



## project

### GOOD AS GOLD

Based at the foot of London's iconic Trellick Tower, Goldfinger is an award-winning social enterprise that designs and crafts furniture using responsibly managed British wood, locally sourced reclaimed timber donated by London-based partners and mature trees felled due to weather, urban development or disease that would otherwise be chipped and burned. Bespoke commissions can be found in some of the UK's most prestigious retail and hospitality locations. For its most recent project, the team created a 29-piece collection of dining tables, benches and stools for Corner, the new riverside café and bar at the Tate Modern. [goldfinger.design](http://goldfinger.design)

## project

### POND POWER

Rapture & Wright is a different kind of fabric company. Among its lengthy list of sustainability credentials, the British studio has developed a ground-breaking ecological treatment system that cleans water contaminated by inks, ready for release back into the environment. Through a series of living ponds, the process uses flora and fauna, including bacteria, microorganisms, invertebrates, fungi and plants, to consume the print waste while also creating a habitat to support creatures higher up the food chain. In addition to cleaning the water, the ponds and surrounding area have also become habitats for wildlife such as insects, butterflies, waterbirds and larger mammals. [raptureandwright.co.uk](http://raptureandwright.co.uk)



## material

### COOL WOOL

When it comes to the production of sustainable fabrics, Italian company Manteco is leading the charge. A case in point is MWool, a low-impact, high-end, biodegradable fibre and the key ingredient in its zero-waste textiles. The result of 80 years of research, a cutting-edge recycling process takes pre- and post-use garments and wool scraps, and transforms them into a fibre as durable and high quality as virgin wool. This innovative material impacts 99.2 per cent less on climate change, 99.9 per cent less on water use and 93.3 per cent less on energy consumption. What's more, it's available in 1,000 colours, all created without chemicals simply by mixing recycled fibres. [manteco.com](http://manteco.com)



## material

### INSIDE STORY

A hotbed for innovation in sustainability, Milan Design Week 2023 saw furniture manufacturer Tacchini collaborate with research-based design studio Formafantasma on Tacchini Flock, an installation focused on reworking upholstered seating from the inside. Using a technique inspired by traditional mattress production, the Italian innovators took coarse, non-polluting sheep's wool, more usually seen as a by-product of sheep farming activities, and combined it with natural latex to create a soft, durable and hypoallergenic material suitable for replacing industrial foam. [formafantasma.com](http://formafantasma.com)



PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREA FERRARI

## designer

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If you thought corn was just for grilling and popping, think again. Mexican designer Fernando Laposse has developed Totomoxtle, a renewable marquetry material made from the waste husks of colourful heirloom corn species. In addition to creating an attractive veneer that can be used on furniture and design objects, the production of Totomoxtle also repopularises an endangered species of maize, as well as providing employment for Mexico's vulnerable indigenous Mixte people in Tonahuixtla, a village in the southwestern state of Puebla. [fernandolaposse.com](http://fernandolaposse.com); [friedmanbenda.com](http://friedmanbenda.com)





# NEWS



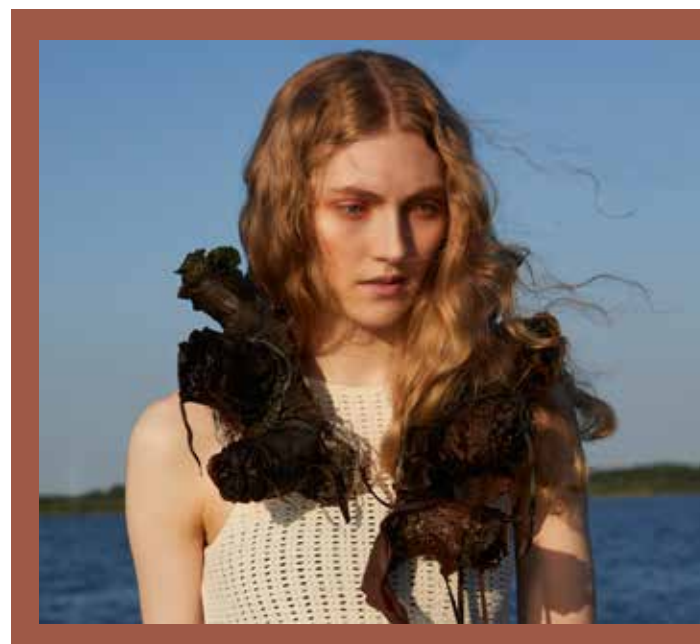
## material SHEAR GENIUS

The sheep in Rotterdam are busy beasts. Each year, 2,000 of the cuddly characters keep the grass in the city short and, together, they produce around 5,000 kilograms of surplus wool. Enter Christien Meindertsma, creator of the De Zachte Stad project (Dutch for 'the soft city'). Having studied this natural resource, which until recently was considered worthless due to its low quality, the Dutch designer began experimenting with processes including water-free 3D felting, which makes it possible to create larger objects for use in interior design, construction and even the music industry, as a potential replacement for toxic foam rubber. The project recently won a Dutch Design Award. [dezachtestad.nl](http://dezachtestad.nl)

PHOTOGRAPHY JAN DE GROEN

## project STRAW & ORDER

Thatch may be more widely associated with traditional buildings, but CINARK, the Center for Industrialised Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy, has other plans for its future use. Since 2021, its researchers have been experimenting with renewable biogenic materials that capture carbon from the atmosphere as they grow, which could reduce Danish carbon emissions by 70 per cent by 2030. At '4 to 1 Planet', an exhibition on Copenhagen's waterfront, Leth & Gori and Rønnow architects also worked with the centre on Thatched Brick Pavilion, a structure demonstrating how thatch can be combined with clay blocks to create buildings with high levels of insulation and fire safety. [royaldanishacademy.com](http://royaldanishacademy.com); [lethgori.dk](http://lethgori.dk); [ronnowarkitekter.dk](http://ronnowarkitekter.dk)

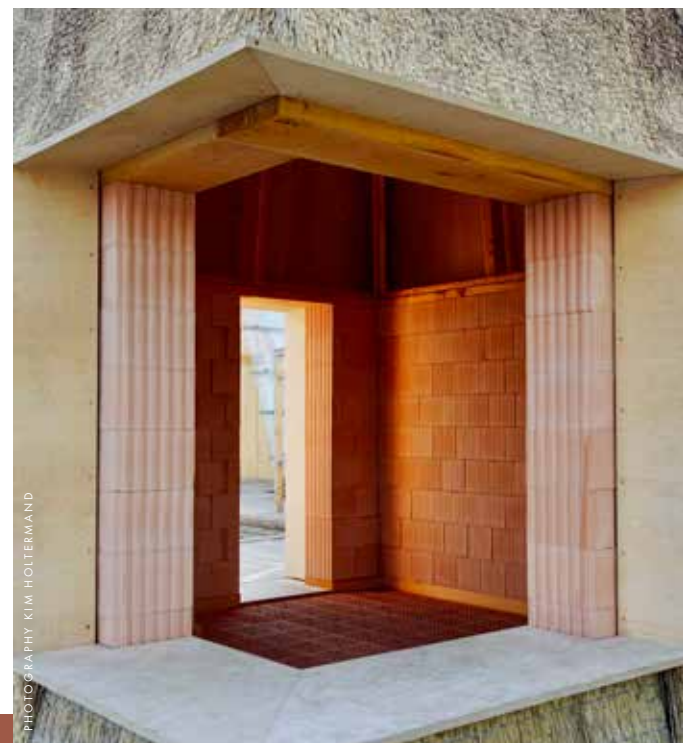


## material NEW WAVE

Founded by Icelandic artist Katrín Þorvaldsdóttir, Emblamar Studio develops products from organic materials, including kelp, harvested responsibly from across the Reykjanes Peninsula. Using a patented formula to treat the seaweed, which otherwise would have mostly gone to waste, the studio has developed a process that creates a pliable, textile-like material suitable for making clothing, accessories such as wallets and handbags, and for use in the production of furniture and other household items. [emblamarstudio.com](http://emblamarstudio.com)

## designer SHEET DREAMS

Oscillating effortlessly between sculpture and design, Jonathan Bocca's work combines functionality and sustainability with a brilliantly playful aesthetic. Inspired by dreams, the animal-like pieces include furniture, lighting and smaller objects such as candlesticks, and are crafted from durable, recycled paper sourced from businesses in his hometown of Lucca in central Italy. Having studied both at IED, a fashion, art and design school in Florence, and Fabbrica, a research and development centre in Treviso, his pieces also aim to raise awareness around the re-use of waste in daily life. [job-jonathanbocca.com](http://job-jonathanbocca.com)



PHOTOGRAPHY KIM HOLTERMAN





## Through the looking glass

Durable, non-toxic and with a higher recycling rate than plastic, glass has been a beloved material for millennia. However, sand – glass's main ingredient – is the most-used resource in the world after water, and we're running out of it. Reason enough to reuse and recycle, which is exactly what these designers are doing.

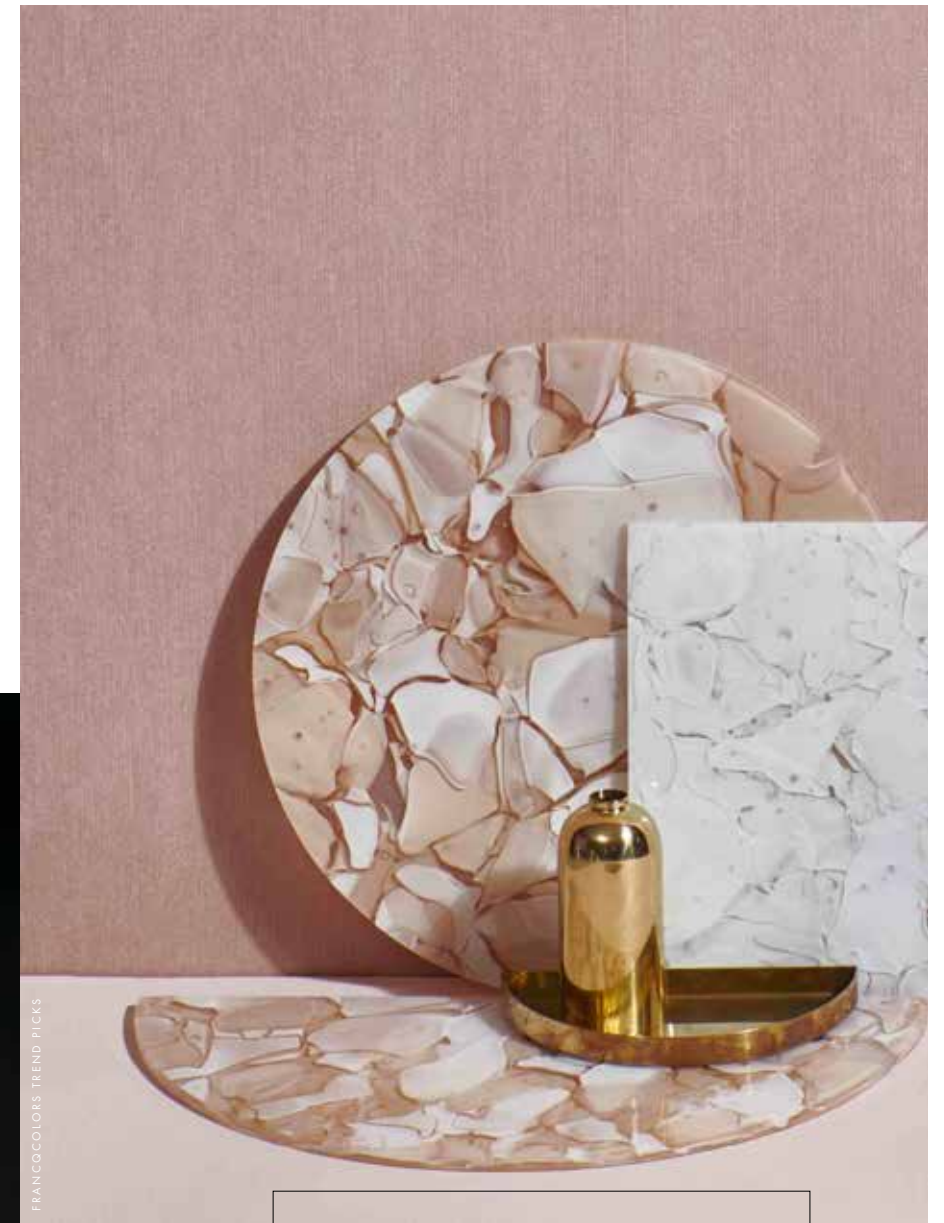


PHOTOGRAPHY MERET EBERL STYLING NINA OSWALD

Berlin-based designers Marie Jeschke and Anja Langer use waste from the German glass industry and their own cast stone formulation to create what they call 'glass paintings'. These surfaces, which have interesting compositions of shards in all shapes and sizes, can be turned into tabletops or decorative sculptures. [basisrho.com](http://basisrho.com)



Polish-born designer Justyna Poplawska has created a new material using recycled glass, bio-resin and colour pigments. From her Copenhagen studio, she uses the pulverised glass she collects from local factories to create interesting, colourful surfaces with subtle, shiny particles. [justynapoplawska.com](http://justynapoplawska.com)



FRANCOIS TREND PICKS

When making handblown glass pieces, up to a third of all the material is discarded. Czech glass light manufacturer Brokis is now turning those leftovers into a new, colourful material for architecture and interior design. Collaborating with Janštejn Glassworks, they built a custom furnace that can fuse and press up to 10 tonnes of glass shards per week. [brokisglass.cz](http://brokisglass.cz)