

idfx

INSPIRATION FOR INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

www.idfxmagazine.com

Bold and Beautiful

Cole & Son's geometry lesson embodies the trend for high-impact, patterned wallpapers

SHOW-STOPPERS

Highlights from 100% Design and Decorex

BATHROOM FOCUS

Innovative products and inspiring projects



SEPTEMBER 2011 / £5.50



Contents

SEPTEMBER 2011

ON THE COVER THIS MONTH

Wardrobe covered in Hexagon (93/1002) from Cole & Son's Geometric collection www.cole-and-son.com

OPEN

- 11 **Editor's letter** The London Design Festival will prove to be a useful barometer of the state of the UK's design industry
- 15 **Pulse** Our monthly round-up of the latest and best products for stylish interior schemes
- 17 **Diary** Design-related events around the UK and worldwide
- 18 **News** This year's London Design Festival will be the biggest yet
- 20 **Company profile: Scholtès** The French company is opening a showroom in London to showcase its luxury appliances

FEATURES

- 22 **Off the wall** We pick the best papers from the new collections and discuss trends with their designers
- 30 **Profile: Diana Yakeley** Interior design needs more professional rigour, says the new president of the British Institute of Interior Design
- 33 **Lighten up** Architects and interior designers are being encouraged to create buildings that embrace the essential, life-giving power of daylight
- 38 **First class** Standout work from this year's design graduates
- 40 **100% Design** A preview of this year's top exhibits
- 44 **Decorex** Our favourite pieces from the upcoming event
- 50 **Green harbour** Eco-friendly products from Chelsea

BATHROOM FOCUS

- 54 **Smarter bathing** In today's hi-tech bathrooms, digital innovation is revolutionising the way we wash and relax
- 65 **Above and beyond** Frank Sawkins, founder of Czech & Speake, creates a marble bathroom for a Mayfair house
- 69 **Three in one** Large-format tiles and engineered stone give three bathrooms a light and fresh minimalist look
- 73 **Clean up** Our selection of beautiful basins
- 75 **Splash out** The latest tiles to make a statement

PORTFOLIO

- 110 **Eastern essentialism** Architect Mauro Lipparini brings his particular Italian style to a residential development in Shanghai
- 116 **Perfect harmony** A hands-on client worked closely with designer Debbie Gee to turn a 1960s flat into a serene inner-city sanctuary
- 121 **Back to the future** An imposing Georgian home regains its original layout and gets a calm scheme mixing the classic and the contemporary
- 125 **Practice profile: Squire & Partners** A key name behind the Chelsea Barracks development boasts three decades of residential experience

CLOSE

- 127 **Showrooms** New places and spaces around the UK
- 129 **Pulse kitchen and bathroom** The latest and best kitchen and bathroom products
- 138 **Number-one fan** Jeff Salmon admires Stéphane Ducatteau's Cadre chair



Portfolio

INSPIRATION FROM THREE OF OUR FAVOURITE RECENT INTERIOR PROJECTS

To submit your project for consideration in idfx's Portfolio, please contact Kate Burnett (kburnett@idfxmagazine.com)

EASTERN ESSENTIALISM

Mauro Lipparini brings his own particular Italian style to a residential development in Shanghai (p110)

PERFECT HARMONY

A hands-on client worked closely with designer Debbie Gee to turn a 60s flat into an inner-city sanctuary (p116)

BACK TO THE FUTURE

An imposing Georgian property regains its original layout and benefits from a sophisticated scheme (p121)

Italian architect Mauro Lipparini is bringing his own particular style and philosophy to Royal Garden, a 3,500-unit residential development in Shanghai

Words KATE BURNETT

EASTERN ESSENTIALISM

The opening up of the Chinese market to international trade offers a great opportunity for western companies to present their skills and products to the country's rapidly increasing — and consuming — middle class. In terms of architecture and design, Italian Mauro Lipparini is one of the first wave of western professionals to start to explore the opportunities this new trade route presents.

One of Lipparini's current collaborations is Royal Garden, an ambitious residential development in Shanghai where he is working with developer Teh Soon Seng, chief executive of Yanfull (Shanghai). Each of Royal Garden's approximately 3,500 apartment and townhouse units, ranging from 100m² to 300m² in floor area, will come fully decorated and furnished with products from some of the best known European manufacturers, all under the oversight of Lipparini, the project's creative director.

Lipparini is well known in his native Italy where, as well as running his own private practice, he is in demand as a product designer, working with companies such as Ligne Roset, Misura Emme and Rolf Benz. He is also a faculty member of the University of Florence's architecture department. Lipparini has been spending more time in Asia in recent years as demand for his talents increases in Japan, in particular, and now in China.

The Royal Garden residential complex is set within a park of lawns, trees and water features. The buildings were designed in two contrasting formats, described by Lipparini as 'a series of perpendicular lines playing off each other. The taller buildings, at different, staggered heights, create a strong diagonal skyline. Together, these two formats confer a varied feel, a three-dimensional perspective freeing the overall design from cumbersome, uninvitingly massive overtones.'

SET IN STONE

A Modern wall unit from Porro, designed by Piero Lissoni, provides a focal point for this day area. The marble element is custom made to Lipparini's specifications



NATURAL WORLD

The Charles sofa and Eileen table make a lovely couple, both designed by Antonio Citterio for B&B Italia. There is also a Leaf chair by Claesson Koivisto Rune for Living Divani

Lipparini developed two strategies for the design of the interiors. The first was to create four thematic styles or 'interior formats', intended to appeal to the different tastes of Royal Garden's target buyers. These were Contemporary, Light Minimalist, Mature and Comfortable and Trendy.

Lipparini describes the essential feel of each: 'Mature and Comfortable offers a warm, relaxing feeling, characterized by the revival of classical themes reinterpreted in a modern light. It is all evident in the choice of wood, upholstery, textiles, curtains and furniture. Contemporary has an international character — it is metropolitan with distinct, original, eye-catching design features. Light Minimalist is designed according to essential, rational principles to create a gallery-like home with soft nuances of colour and materials. It is light and airy, poetic. Trendy is the most eclectic home, colourful, emotional, sparkling and unrestrained.'

The design of the immediate exterior surroundings of each building, and their entrance and lobby areas, will also follow and interpret the same themes.

To furnish and finish the schemes he has created, Lipparini has specified products from many of the top rank of Italian manufacturers, including Antonio Lupi, Armani, B&B, Boffi, Elam, Euromobil, Flexform, Misura Emme, Paola Lenti, Poliform, Porro, Solzi Luce, Tisettanta and Zanotta.

As well as creating mixtures of products and materials that evoke each of the four interior formats, Lipparini's other approach to the interiors is to create a number of monobrand townhouses and penthouses. As he explains, these will be 'designed exclusively, top-to-bottom, with the interior and furniture designs of some of the industry's most famous names: Giorgio Armani, Antonio Citterio, Piero Lissoni,

WATER FEATURE

Light and water play an important part in Lipparini's designs for the exterior spaces, which are designed to enhance and complement the interior schemes



GREY MATTER

Patricia Urquiola makes her mark in this space, which features her *Lens* table (B&B), the *Caboche* pendant light (Foscarini) and her *Lowland* sofa for Moroso



CLEAN LINES

German design comes to the fore in this bathroom, with a bathtub designed by Norbert Wangen (Boffi) and Dornbracht Mem fittings from Sieger Design

Patricia Urquiola and Carlo Colombo. For example, the Armani townhouse interior will be personally designed by Armani and furnished entirely with both customized furniture and the branded line, Armani/Casa. Likewise with Citterio, Lissoni, Colombo, and Urquiola.' Two more townhouses will also be designed using products Lipparini has designed for a range of different manufacturers.

Lipparini is quick to explain that his designs are an expression of his ideas about life at home and not simply about brands or glamorous interiors. 'What's exciting about Royal Garden is the opportunity it gives me to contemplate the home of the future,' he says. 'I feel the term "home" is likely to undergo a deep transformation in meaning... as a result of the IT revolution and advanced interactive technological materials that foreshadow the automated home. One of the challenges of the Royal Garden project, and one I repeatedly face in general, is to render these homes warm and accommodating, rather than purely technical. Mankind seems to be forgetting about the pleasurable rituals of living, so a related challenge has been to design homes that stimulate and nurture a humane attitude, a humanistic way of life. "Minimalism" has, of course, informed my style but it does not represent my stylistic ideal because of its inherent limitations. If I had to categorize my style, I would call it "essentialism"— an idiosyncratic mix of rigorous, yet eccentric, extroverted forms.' *idfx*

Contacts » **B&B Italia** www.bebitalia.it » **Boffi** www.boffi.com
 » **Dornbracht** www.dornbracht.com » **Foscarini** www.foscarini.com
 » **Living Divani** www.livingdivani.it » **Moroso** www.moroso.it
 » **Porro** www.porro.com » **Studio Lipparini** www.maurolipparini.com