

Dear reader,

We are pleased to bring to you our current issue of InterEdge.

It is filled with articles covering the latest in architectural design across the world.

Also, look out for our most recent range of Talk Modular Conference Tables and the newest installation at Schneider, Gurgaon.

We hope you enjoy reading the issue.

Warm regards
Godrej Interio Team

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TRANSPARENT CONCRETE

Opacity in solid structural features like walls, columns and beams is a given. While these provide support and form, to a design mind, this very opaqueness has been a visualization challenge.

Introducing LitTraCon. Covered by Time magazine as one of the most amazing inventions of the year, a concrete that transmits light.

LitTraCon is created by mixing concrete and strands of optical glass fibers to create a solid yet translucent block suitable for floors, pavements and load-bearing walls. The fibers are only 4% of the volume and don't have a negative effect on the compressive strength of concrete. The size of the glass fibers makes it a structural component of the block. Even the surface of the block is similar to homogeneous concrete.

What changes though is: the glass fibers by transmitting light, let a view of the outside world seep in. The form of the imagery transmitted is in silhouette. One can see the silhouette of any object as long as the other side has a source of light. The concrete retains this ability up to a few meters in thickness.

This material has transformed the interiors of concrete buildings, making them look light and airy.



NET FOG - INNOVATIVE WATER SOLUTIONS

'Every year 2.5 million people die of thirst and drinking polluted water'. This UN headline shines the spot light on the water crisis facing the planet.

What gets eclipsed is that these headlines speak of scenarios in population dense areas. Water unavailability and the consequent hardship in the lives of sparsely collated communities is rarely taken up.

What communities in arid and coastal areas (living at altitudes ranging from 400m to 1200m) need is a low-tech idea of water abstraction using natural resources. Communities across Chile, Peru, Haiti, Nepal, and Spain, in fact all over the world, would thrive, as a low-tech solution would help engender the spirit of ownership and self reliance.

A solution fitting these parameters is the net-fog collector which has been implemented successfully in South America by Fogquest, a Canadian charity organization. In one line, what it involves is: suspending nets (structured akin to volleyball nets) and collecting

the water droplets as fog laden winds blow across them.

Fog conditions at these altitudes are generally accompanied by strong winds which blow the tiny droplets of water against the tensed mesh. Wind passes through while water droplets remain. Droplets converge, form bigger drops and run down the mesh to drain gutters and to water tanks where the water is cleaned before it is transferred to bigger pipelines.

Done in a scientific manner this simple idea can collect 10-20 litres of water per m² of netting. Add arrays of these collectors, connect piping to carry the water and one can get enough to supply a small village with all its needs for potable water.

A similar application can be installed on the roof tops of buildings after optimizing inputs like slope of the roof and wind direction.

The solution while innovative and inspiring is also green and works for the community.



TALK GREEN WALK GREEN

In our last issue, we had examined the importance of green materials for manufacturing products, in order to reduce their environmental footprint. We had examined various eco-friendly materials like particle boards, medium density fibreboards (MDFs), bamboo boards, agri-boards and fabrics. We will now examine each one's performance on various criteria to conclude which is best for commercial use.

Performance of the product is very important while choosing material. Materials which make the product more durable should be used as it increases the lifespan of the product and also increases its possibility to refurbish for reuse. When we extend the lifespan of the product or reuse it, we save on resource and energy needed to produce a new one, even if it is made from recycled materials.

While evaluating different boards, we need to look at their strength, durability, bonding, screw holding capacity and machinability, apart from just their 'eco-friendliness'. Agri-boards are most eco-friendly as they are made from waste like straw and baggase. However, they do not have very good bonding and screw holding capacity. Even in terms of strength, they are not rated very highly.

On the other hand, particle boards and MDFs are recommended by experts as they fare better on performance criteria when it comes to strength, bonding and screw holding properties. Particle boards are considered better than MDF when it comes to the VOC content in these boards.



Bamboo boards, considered eco-friendly and sturdy, suffer from a major drawback when it comes to its machinability. The core material is made from long cuts of bamboo which makes it non-machinable and hence poses constraints on design possibilities. This makes it difficult to cater to the growing demands of customers and hence not suitable for commercial use. MDFs rank the best in machinability due to the fine particles used to make the board.

While evaluating fabrics, we need to look at its stretchability, colour fastness, weaving strength and dyeing consistency. Cotton although considered aesthetically more appealing in the long term, fades away causing early deterioration in aesthetics. Also, it suffers from dyeing inconsistency due to which not all fabric tiles will be in a consistent shade.

Polyester, on the other hand, fares better on stretchability and weaving strength as compared to poly-cotton and cotton. It is also dye consistent and the colours do not fade in the long-term. Hence, it is considered better for maintaining long-term aesthetics of the work space.

The above arguments shine light on the importance of 'Performance' in improving the green quotient of products.

BOOK REVIEW

Build it Twice...if You Want a Successful Building Project - By Joe Boyd

Most construction engineers working on a project, labour on it as carefully as possible. And yet, when the venture actually commences, there are cost over runs, oversights, mistakes and sometimes in a worst case scenario, court cases.

Joe Boyd - an engineer, businessman, journalist, construction consultant and mediator with over 40 years' experience, has written a book, appropriately called, 'Build It Twice...If You Want A Successful Building Project.'

Here, through gentle guidance, he advises fellow construction engineers

who have just entered the industry with simple but practical suggestions on the dos and don'ts of the business.

His hard earned knowledge covers people, processes and the fabled unknowns that can so often plague a project. He also covers the concept of time and forethought that many owners and planners rarely allocate to the project.

Written with elegance, wit and charm, it is technical and yet brilliant and deserves to find a place in every construction engineer's personal library.



BRICKS OF JOY

A hobby is usually defined as a pastime. It is indulged in for pleasure and enjoyment and can lead to acquiring skill, knowledge, experience and if marketed skillfully, money. Self - fulfillment is the prime aim of having a hobby.

Around the world, to many people, playing with a Lego Brick set is one such leisure pursuit. Both children and adults derive hours of joy playing with them. Creating miniature set pieces of famous structures.

In fact, if money and fame weren't enough, famous architects could take Lego tributes as a confirmation that they have arrived. When your works start appearing at Lego conventions and at Lego Land, you've made quite a name for yourself in architecture.

Presented along side are some of the structures from around the world that have been re-created using Lego bricks.



The Lego version of St Pancras, created by Warren Elsmore, contains over 60,000 bricks and four working clocks. It took eight weeks to build.



The Lego version of Fisher Building is 7.5 feet high. It weighs approx. 230 pounds and used about 105,000 bricks in its construction.

HAVE IDEAS? NOW PUT THEM IN ACTION

Talk Modular Conference Tables

Unleash your creativity with the Talk Modular Conference Table. With a little imagination and our modular design you can create the conference table to the shape and size you desire.

Meeting all conferencing requirements, this table inspires you to converse and communicate. The sleek profile of this table enhances its aesthetics, making it apt for sophisticated office spaces. This is the ideal solution for young, dynamic professionals who aspire to go beyond the conventional. So let the ideas flow. Talk...



14 Seater Talk
Colour: Marbella Cherry



9 Seater Talk
Colour: Walnut



12 Seater Talk
Colour: White Ashwood



3 Seater Pod
Colour: Golden Oak

FROM SUN TO SOLE

A lot of people want to produce free green energy in their homes. However, the look of the bulky solar panels on the top of their roofs discourages them.

Today, there is a new innovative way to install solar systems in your home. Presenting Sole Power Tiles from SRS Energy Roofing Systems.

SRS Energy gives you a renewable alternative to power plants that burn fossil fuels and contribute to global warming. It provides an electricity-generating roof that saves 5-to-20 percent of electricity costs in a home. Each Sole Power Tile is equipped with components that ensure that the failure of one tile does not mean the failure of the entire roof.

A Sole Power Tile System is guaranteed to generate electricity for a period of 20 years and is expected to continue to produce power well beyond the warranty period. In addition, the polymers employed in the tile can be recycled once

the product reaches the end of its life.

It is also the first environment solution that includes an aesthetic component. Due to their modular designs, these thin film panels are easy to fit and home owners will no longer be able to use the 'ugly roof' argument.

Further, flexible solar technology, a United Solar Ovonic product who are the world leaders in thin film know-how, is embedded in the tiles.

SRS Energy has successfully conducted product evaluations to test for outdoor performance vis-a-vis safety, long-term UV stability and color fastness, resistance to wind uplift, electrical output, durability and the extreme mechanical stresses found on a roof.

The design envelope of solar panels is seeing gigantic progress and it is just a matter of time before solar electricity becomes the norm.



NEW INSTALLATION

Modern Furniture. Open Office.

Warm and tactile, sophisticated and modern, Godrej Interio's new desk based system brings novelty and style to the Schneider office in Gurgaon. Modular and adaptable, the furniture more than lives up to the needs of Schneider office comprising 785 workstations, modular cabins and conference rooms. This inspiring range is well complemented by 900 chairs.





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