two distinct themes. Interface supplied carpets for the office space on the third floor, which took inspiration from the Greek island of Santorini and the vibrant, colours associated with this iconic Mediterranean island. Echoes of the white tightly-packed buildings, cobblestone alleyways, traditional slate brickwork, outdoor living areas and colourful shrubbery can be seen throughout the space.

Edifice's design team wanted to reconnect Schlumberger's workforce with nature by adding subtle, natural design elements and create calming spaces within a fast-paced work environment. Human Connections™ was the team's primary choice – designed to echo nature's interaction with man-made

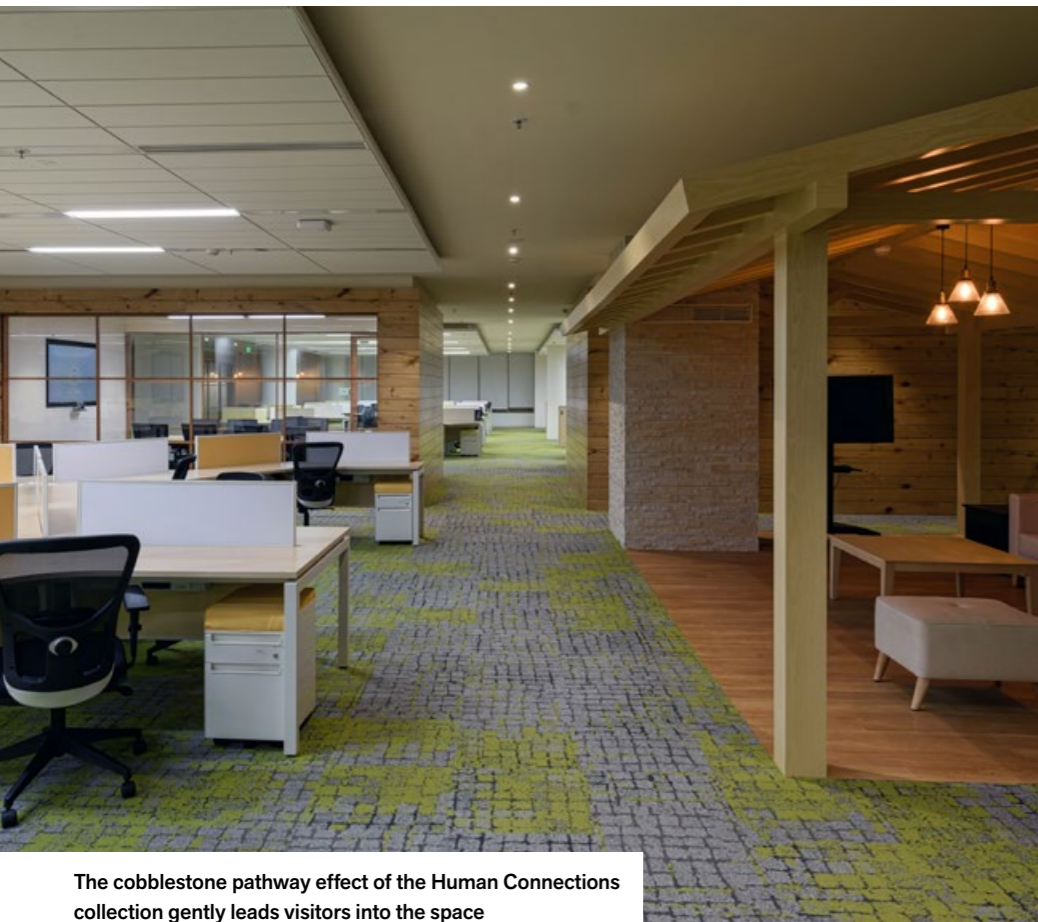
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We believe sustainability should be the single quality that distinguishes our designs

**Prashant Sawant**  
Regional director at Edifice Pune

Free-standing meeting rooms are like buildings within a building



The cobblestone pathway effect of the Human Connections collection gently leads visitors into the space



Schlumberger's new office in Pune is designed to nurture and delight employees and visitors alike. For designers Edifice, "Interface ranked highest in the selection process for flooring specifically because all its products are carbon neutral"



The use of natural stone, wood, greenery and our Urban Retreat collection help to bring the outside inside

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stone pathways, from the grey cobblestones of Sett in Stone, to Moss in Stone and Moss, which both feature green moss growing in between stones. They paired this collection with organic green Urban Retreat® tiles, creating an illusion that heavy footfall areas have resisted the growth of moss while other areas are completely covered. Each tile design is asymmetrical, so the tiles can be placed in any direction to make a non-uniform, natural-looking design. Cobblestone pathways with partially moss-covered edges seem to gently lead visitors towards the meeting rooms and collaborative areas.

Edifice also designed a highly efficient mechanical, electrical and plumbing system resulting in significant energy

savings and operational costs. Use of natural daylight and views of outside greenery have been maximised by the layout, while low VOC paints and ergonomic workstations enhance employee well-being.

The Edifice team worked closely with Onkar Wakodkar – senior account manager at Interface India – on the project. "It was simply a pleasure working with Onkar and the Interface team," Prashant said. "The end product came out exactly the way we had imagined."

"Schlumberger has one of the best company cultures," he added. "The care they show towards their employees is always reflected in their day to day interactions of their teams. Their values

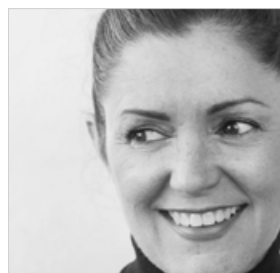
of openness, teamwork, innovation and collaboration inspired us to design spaces that align deeply with these values. The office is interspersed with pockets of collaborative space to encourage chance encounters and foster innovation and collaboration."

Prashant believes that ultimately, the interior spaces that his team have created are for the end users, Schlumberger employees: "It's almost like an intimate relationship with the end user – a relationship which is deeply satisfying and nurturing, because we always design with love and care. I believe people will form an incredibly personal relationship with what we have created and that's what we strive for in our design endeavours."



We want to capture the beauty of the urban landscape, but the most important thing is that we create products that will capture the user's emotional connection to the space

Kari Pei



Kari Pei

Kari Pei is global product designer at Interface. She believes biophilic design goes hand in hand with products that turn a negative into a positive. As Pei describes it, "We have an ongoing mission to use science to create a product that not only does no harm, but actually benefits the human condition in the built environment." By reminding people of the natural world, biophilic carpet tiles can boost the well-being of the building occupants using it.

# Breathing life into contrasts

**With her latest collection, Look Both Ways™, Interface VP of Product Design Kari Pei knew she wanted to contribute to spaces where people can function at their best. "Whether it's working alone, in collaboration, or ideation – the floor provides the backdrop to inform and elicit certain behavior," she explains. This is all about elevating mood, and, as Pei puts it, embracing different styles by "extending the vocabulary of a visual".**

With the ambition of creating one collection of both hard and soft surfaces, luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) and carpet tile, Pei used the concept of contrast as a platform for creativity, taking things way beyond the first impression. In the design world, contrasts can be powerful. They can transform a space, adding striking visual interest, without trying too hard. When done right, a diversity of material, pattern, texture and color yield surprise and intrigue, breathing life into a room, and bringing joy to all those who enter. >



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**Carpet and LVT in one collection**

Look Both Ways is a playful collection that brings LVT and carpet together.

Starting with concrete, Pei and her team explored color and texture to make floor designs with seemingly endless creative opportunity and flexibility. Dimensions and themes bounce off one another, working together, side-by-side, in unexpected ways. In some cases, the same idea may even be reflected in both materials. For instance, carpet adorned with a realistic chipped concrete pattern coordinates with confetti-flecked LVT – the latter being a unique nod to the terrazzo trend.

The collection gives a monolithic feel, but with Interface’s systems approach to design. From tiny corners of one room to floors within large, multi-level spaces, the idea is to define a space by

its aesthetic. Inspired by the ‘concrete jungle’, the patterns and textures used are perhaps subconsciously familiar to most. “We want to capture the beauty of the urban landscape,” says Pei, “but the most important thing is that we create products that will capture the user’s emotional connection to the space.

**+Positive spaces to tune into**

This is the very essence of +Positive spaces. Look Both Ways deeply considers not only how these spaces will make people act, but how they will make them feel. As Pei explains, “When I think of all the Interface collections, there always seems to be some sort of theme that relates to capturing the emotions

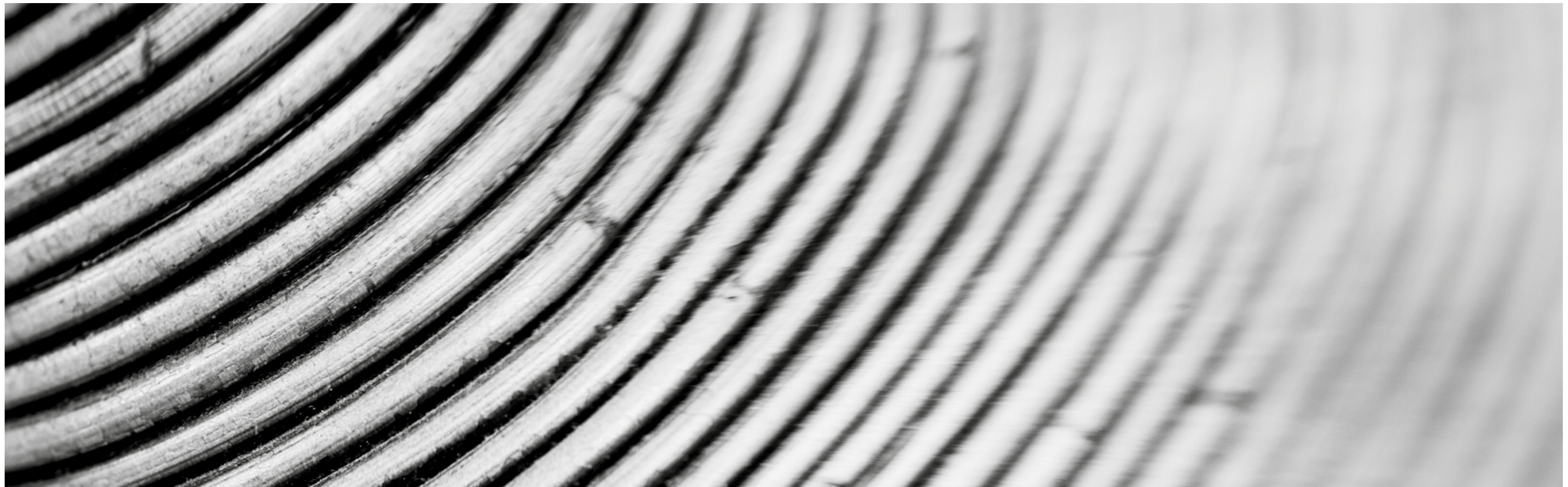


of people in a space – trying to conjure a certain feeling that will connect the person in a space to the materials in that space.”

And this isn’t just an emotive connection. With carbon neutral products made of recycled nylon – this collection helps designers play a part in reducing carbon emissions in their projects.

Look Both Ways invites us to create, be inspired – and come excitingly alive with new ideas.

See the full collection at [interface.com/LookBothWays](https://interface.com/LookBothWays)







DESIGN SHOWCASE

# Informed by nature

**Informatica India** chooses Interface products again for their latest office interior

**As a progressive world-leading cloud data management company, Informatica is fully committed to taking ambitious action to reduce its carbon emissions.**

For suppliers hoping to work with Informatica, this means their procurement process only selects the most environmentally friendly manufacturers. That's why we are so proud that Informatica has chosen to work with Interface again and again. In India alone, we have completed four separate projects for Informatica over the last three years, including their newly constructed offices in Bangalore.

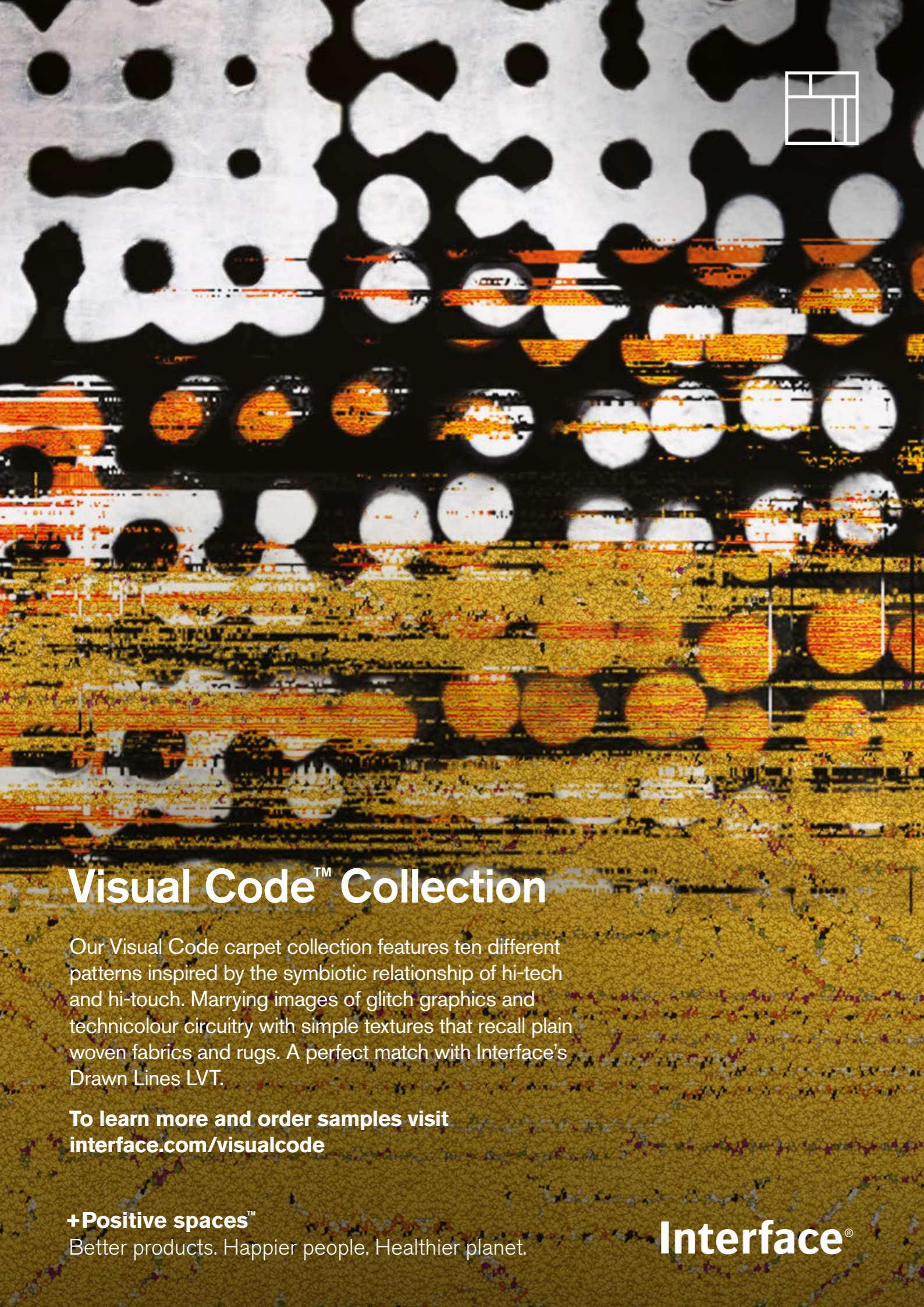
Here, sustainability isn't just ticking boxes on a list of product specs; it's intrinsic to the operation. Informatica offers incentives to employees who reduce their carbon footprint and encourages the use of public transport or car pools. Their offices are "binless", which reduces overall waste, and they only allow companies with proper

recycling capabilities to handle their office waste. For Informatica, it's a big plus point that all Interface products are carbon neutral at no extra cost to the customer – an industry first.

For their new office in the east of Bangalore at Bagmane Tech Park, Informatica wanted to create a modern and flexible workspace where their most important company value "act as one team" could thrive. The final design includes a range of collaborative areas that provide space for formal meetings and informal discussions. To boost employee well-being, Informatica invested in advanced ergonomic chairs and height-adjustable tables that allow employees to sit or stand, and installed self-watering "green walls" with air filtering plants. >

**Product**  
Visual Code™  
Net Effect™  
Step Repeat

**Design**  
Sudhakar Pai Associates



## Visual Code™ Collection

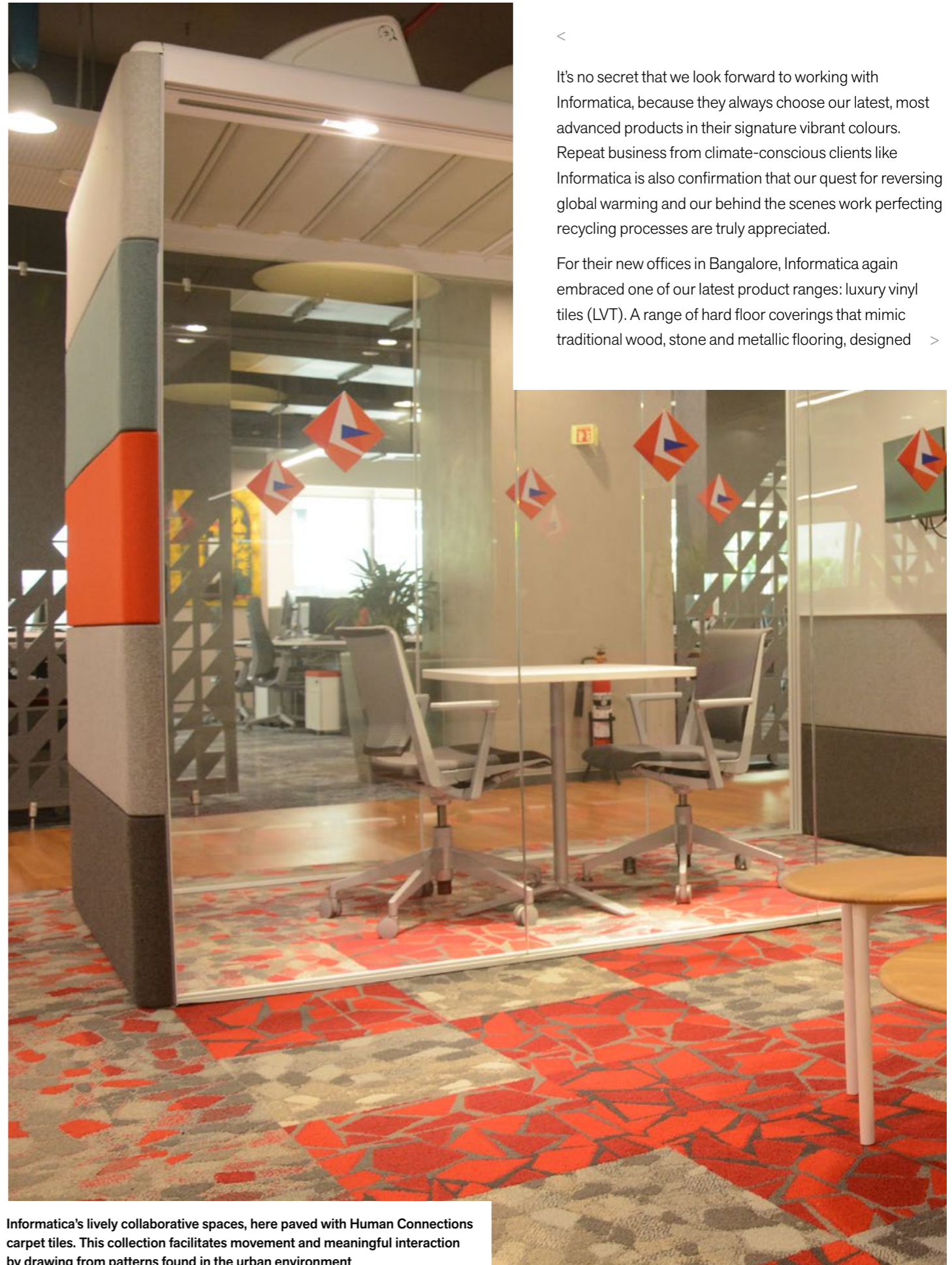
Our Visual Code carpet collection features ten different patterns inspired by the symbiotic relationship of hi-tech and hi-touch. Marrying images of glitch graphics and technicolour circuitry with simple textures that recall plain woven fabrics and rugs. A perfect match with Interface's Drawn Lines LVT.

To learn more and order samples visit [interface.com/visualcode](https://interface.com/visualcode)

**+Positive spaces™**

Better products. Happier people. Healthier planet.

**Interface®**



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It's no secret that we look forward to working with Informatica, because they always choose our latest, most advanced products in their signature vibrant colours. Repeat business from climate-conscious clients like Informatica is also confirmation that our quest for reversing global warming and our behind the scenes work perfecting recycling processes are truly appreciated.

For their new offices in Bangalore, Informatica again embraced one of our latest product ranges: luxury vinyl tiles (LVT). A range of hard floor coverings that mimic traditional wood, stone and metallic flooring, designed >

Informatica's lively collaborative spaces, here paved with Human Connections carpet tiles. This collection facilitates movement and meaningful interaction by drawing from patterns found in the urban environment



By using Visual Code, a collection that marries glitch graphics with simple textures recalling hand-crafted materials and goods, in its meeting rooms, Informatica is helping employees restore imagination and wonder by humanising modern society's fast-paced, high-tech experience



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to integrate seamlessly with our modular carpet tile system without transition strips. LVT tiles are the exact same size and depth, so they can be used to create unique patterns, irregular transitions, or as with this project, seamless joins between hardwearing, durable pathways and softer workspaces and meeting areas. Additionally, all our LVT designs come with our superior Sound Choice™ backing, so even hard floors can minimise noise and amplify concentration and focus.

As senior director of real estate & workplace solutions at Informatica, it's Suresh Rao's job to keep current employees happy and create a work culture that helps to attract the best talent. His biggest challenge in recent years has been "dealing with the change from

traditional offices to a collaborative open-plan office culture". For Suresh, "space that helps foster collaboration between cross-functional teams is incredibly important."

It's in these collaborative areas where we can see the seamless integration of hard LVT flooring and soft modular carpet tiles. The joins are created without the use of transition strips, so there is no interruption in the surface when moving from one area to another. The soft carpeted areas help to encourage spontaneous group huddles and form the boundary of the collaborative space, while the hard wood grain LVT tiles installed in pathways and connecting corridors add warmth and sophistication without the problems associated with real wooden

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Designed with the climate in mind. Informatica's new office in Bagmane Tech Park, Bangalore - featuring Interface's Carbon Neutral Floors

Walking on water. "We wanted a lively, collaborative space; a free-flowing organic carpet design like Net Effect was a perfect choice," Suresh said

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floors. If an area becomes worn or damaged, it's easy to just lift up the tiles and replace them.

Suresh and his team chose the Net Effect™ collection as the floor covering for the main work areas. "Nature and the ocean were the inspiration for our office design," he explained. "We wanted a lively, collaborative space; a free-flowing organic carpet design like Net Effect was a perfect choice." Net Effect is a unique range of carpet tiles that is both inspired

by the ocean and helps to remove plastic waste from precious coastline habitats. The collection includes a sequence of patterned tiles that echo the movement of waves breaking against the shore.

Net Effect is constructed using ECONYL® yarn, which is made entirely from recycled materials. This includes discarded fishing nets reclaimed through Net-Works™, the innovative business model we established in partnership with ZSL in 2012.

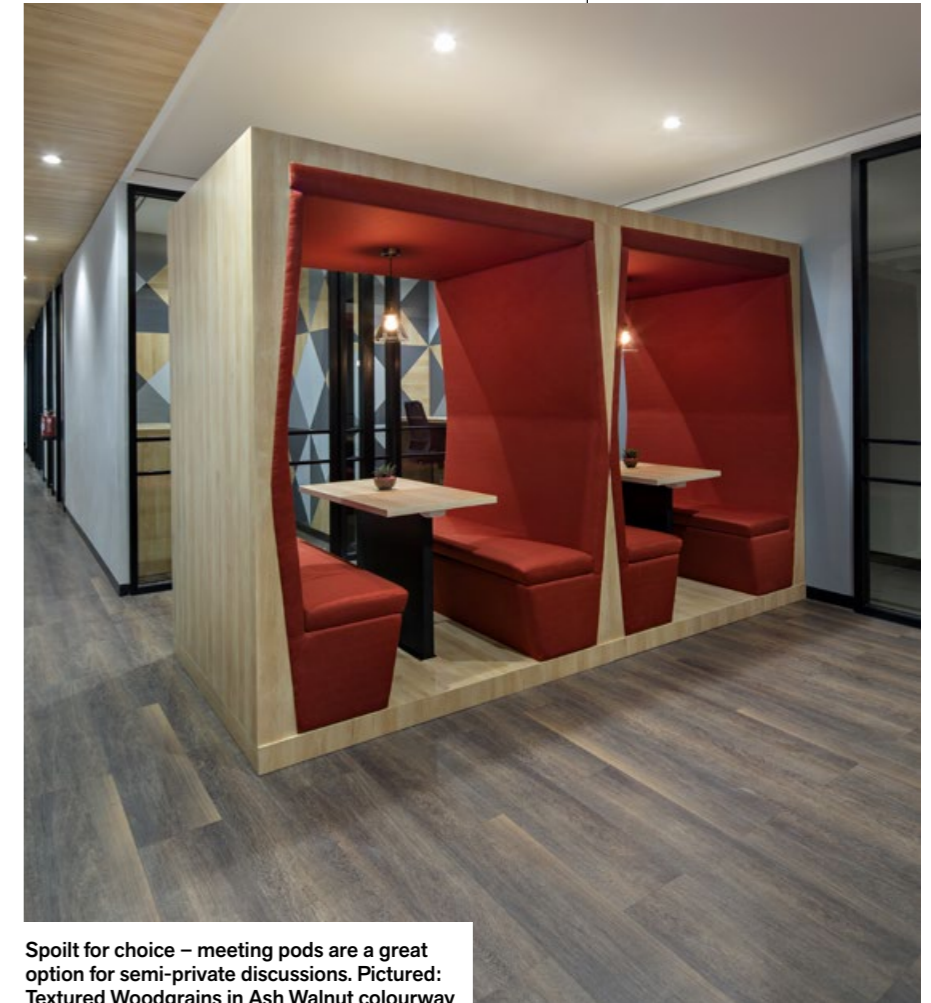
Informatica's vibrant blue and orange brand colours always take centre stage in their office interiors – another reason why they keep coming back to Interface. Suresh was clear on the importance of colour: "The materials selected had to complement our brand colours and logo," not just for the floor coverings, but also for the acoustic wall panels used extensively to dampen sound in meeting rooms and collaborative spaces. Interface products come in a vast range

of textures and colours, and if a specific brand colour is required we also offer a custom colour service.

As always, our product design team is hard at work developing new floor coverings that push the boundaries of innovation, design and utility – and help our customers take concrete steps to help to reverse global warming. We hope to see them featured in Informatica's next climate-focused office interior.



A reception area that screams style and substance – and a warm touch of home. Pictured: Textured Woodgrains luxury vinyl tiles from our Level Set collection in Ash Walnut colourway



Spoilt for choice – meeting pods are a great option for semi-private discussions. Pictured: Textured Woodgrains in Ash Walnut colourway

DESIGN SHOWCASE

# Driving change

Morphosa creates a new home for **Daimler and Mercedes-Benz** in Jakarta, Indonesia

**Daimler, parent company of Mercedes-Benz, is one of the largest manufacturers of premium cars – and the largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles – in the world. Its Mercedes-Benz C-, E- and S-Class cars and SUVs are manufactured in Indonesia at its factory in Wanaherang, one of only a handful of car plants outside Germany.**

The Daimler Group has plans to produce more than 130 electric car variants in the coming years and to develop electric buses, lorries and vans. The Mercedes EQC, launched in 2018, is its first fully electric vehicle – which can be ordered with seat covers made from recycled water bottles. Worldwide, Daimler has used over 70,000 square metres of roof space for solar panels, and by 2022 all Mercedes-Benz car plants in Germany will be powered by energy from renewable sources. >

**Product**  
Level Set™

**Design**  
Morphosa

**Installation**  
PT Kencana Arind Murni



Creating warm, inviting meeting spaces with Natural Woodgrains luxury vinyl tiles in Cedar colourway

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For its Jakarta operations, Daimler (Daimler Commercial Vehicles Indonesia) and Mercedes-Benz (PT Mercedes-Benz Distribution Indonesia) decided to move their various offices from the busy centre of the city to one large office space at the CIBIS Nine Building, part of a new business park surrounded by green space on the southern edge of the city. They chose local interior design consultants Morphosa to oversee the project.

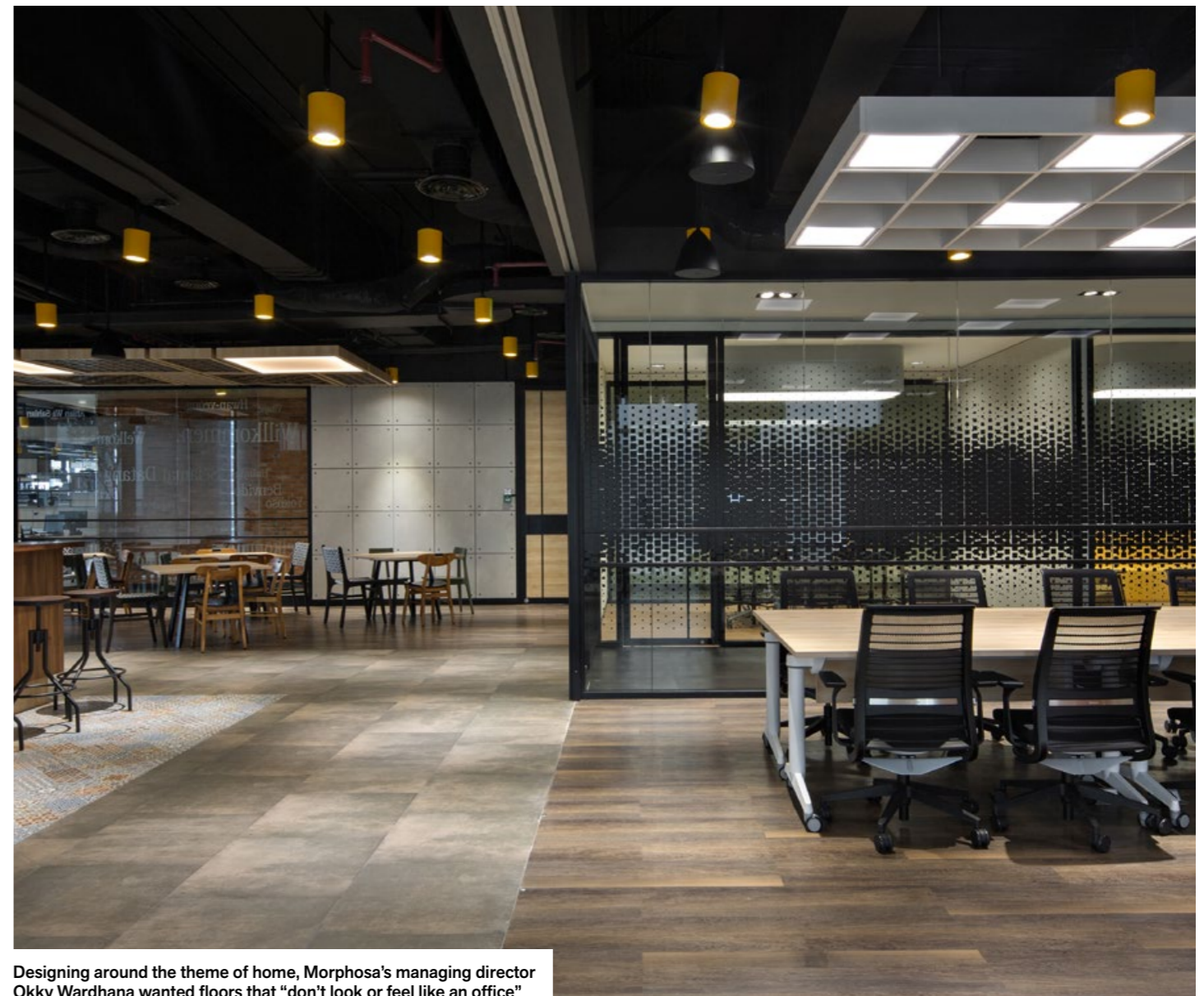
Okky Wardhana, Morphosa's managing director, believes interior designers

have a responsibility to make decisions that will help to combat climate change. "I use local green materials such as rattan and straw in my designs as much as I can," he tells us. "We specify materials with high recycled content and low carbon footprints."

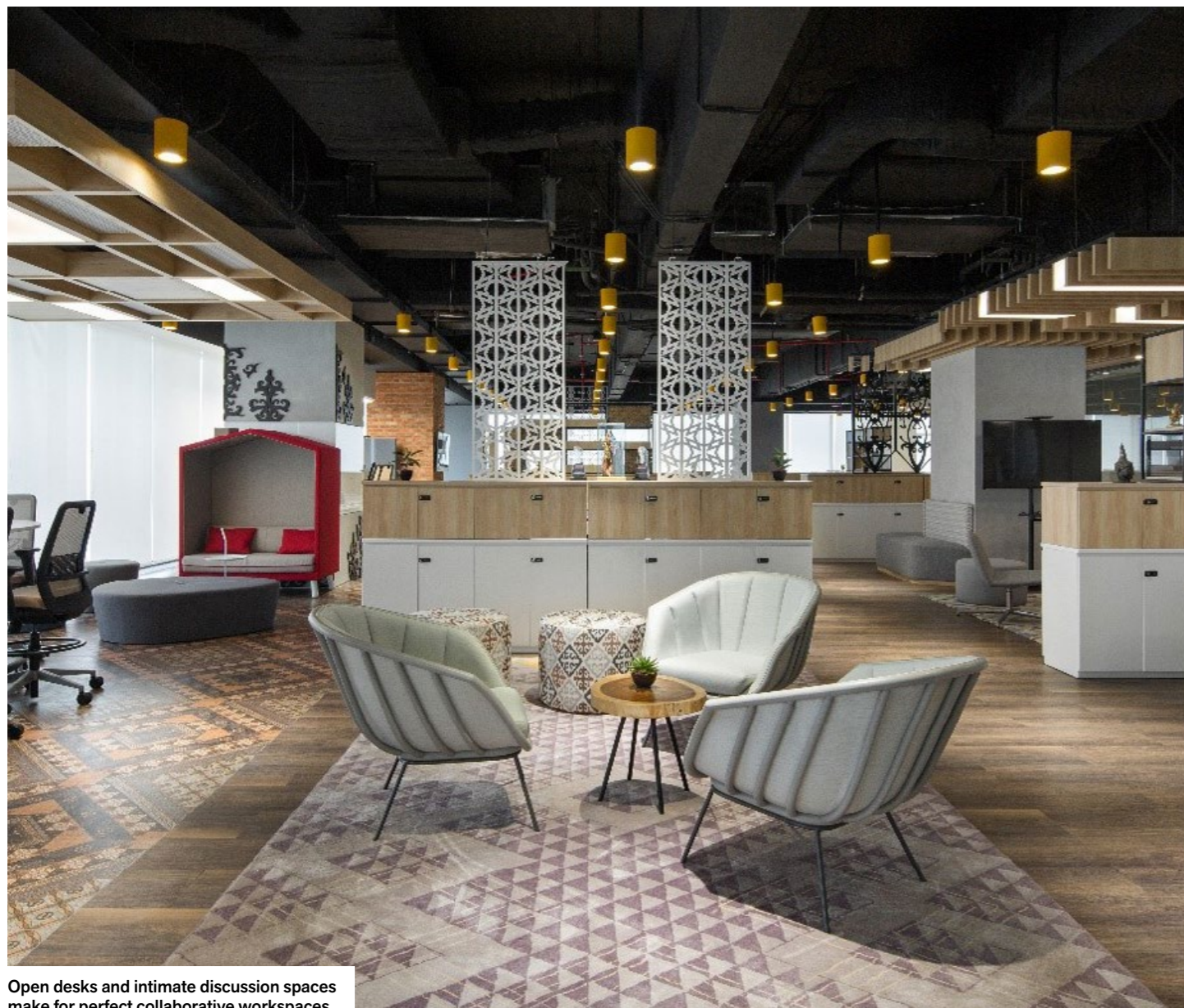
Daimler Group has a worldwide initiative to go paper free by digitising its design and production processes – no small undertaking for a business that has relied on A1-size technical drawings for its vehicle components for decades. This is something that

Okky feels passionate about. "We always encourage our clients to go paperless," he said. "As well as helping the environment, it also reduces the need for filing cabinets, so there's more usable space for other things like collaborative space or a bigger pantry."

Morphosa decided to use luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) throughout Daimler's new offices – a choice that, in the past, would have been costly for the environment. Historically, LVT has not been the most sustainable flooring option – but just as we disrupted and elevated the carpet >



Designing around the theme of home, Morphosa's managing director Okky Wardhana wanted floors that "don't look or feel like an office"



Open desks and intimate discussion spaces make for perfect collaborative workspaces

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tile industry with our Mission Zero work, we are making LVT more sustainable. Our LVT products are 100% recyclable through our ReEntry® initiative, and they're free of ortho-phthalate plasticisers, heavy metal ingredients, added formaldehyde and any other ingredients that could contaminate our recycling system.

As a German manufacturer, Daimler insists on the use of high-quality products in its offices around the world. This is true

for everything, from the workstations to the lighting and the floor coverings. Morphosa's designers have worked with Interface on a number of interiors, so they are familiar with our products. Okky loves the wide range of materials and finishes, the high-quality design, and the service that comes with it.

As Daimler has a long history in Indonesia and has been part of the country's growth since the 1970s, the design team chose to highlight this connection with

Indonesian culture using the theme of "home". To fit this concept, Okky wanted a floor covering that "doesn't look or feel like an office," which was why he selected Textured Woodgrains LVT from our Level Set™ Collection. Traditional Indonesian batik tiles and carvings were used to add a local touch to the interior design.

Morphosa has created a space that helps Daimler's employees to feel at home, with a large open pantry that mixes natural

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Interface®

# LVT meet carpet.

We've designed our LVT and Carpet to work together seamlessly – with no transition strips. This effortless meeting of hard surfaces, soft textures, endless pattern and colour combinations allows you to create truly unique flooring designs for your **+Positive spaces**.

[interface.com](https://www.interface.com)

**+Positive spaces™**

Better products. Happier people. Healthier planet.



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patterns, materials and colours. The floor plan is designed to encourage people to move around and be more active by using different informal and formal collaborative spaces. Staff can easily switch between sofas, work desks, and high tables.

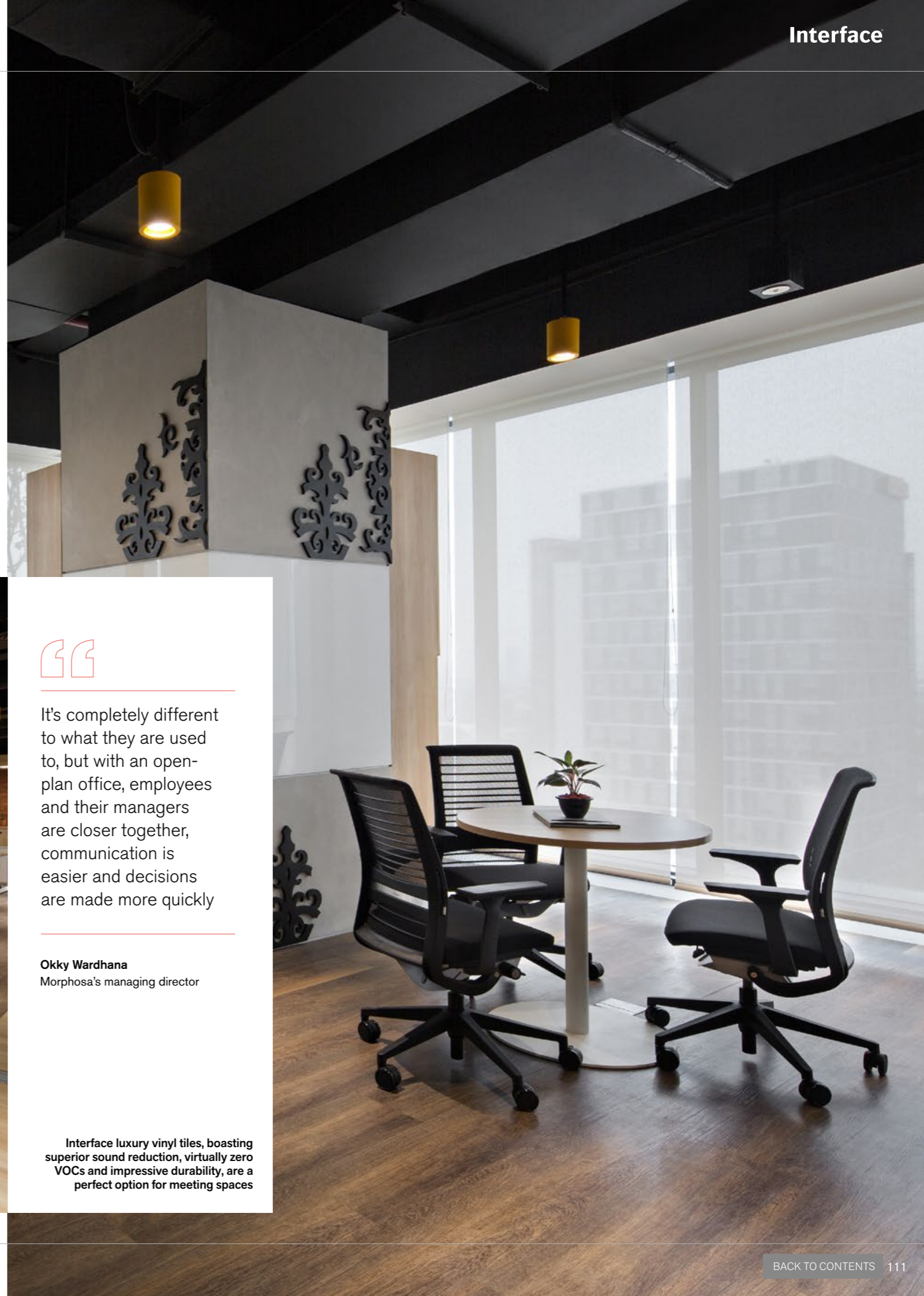
Daimler's previous premises were traditional closed offices, so it was a big transition for the management team to make the shift to an open-plan office. Even Daimler's CEO doesn't have his own office in the new space, so it was a challenge to get the client to commit to this new way of working.

"It's completely different to what they are used to," Okky explained, "but with an open-plan office, employees and their managers are closer together, communication is easier and decisions are made more quickly."

Okky loves to see his clients smile when his team unveil their latest design, but he also wants to get their feedback after they've had a chance to settle in and get to work. "Now they really like how different it is from their old office space, how its open and modern yet homely, with an authentic local touch," he said.



An open concept working area paved with Textured Woodgrains luxury vinyl tiles in Ash Walnut colourway



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It's completely different to what they are used to, but with an open-plan office, employees and their managers are closer together, communication is easier and decisions are made more quickly

**Okky Wardhana**  
Morphosa's managing director

Interface luxury vinyl tiles, boasting superior sound reduction, virtually zero VOCs and impressive durability, are a perfect option for meeting spaces





# Sound advice for open office design

By Chip DeGrace – Vice President of Workplace Strategies

**Open offices are here to stay, and so is the open office noise problem. For the modern workplace, corporate designers and specifiers should consider noise levels and employee needs for individual space.**

For example, noisy offices cause increased levels of stress and anxiety, according to the 2019 “What’s That Sound?” Workplace Acoustics Study from Interface. And, 50% of respondents

reported that noise levels would impact their decision to accept a job.

So what’s causing the noise problem? A lot of it can be attributed to poor office design.

## Top causes of office noise

While the intent of the open office floor plan is to encourage collaboration, a study by Harvard Business School illustrates that these layouts can negatively affect employee productivity and collaboration when they are poorly designed. The Interface acoustics study found that nearly one-third (32%) of employees surveyed around the world

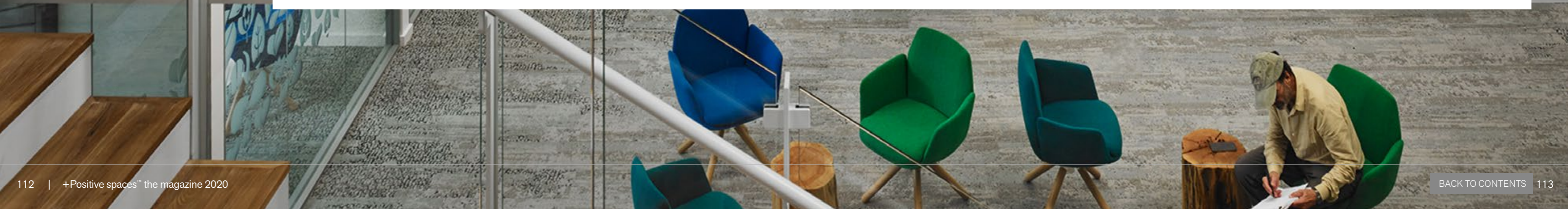
report working at an assigned desk or work station in an open environment. But, only 31% of all respondents indicate that their employers provide private spaces for phone calls or conversations.




## Work areas in open offices

Doing away with collaboration is not the remedy to such noise concerns. Instead, designers should create office spaces that accommodate a variety of employee needs and work styles – and account for noise with the materials they choose.

## Designing the open office for employee well-being

With about one-third of our lives spent at work, office spaces can have a major >



Top Causes of Office Noise	 US	 UK	 Australia
Co-workers talking to each other	76%	75%	63%
Talking on the phone	67%	72%	61%
Phones ringing	65%	63%	59%
People walking around	56%	55%	51%
Printer/fax machines in use	45%	N/A	N/A
Keyboard clacking	N/A	47%	39%



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impact on our health, happiness and productivity. Fortunately, employee health and well-being is moving to the forefront of workplace design trends. For employers, this can translate to higher productivity. It's a win-win for everyone.

**Work choice**

Design should allow for quiet spaces, including individual work zones and group areas for meetings and collaboration. Incorporating work choice and flexibility in your design offers opportunities for both social connections and solitude. Employees can “flex” between individual desks, shared work stations, breakout spaces, private meeting rooms, outdoor areas, full-sun, dimmer light, etc.

**Flexible workspaces in open office**

According to Bruce McEvoy of architecture and design firm Perkins+Will, current workplace design trends such as quiet rooms and small collaboration spaces contribute to overall noise reduction across office spaces.

**The WELL standard**

The WELL Building Standard is also a great resource for creating spaces that meet occupants’ needs for well-being. WELL dictates standards around noise – not only protecting occupants from street noise, but also providing spaces for focus and refuge within a building, such as a restorative or wellness room that can be used for mediation.

**Material choice**

Space allocation plays a huge role in mitigating noise in the open office, but designers should also consider the materials they use to outfit a space. Popular finishes and design trends may look good, but aren't exactly acoustically friendly.

Recently, hip urban elements like concrete, terrazzo, brick and wood are not helping office acoustics. The majority of employees (54 percent) who work in offices with wood, ceramic tile and concrete flooring say it is noisy at their offices, compared to those who work in offices with carpeting (45 percent). Even with the promise of greater efficiency that a quiet workplace affords, employees report that a large number of businesses do >



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not take steps to address the noise.

“When creating workspaces, designers are often asked to apply planning methodologies or specify products based on design trends, rather than the specific operating needs of a business. But the best designs are those rooted in solutions specific to company culture, environmental aspirations and respect for individual user choice,” explains Chip DeGrace, VP of Workplace Applications, Interface.

Open office spaces require special consideration for materials in order to mitigate disruptive noise. Hard surface materials may be sleek and stylish, but softer flooring can provide major acoustic benefits. Sound expert Julian Treasure of the Sound Agency notes that employers can implement very simple acoustic treatments to reduce noise levels. “The wrong flooring can be catastrophic for working spaces,” explains Treasure.

Specifically, he identifies concrete, hardwood, and tile as flooring materials that are terrible for acoustics. “By contrast, a well-designed, soft floor covering can reduce noise dramatically, creating a more peaceful working environment and reducing stress levels.”

According to the Carpet & Rug Institute, “Carpet controls noise by reducing ambient sound and surface noise up to 70 percent, and by reducing impact sound transmission from floor to floor. Carpet absorbs 10 times more airborne noise than any other floor covering and as much as most other types of standard acoustical materials. It virtually eliminates floor impact noises at the source.”

**Sound-reducing flooring options**

Thankfully, designers can reap the acoustic benefits of carpet without forgoing sleek, urban design trends.

Carpet’s sound-absorbing properties make it ideal for open workspaces and conference/collaborative areas.

And for a harder surface option? Luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) with Quiet Mark certification offers sound-reduction capabilities, along with the durability and slip-resistance needed for high-traffic areas. For the best of both worlds, combinations of carpet and LVT play well in open office plans.

**Carpet and LVT flooring combinations**

While each office environment comes with its own set of challenges, poor acoustics don’t have to be part of the plan. By considering WELL Building Standards and specifying sound-reducing materials, the open offices of today (and the future) can be productive, healthy, happy places for employees.

**Work Areas**



**32%**

Are assigned a desk or work station in an open environment



**23%**

Work in a private office



**16%**

Are assigned a desk or work station in a cube



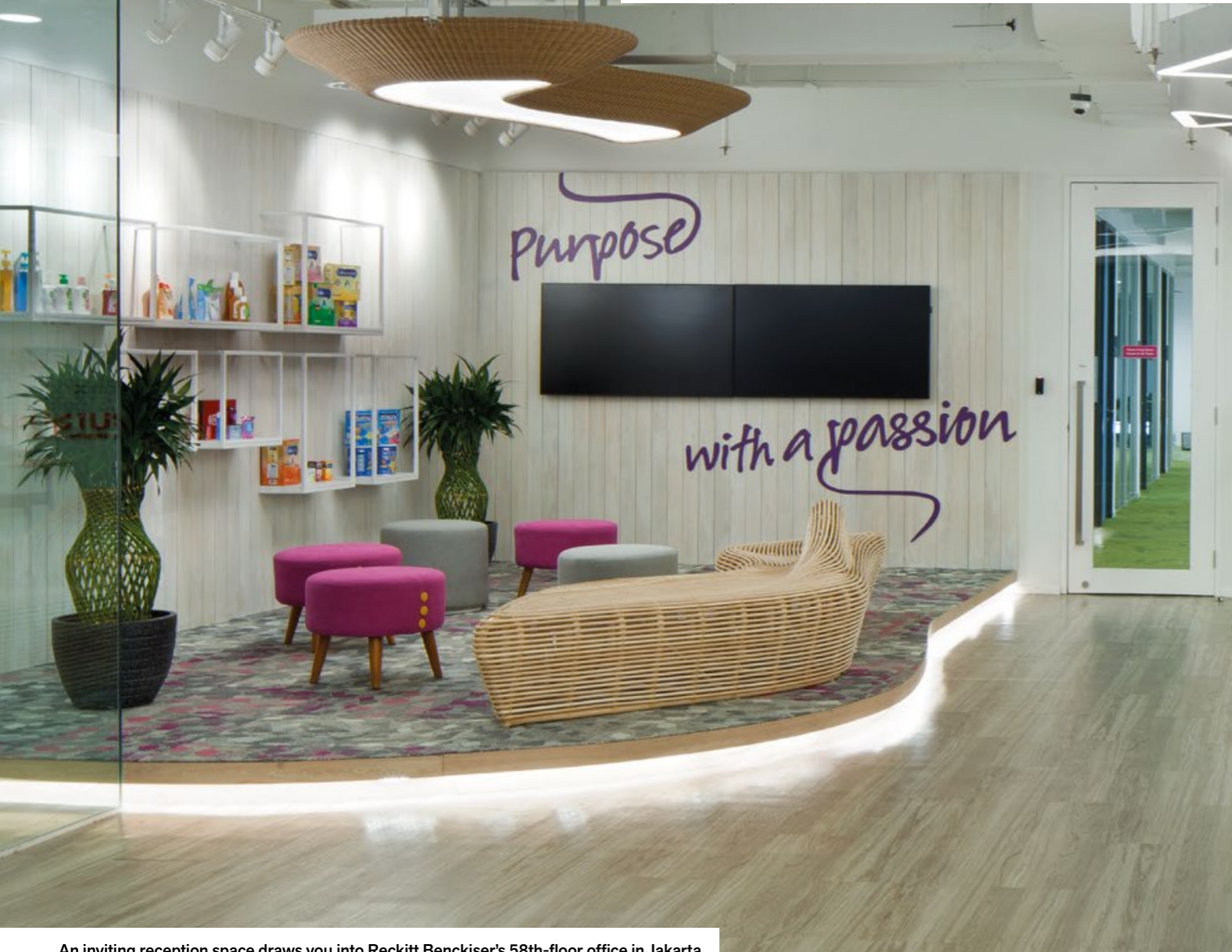
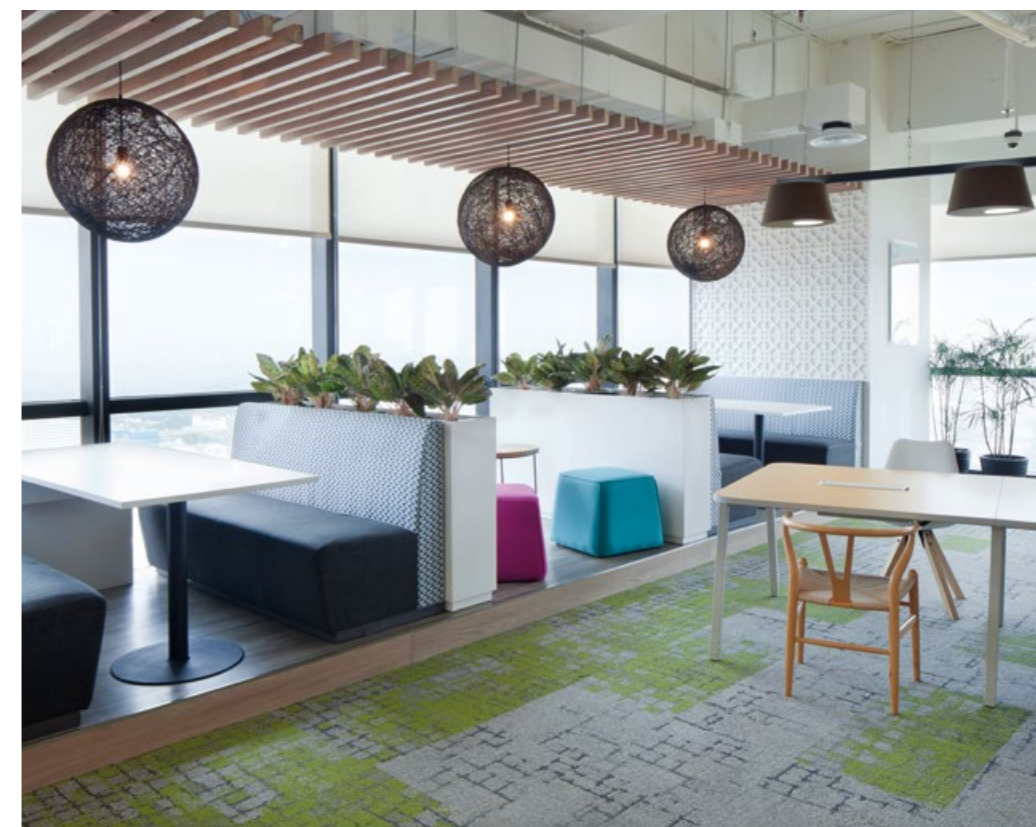
**12%**

Share an office with one or two other people

DESIGN SHOWCASE

# Perfectly on brand

Design firm CDA gives **Reckitt Benckiser's** new office in Jakarta a fresh look



**Product**  
Human Connections™  
Level Set™  
Urban Retreat®

**Design**  
CDA

**Installation**  
PT Kencana Arind Murni

**With well-known household products such as Dettol, Strepsils, Air Wick and Vanish retailing in more than 180 countries, Reckitt Benckiser is one of the world's largest consumer goods producers.**

The company originally had two separate offices in Indonesia which they decided to bring together in one space on the 58th floor of the 2000 square metre Treasury Tower in Jakarta. The design brief for the interior space was to use the company and its diverse range of household products as inspiration.

Reckitt Benckiser has set ambitious targets to shrink its carbon footprint per dose of product by one third from 2012 to 2020. Since 2012, the manufacturer has reduced its total greenhouse gas emissions by 35 per

cent, and its energy consumption has been cut by 22 per cent. This was achieved by redesigning products to minimise the impact on the environment and by making the switch to renewable energy sources. The company has also signed up to the RE100 initiative with a bold commitment to using 100% renewable power by 2030.

Interior design team Citra Duta Artistry, or CDA, were chosen for the project based on their experience of creating modern corporate spaces in Jakarta for international >

An inviting reception space draws you into Reckitt Benckiser's 58th-floor office in Jakarta



Creating biophilic spaces with a mix of Urban Retreat carpets and Level Set luxury vinyl tiles

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organisations such as Prudential, Intel and Nokia. CDA was a perfect fit for this project, not only for their insistence on using materials with high recycled content and low carbon footprints, but also for their own sustainability endeavours. They educate their employees on the benefits of reusing paper, carrying their own shopping bags and reusable coffee cups, and they even organise company outings to collect trash from the beaches of Bali. In our experience, designers who understand how the products and materials they choose affect the environment tend to have a leading edge with global institutions such as Reckitt Benckiser – and we think CDA is living proof of that.

All Interface products are covered by our Carbon Neutral Floors™ commitment – they are carbon neutral across their life cycle. On completion of a project, we issue a certificate detailing the floor's carbon footprint credentials. By choosing Interface products, CDA didn't just give their client a beautiful new floor design – they also helped them to measure and reduce their contribution to global warming.

We sat down with Bingah Suseno, project director at CDA and CDA project designer Louisa Sutanto, who told us that their team prefers to work with Interface because of “the wide range of designs available, the high level of support and the sustainability story

behind every product. We recommend Interface because we have worked together for years. We want the best quality for our clients and we know we can trust the quality of Interface products.”

Bingah and Louisa were also eager to use our range of luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) for the first time. Our LVT range allows designers to create seamless floor designs that integrate with our modular carpet tiles without the use of transition strips. Durable, hard flooring with a wood or stone effect can also be installed without the waste or long installation time associated with traditional flooring materials.

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**Right:** Our Human Connections and Urban Retreat carpet tile collections blend seamlessly with our Level Set luxury vinyl tiles to help you create a nurturing, biophilic workspace. Every tile is 100% carbon neutral

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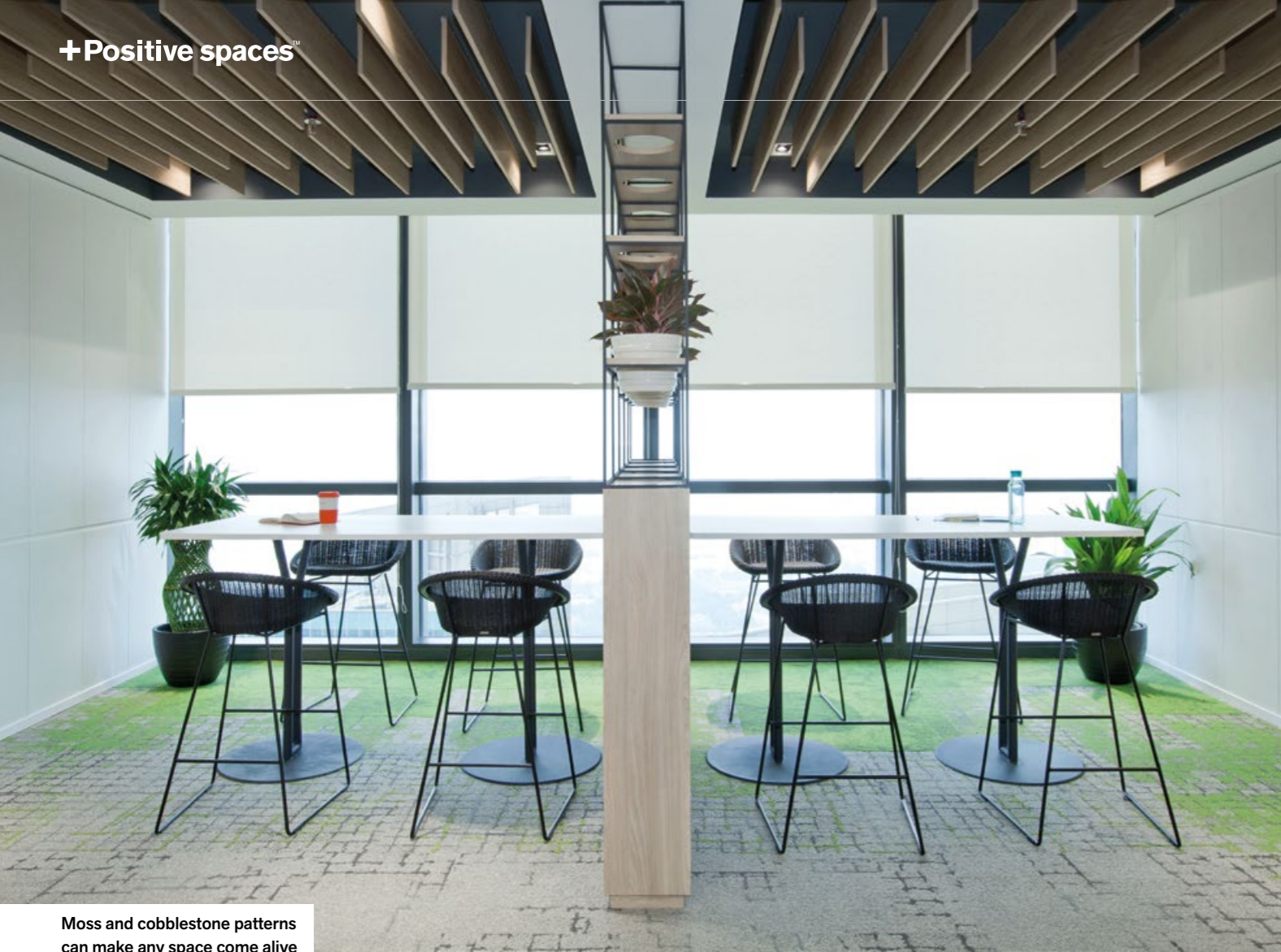
CDA conducted design workshops with Reckitt Benckiser's employees to ensure that the final design aligned with their working culture and values. Using the company's own products as inspiration various meeting rooms and collaborative spaces were brought to life. For example, a collaboration corner was given a laundry theme, complete with a washing line, clothes hung out to dry and tables made to look like washing machines.

Yet another striking feature is the spacious breakout area that the company uses to hold events for the employees. Drawing inspiration from a warung kopi or a coffee house, it features beautiful long tables, a vintage stall, and a graffitied wall.

The design features many natural elements, from the flooring to a vertical garden, potted plants, and fantastic use of natural light. "We choose the green moss >



Cool Polished Cement and Natural Woodgrains tiles from our Level Set luxury vinyl collection helped to create the perfect atmosphere for an events space inspired by warung kopi



Moss and cobblestone patterns can make any space come alive

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and cobblestone patterns of the Human Connections™ collection for a fresh, healthy floor design that makes the office come alive. We also revamped a lot of furniture from their old office and gave it a new look," explained Bingah. "Open plan workspaces are by the windows and enclosed office space is in the centre of the building to make sure that everybody gets natural sunlight."

The natural cobblestones and lush greenery of Human Connections and Urban Retreat® are combined with the polished cement look of Level Set™ LVT, adding to the overall outdoors theme of the communal spaces.

In meeting rooms, Stone Course carpet tiles in grey with pink highlights, also from Human Connections, echo Reckitt Benckiser's brand colours with an eye-catching paving design.

The biggest challenge for CDA was creating different themes for each meeting space. They overcame this by working closely with a graphic artist to design unique wall art for the rooms. For example, the meeting room dedicated to the hair removal product Veet features a fashion model catwalking down a meeting desk.

Bingah is proud of the workspace that her team have created for Reckitt Benckiser. "It's an office where people work, so while it has to look pretty, we need to make sure that it is functional as well," he said. "For us, it is very important to understand the client's needs and we tweak our design to suit that. It is a pleasure to meet new clients with different requirements, and we thoroughly enjoy the process of getting to know them and their values, and then applying that to our design. In short, we love what we do!"

Flagstone and Stone Course carpet tiles from our Human Connections collection add a pop of colour to the boardroom



# POP

## Shift

Ideas About Floors

Interface®

### Shift between spaces

From the staccato of a busy hallway to a bold stripe of colour that directs and delights, floors signal something new. When the right foundation is in place, floors are a visual cue.

We named our first edition of POP 'SHIFT', because that's exactly what it does. Bold stripes of colour that guide. Clever placement that positions. When the right floor is in place, a shift makes sense.

Every space makes an impact. POP encourages a shift from one space to another. Positively, and confidently.

Smart floor design signals a change, creates an edge, and subtly steers people in the right direction. POP2 has carpet and LVT floors that spark solutions and inspire you to make the most of any space.



POP delivers better products fast, so you can create positive spaces at speed. Explore fresh design with our newest products. Browse styles, colours, materials, and patterns. See something you like? It can be underfoot before you know it.

Most POP products are available to ship in 10 business days. That's a lot to be positive about.

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Climate change is undeniable. And reversible. Our mission is to prove it. Join the #ClimateTakeBack and help create a climate fit for life.



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*Interface leads in  
workplace strategy  
with new headquarters*

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Design-  
focused and  
sustainable  
workplace  
built to inspire

**Interface  
officially opened  
its new global  
headquarters in  
Midtown Atlanta  
last year. Base  
Camp, as named  
by employees,  
incorporates  
design features  
that benefit  
employees and  
the environment.** >

Base Camp, Atlanta



Base Camp, Atlanta

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The new space supports the company's global initiative to create inspiring spaces for employees and customers.

Interface's Atlanta employees, previously dispersed among several locations, now have a unified space and with it a more collaborative workplace. Base Camp's design offers flexibility in how and where employees work within the office.

"Base Camp reflects who we are, what we do best, and the core values we live every day," says Jay Gould, Interface CEO. "Our new work home exemplifies sustainability best practices and our continued commitment to eliminate negative impacts on the environment."

Developed and designed in partnership with JLL, Perkins+Will, MSTSD and Parkside Partners, the 40,000-square-foot headquarters is located at 1280 W. Peachtree St. The space takes into consideration elements of sustainability, well-being and biophilic design to offer employees, customers and partners a modern, convenient, healthy and collaborative environment to learn, work, play and refresh. The design-forward building also functions as a living showroom for Interface's extensive line of flooring collections. >



The Greenhouse, Birmingham

### The Greenhouse in Birmingham, UK Showroom + Headquarters

The Greenhouse needed to be a space to not only inspire Interface's talented team, but also act as a shared hub for customers and stakeholders from across the country.

Finding the right location was crucial to bringing this vision to life. As the UK's first Biophilic City and one steeped in manufacturing history, Birmingham provided an ideal setting to represent the company's commitment to well-being and production expertise. The city's central location also makes the headquarters easily accessible to customers and colleagues.

The Greenhouse is Interface's first location in Europe to bring its family of carbon neutral products together, from carpet tile to Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) and nora® rubber flooring. On entering the office, the eye is immediately drawn to a beautiful wisteria tree which sits in the centre of the open plan kitchen area. Its form is also reflected in the flooring through a custom made 50m2 nora rubber inlay, which clearly demonstrates the versatility of the range.

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**Designing a building and a company for the environment and well-being**

"Every aspect of the building's design, seen and unseen, is collaborative and restorative in nature," notes Gould. "Base Camp is a vibrant hub where we come together in our journey to create a climate fit for life with better products, happier people and ultimately a healthier planet. It is a place to problem-solve, rest, recover and celebrate accomplishments. It is, like Interface, a place that positively impacts the people within it and the environment around it."

Targeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) v4 Platinum certification, the building uses 48 percent less energy than code requires and houses a 15,000-gallon water collection system for flush

fixtures. To minimize waste, design and construction teams recycled and donated building materials, with total waste diversion at 93 percent. The building's exterior features a forest-inspired building wrap that provides natural light and reduces heat.

The company is also applying for WELL certification and prioritized employee health and well-being throughout Base Camp. The building's expansive staircase, designed to encourage movement, leads to a rooftop space that brings nature directly into the workspace. Wellness and restorative rooms are available for employee relaxation, and community gathering spaces allow for improved teamwork. Base Camp also features robust water and air filtration systems, treating drinking water with UV light, rather than chlorine.



Base Camp, Atlanta



Base Camp, Atlanta



Showroom, Sydney

**Sydney HQ transforms a heritage-listed railway building**

For nearly a decade, the Interface team in Sydney has called the former Railway Institute Building its Sydney home, situating the headquarters at the juncture between Sydney's heritage and modern precincts. This location is fitting, given the brand's belief that bold innovation arises from the lessons of the past, supported by the technology of the future.

Right at the beginning of the briefing stage, Interface interviewed all Sydney staff to understand the challenges associated with their current work environment, identifying areas for change, support and improvement. In the true spirit of +Positive spaces™, these findings were put into play at the earliest stage, directly impacting the eventual design.

Workstations, quiet spaces, collaborative spaces, and private areas were integrated throughout the interior space, "breaking up the silo" and eroding the divide between showroom and offices as well as client space and staff space. The result: the entire building is now a showroom.

**The Sydney Office Showroom is one of the first WELL Certified heritage-listed buildings and the 7th WELL Certified Gold project in Australia.**




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# Design trends that *mixed* and **mingled** at NeoCon 2019

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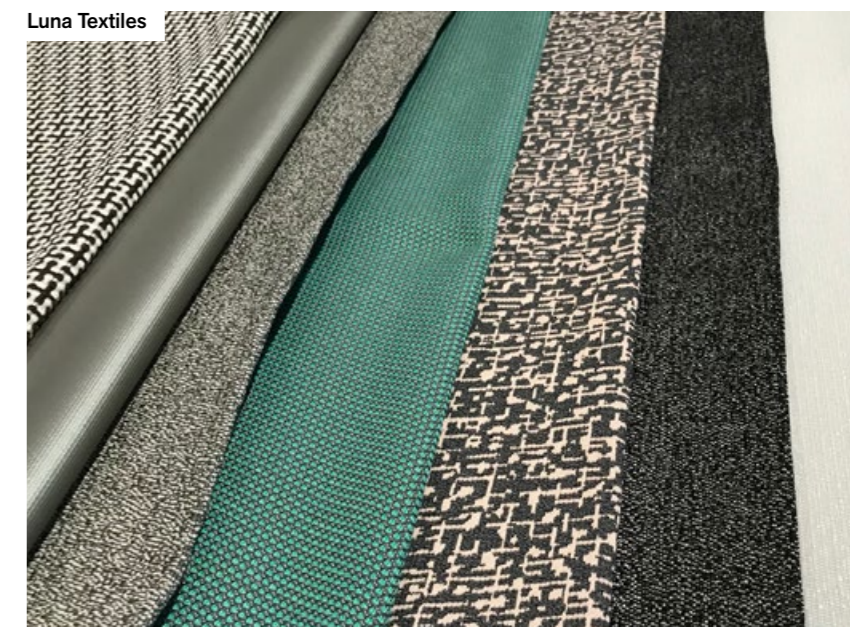
By Gretchen Wagner - Designer

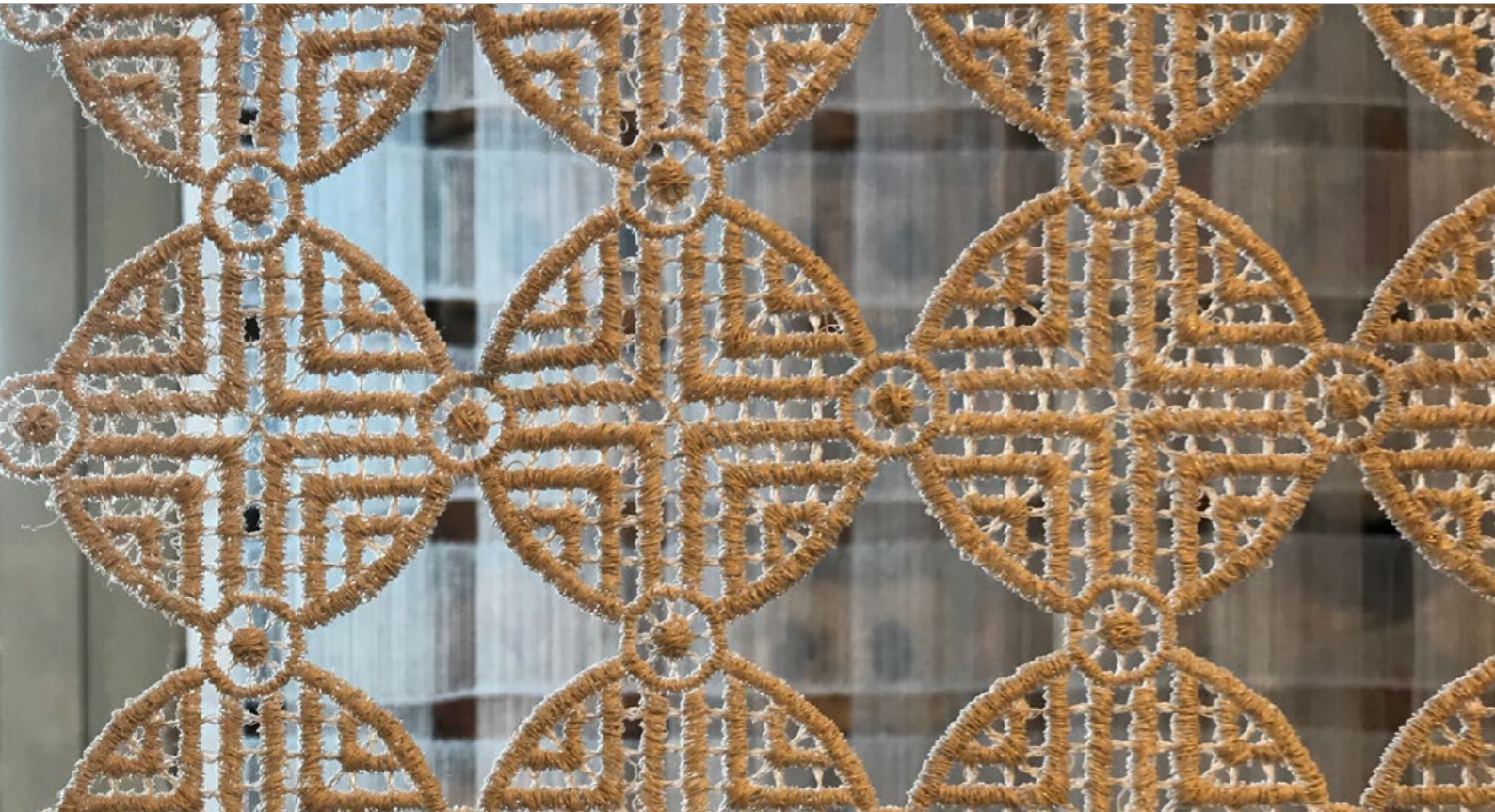
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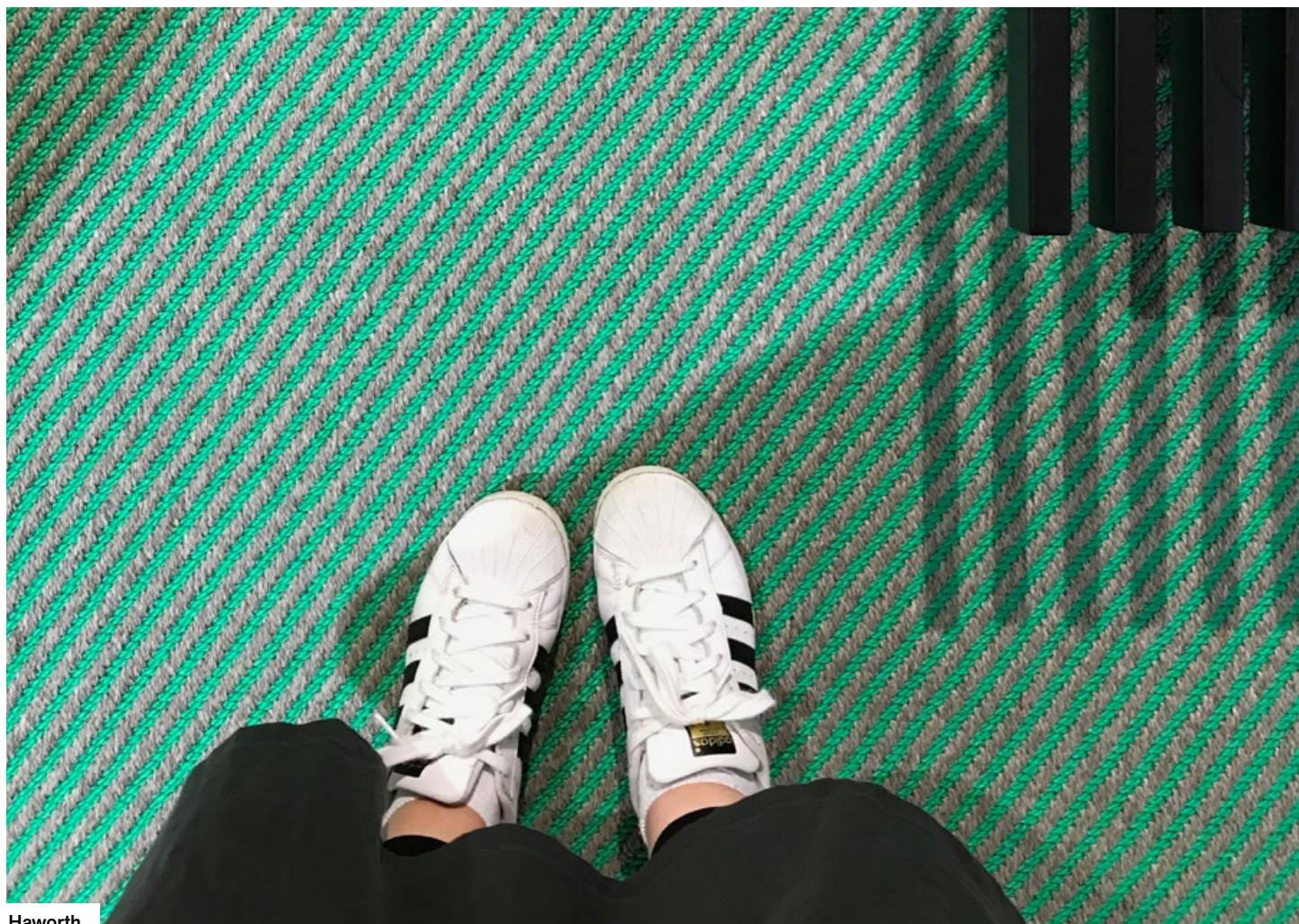
**Same, but different. The lines that define interior spaces, aesthetics, color and materials are being blurred more than ever. What we spotted at Milan Design Week bleeds into NeoCon and beyond: the continued blending of workplace design with residential, hospitality and more. The latest looks celebrate our differences in a unifying mashup.** >

Luna Textiles





Below & Left: 6 Carnegie



Haworth

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Brightly lit seating area with soft textured sofa, sculptural chairs, and grey geometric carpet. Interface's Chicago showroom featured colors and textures that evoked the design trends we saw at NeoCon 2019 – namely, terra cotta.

**Better together**

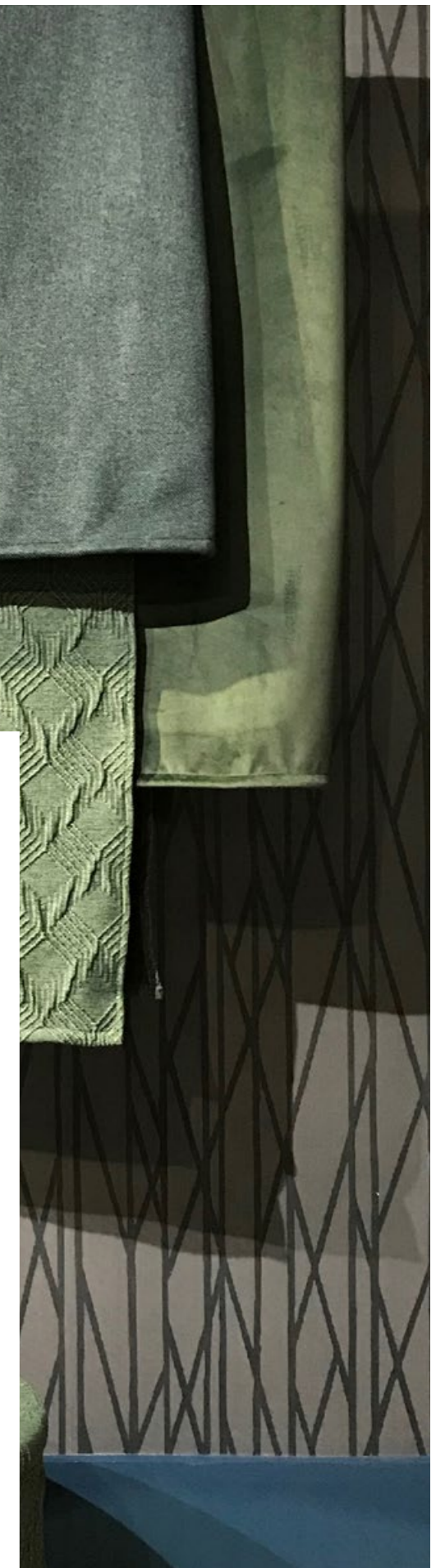
Whether it was materials recycled into new aggregates or larger companies showcasing their ever-expanding portfolios, NeoCon was all about combining efforts. Herman Miller said it best with their "All Together Now" campaign that mirrored what we saw in Milan – but they weren't the only ones playing with this theme. At Teknion, Steelcase and Knoll, we saw a combined use of all their brands in different spaces and configurations ranging from workplace to healthcare to lounge and so on.

As far as spaces go? It's all about the style mix. Today's workplace design is incorporating more residential influences, while hospitality is being inspired by co-working spaces and wellness trends. The result of this hybridization is an incredible mashup of materials, furniture, textiles and especially brands in order to achieve the perfect harmony of finishes.

**Shades set the tone**

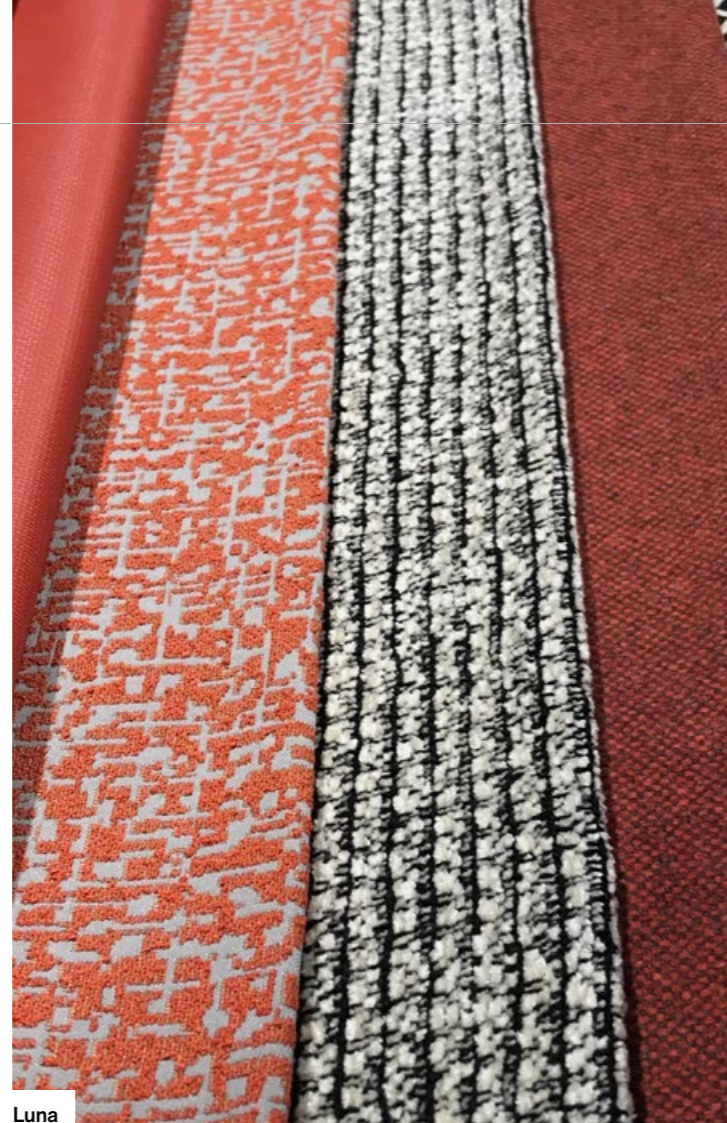
Maybe it's the 100th anniversary of the Bauhaus movement, or the 70s-dinner-parties-set-in-sunken-living-rooms vibe, but orange is back. From bright clementine to sun-baked terra-cotta and sienna, orange hues are everywhere. These warm ochre colors celebrate neutrals and pair nicely with blush, which is finding its way into interiors as a scaled-back accent amid a field of neutral textures.

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Haworth



Luna



DesignTex



Andreu World



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Also sprouting up at NeoCon? Mineral tones inspired by botanical color. Jade green, malachite and sage set a tonal color palette (as seen in the vignettes at the Herman Miller showroom). The drama was high at NeoCon this year – contrasting materials and finishes, dimly lit accent lighting all worked together to create moody interiors.

**Layers are in**

When it comes to materials, one thing is clear: transparent layers are in. A trend first noted in fashion weeks has shown up in interiors at NeoCon with layered translucent curtains. Multiple colors were overlaid on top of each other to create tonal variations and a unique depth of shade. These sheer textiles give a softer approach to space definition in common areas and personal workstations.

From exhibitor partnerships to mixed materials and colors, all that we love about design was on display at NeoCon – all together. It was the perfect combination of summer design trends that are sure to mix and mingle for the rest of 2019 and beyond.



# LOOK BOTH WAYS

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[interface.com/LookBothWays](https://interface.com/LookBothWays)

**CARPET PRODUCT** STEP IT UP **COLOR** CORALITE  
**LVT PRODUCT** WALK ABOUT **COLOR** PUMICE

**Interface®**



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# Inside an Interface Design Studio

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By Maxine Chen – Sustainability Communications Specialist

**Interface's Southeast Asia Design Studio – comprising Studio Manager Serene Lin, Custom Designers Fun Chin and Esley Loo, and Concept Designer Ramon Bucoy, who are all based in Singapore – is part of the Interface Design Studio, a global team of more than 70 designers dedicated to helping make visions a reality.**

With their ability to create palette designs for quick visual boarding, as well as contractor floor plans and customised floor designs, they have been a proven value-add for customers looking to create intricate, state-of-the-art floor designs. I sat down with them to learn what a typical workday looks like and the latest design trends they are seeing. "We reimagine flooring for people," explained Serene. "And it all depends on what our customers want... the level of detail they need."

"The starting point is usually a discussion with the client. We find out their design intent, parameters and needs. Then we'd propose products and floor ideas to help them create the look that they want."

To cater to the diverse range of interior spaces that our modular flooring gets selected for – from workplaces and schools to hotels, resorts, shopping malls, hospitals, and more – our Singapore Design Studio members were handpicked for their versatile design capabilities. Fun holds a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts Practice and has been designing with Interface for more than 20 years. Serene joined Interface having run a small business selling her own hand dyed and handcrafted accessories, armed with graphic design and visual merchandising experience, and a Bachelor in Fashion Textiles and a Diploma in Fine arts to boot. >





Esley, also a Fashion Textiles major, designed hand-woven silk and wool carpets for residential spaces with carpet merchants The Orientalist Carpets before joining Interface as a Hospitality concept designer. And Ramon is an interior designer by training, working with the Filipino furniture designer Ito Kish before joining TFB Incorporated, an umbrella company for retail brands including New Era, Giordano, Concepts One and BSX, as an inhouse interior designer. Within a year at TFB, he had become the sole designer for all New Era stores in the Philippines.

Having unique product design skills and a knack for solving problems are prerequisites for life at the Interface Design Studio. For Esley, who focuses in large part on hospitality interiors, creating floor designs using modular products poses a unique challenge. Our customers tend to choose carpet tiles for their hotels and resorts due to their flexibility, performance and ease of maintenance. Yet to them it's imperative that our carpet tiles measure up to broadloom carpets in terms of plushness and intricacy of design. Esley spends much of her time strategising ways of piecing our 1 m x 1 m squares and 25cm x 1 m Skinny Planks™ together to form fresh and often elaborate floor designs – no small feat for someone used to working with large hand-woven carpets.

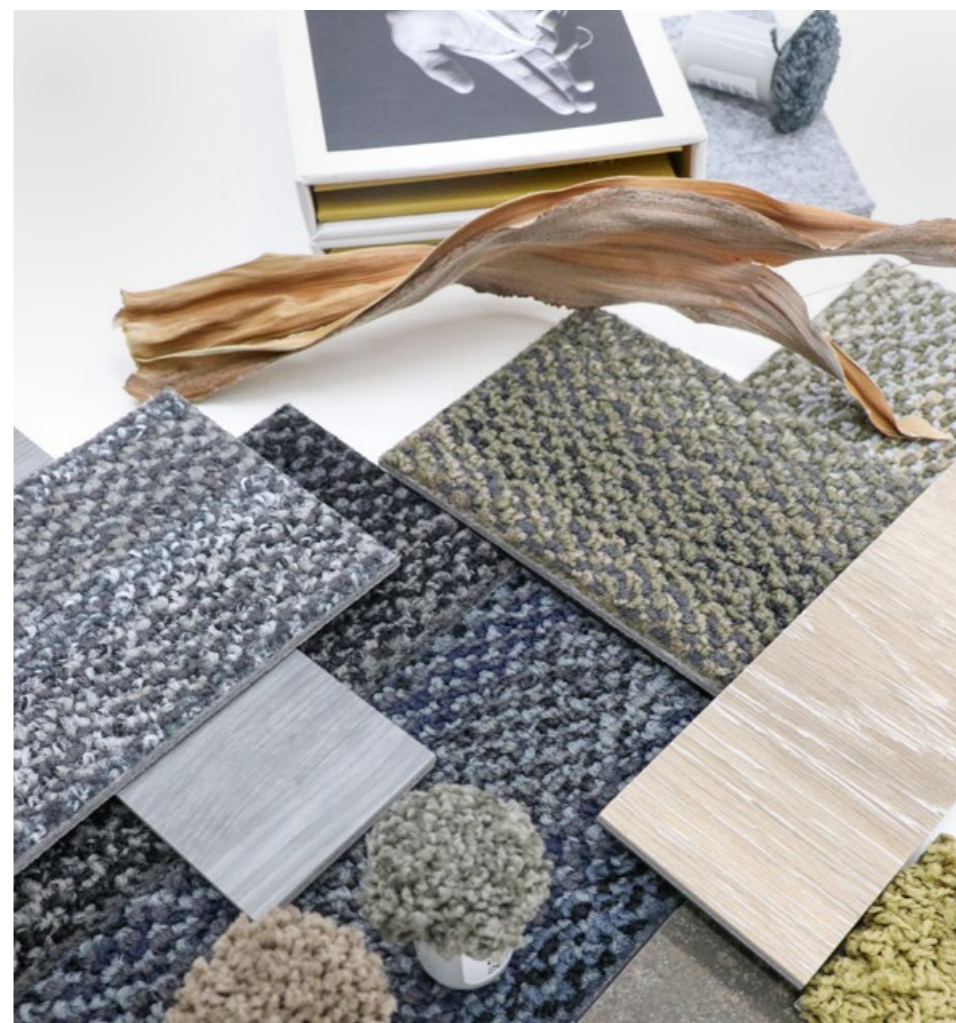
With over 40 years of combined experience serving Interface customers, the team has seen numerous design trends come and go. But one that they think is here to stay is the incorporation of comfort and flexibility into workplace design. At Interface, we've long been cognisant of the fact that biophilic design, or design that connects us to the natural world, boosts people's wellbeing, helping them be more productive and creative. Yet the growing demand from employees

for workplaces that help them to relax and be their best selves – such as offices equipped with spacious pantries, meeting areas reminiscent of bars or cafes, and even nap rooms – has been difficult to ignore. Increasingly, our designers find themselves brainstorming ways to meet these design needs; for example, by incorporating flooring collections designed for hospitality interiors into offices, and by piecing together carpet and luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) to create rug-like areas. For corporate interiors, more of their customers are asking for materials with innovative textures and daring colourways – a far cry from plain greys and browns of the past.

For the team, work is not without its

challenges. "Sometimes it can all be a big rush, and we struggle to find the headspace for thinking," Esley said. Yet taking the time to learn and to seek inspiration is always a priority. The same week we had this interview, they'd visited the fashion exhibition Guo Pei: Chinese Art and Couture together to learn how the celebrated Chinese fashion designer incorporated inspiration from Asian relics into clothing design. At the end of the day, it's the designers' camaraderie that shines through. "It's definitely a bonus when you have a team that can bond with each other at work as well as off work," said Serene. "If you hear banter, laughter or singing in the office, that's probably us."

I can certainly vouch for that!



Interface is more than just a carpet manufacturing company to me. It has magnified my awareness of how much waste we are producing every day and how much harm we have been causing to our natural world. Working for a company that is doing so much for the environment is humbling and really puts in perspective in what are the bigger, more urgent issues happening in the world today.

The Interface Design Studio works alongside our customers, designing spaces that we hope they will love and will find comfort in, whether for work or for leisure. Our aim is to help them bring ideas to life with the right mix of materials, textures and colours. In the Interiors world, carpet is just one part of that equation, and I'm really happy to be a part of this process. We are one piece of the puzzle, and just like fighting climate change, we need to work hand in hand with everyone to make that change.

I love the dynamic vibe of being with this creative team. There's never a boring day with these guys. We all have different strengths but we complement each other really well. When we have brainstorming sessions and start bouncing ideas off each other, that's when the magic happens.

It's definitely a bonus when you have a team that can bond with each other at work as well as off work. We work very hard but we also play hard. If you hear banter, laughter or singing in the office, that's probably us. It keeps us sane amidst the busy workload!

**Serene Lin**  
Design Studio Manager,  
Southeast Asia



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## norament® holds up under New York City subway conditions

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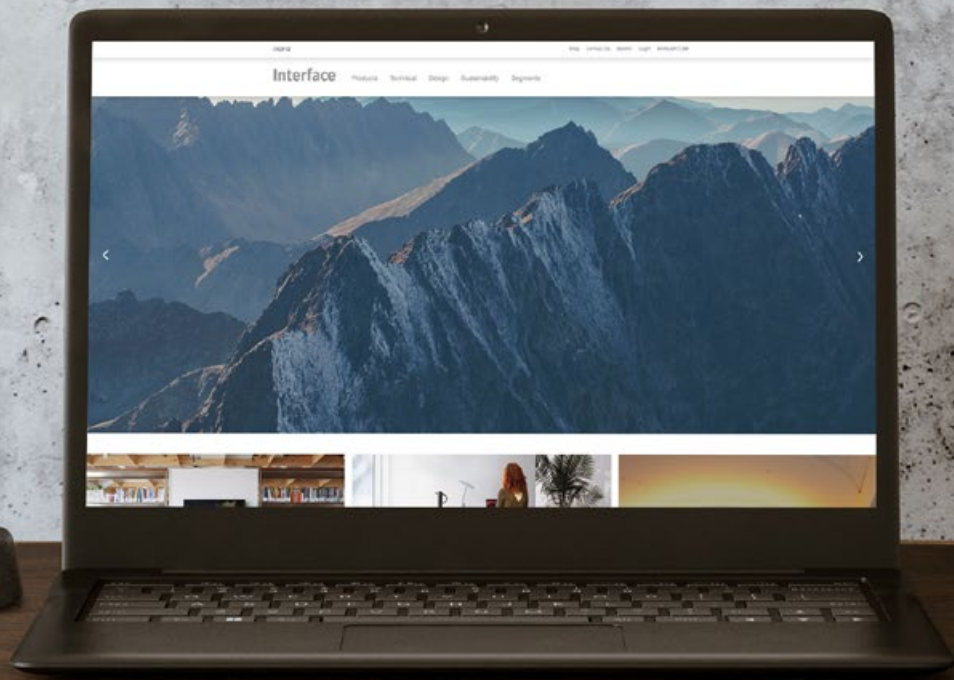
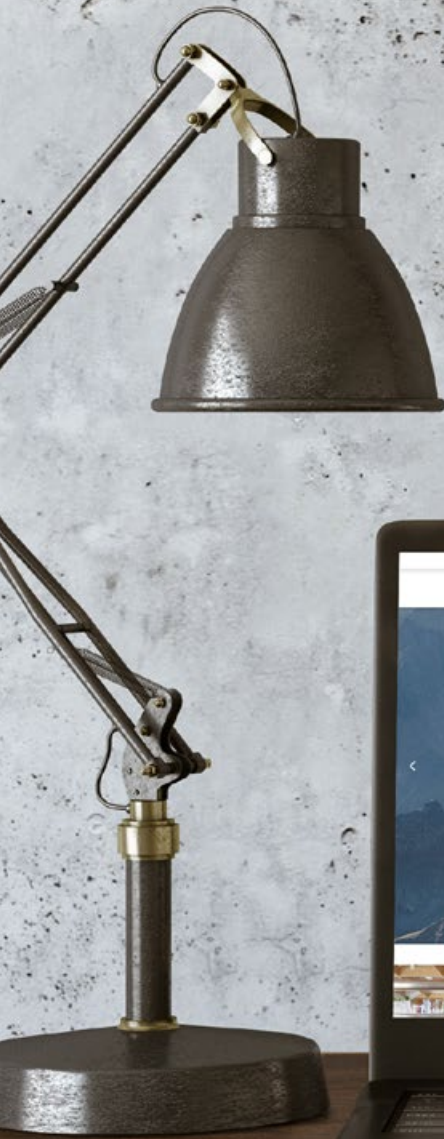
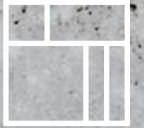
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