

In brief

NEW STAR OF CRANFORD

Architecture practice Purcell Miller Tritton, a specialist of sensitive and historical environments, is working on alterations to Brook Street Chapel in Knutsford, Cheshire. It is the burial site of Elizabeth Gaskell, author of the novel Cranford, which is a successful TV period drama. The 1689 chapel is on a steep incline and only accessible by steps by its many visitors. The scheme includes changes to the adjacent School House to allow a level access.

www.pmt.co.uk

END TO TAKE, MAKE, WASTE

Founder and chairman of Interface Ray Anderson has written a book, Confessions of a Radical Industrialist, in which he presents the business case for sustainability and gives Interface's own environmental drive as a live example. Atlanta-based Interface is one of the world's largest manufacturers of modular carpet. It has won many awards and accolades for its drive for sustainability. Anderson's book is published by Random House, at £12.

www.interfaceflor.eu

INTERIORS GOES EAST

Commercial interiors specialist practice The Interiors Group is broadening its horizons and launching an United Arab Emirates operation in Abu Dhabi. The London-based firm is in partnership in the new venture with Sheikh Sultan Al Noaimi, a local royal with wide business interests in Abu Dhabi. The company says it has already been contacted by architectural firms and leasing agents looking to work with it in the UAE.

www.interiorsgroup.co.uk

NEW MAN TO BRE

Award-winning innovator Peter Ball has been appointed as strategic research director of the building technology business of BRE, the Better Regulation Executive, and part of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Ball, who joins from Costain, has an track record in contactless, mobile and sensor technologies.

www.bre.co.uk

KI's MAN IN DUBAI

Robert Cumming has joined contract furniture supplier KI to manage its business in the Middle East. He is based in Dubai. KI is one of the largest importers of furniture to the United Arab Emirates, working on many prestigious projects.

www.ki.com

f PENSON DESIGN ON ITS WAY TO REALITY

No concrete or block to be visible in new £330,000 arts venue in south London

Construction work is underway on Peckham Space, a dynamic new £330,000 art and arts venue designed by London-based practice Penson Group.

The building, designed for Camberwell College of Arts and sited close to the Stirling Prize-winning Peckham Library, is due for completion this month. The Penson Group was appointed to the project by the University of the Arts London.

Penson Group has designed it to be highly sustainable, using recycled materials and timber. CEO Lee Penson said: 'The fabric of the building

will be heavily insulated. Finishes internally will be sheet timber sprayed with water-based products.

'The structure is purely timber framed and an existing bund has been utilised to eliminate the need for new footings. There is not one piece of concrete or block in sight, and it requires little energy to construct and operate.'

Penson Group is working with specialists to develop a new type of coating to spray the entire structure with, to form one simplified object. www.pensongroup.com

**HOUSE PARTY GUESTS SIT COMFORTABLY**

Modern take on classic chair supplied

Contract furniture supplier to the hotel, restaurant and leisure sectors Inside Out Contracts has supplied the dining room furniture for a new and exclusive house-party venue in Suffolk.

Pettistree House near Woodbridge, a Georgian manor house that has been completely refurbished by its owner for luxury house hire, wanted a contemporary ambience. Inside Out Contracts, working with the client, provided its polycarbonate Queen chair in a selection of fresh and transparent colours.

The dining chair is a contemporary take on a classic design, bringing the Georgian dining room stylishly into the 21st century.

www.insideoutcontracts.com

**A PROJECT TO APPEAL TO ALL THE SENSES**

Practice ASAA goes all touchy-feely

Architecture practice ASAA has applied the five senses to a interiors renovation project in a former bank-turned offices in Paris.

The Paris Eight site, being prepared to attract new tenants, has been given the ambience of a hotel by ASAA, led by Axel Schoenert and Zsofia Varnagy. ASAA designed the furniture (sight); introduced a light ginger scent to embody the building (smell); specified 'sweet and soft' materials, including Corian (touch); created bespoke ambient music (hearing); and planned an intercompany restaurant (taste). The entrance lobby (pictured) was focused on to provide a first impression of comfort, elegance and harmony.

www.as-architecture.com



PENSON GETS TO THE ART OF THE MATTER

'Unifying' spray coating in development for £300,000 Camberwell College of Arts

The University of the Arts, London has appointed one of Europe's rising architecture practices to design a new public building.

Just five months after being commissioned to design the building for Camberwell College of Arts in Peckham, south London, practice Penson has created an original scheme that has already received detailed planning permission.

Penson is working as the architect, structural

engineer and interior designer on the project and expects the work to be completed by November. It is costing £300,000 and is funded by the Government and Southwark Council

The building will use recycled materials and timber with no visible concrete. Penson is working with specialists to develop a spray coating to cover the entire building so that it becomes a unified object. www.pensongroup.com



GLASS WALL TURNS BUILDING INTO ART

Installation made with Schott glass echoes Impressionist's paintings

A recreation centre named after an artist of the Belle Epoque now has a sparkling glass wall that echoes the Impressionist style of her work.

Using a combination of the textured and body-tinted coloured glass Artista and the semi-transparent relective glass Mirona, both from German glass producer Schott, the wall has been created by AIR Architecture at the centre in Bonnières-sur-Seine, where turn-of-the-20th-century artist Georgette Agutte lived and painted. www.schott.com



V&A CERAMICS GET NEW SETTING

Stanton Williams works on first phase of reworked and unified galleries

Working with a team of consultants, educators, conservators and curators, gallery designer Stanton Williams is creating a series of elegant, unified and accessible galleries for the Victoria and Albert Museum's unrivalled ceramics collection. The first phase of seven galleries, including a working studio and demonstration area, is due to open this autumn.

Stanton Williams also designed the recent major exhibition at the V&A, Leonardo da Vinci: Experience, Experiment and Design. www.stantonwilliams.com

4 Reggiani has teamed up with renowned architecture practice Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners to create the Ambar light. Ambar is made from die-cast aluminium and has a translucent casing that reveals the workings of the lighting system. It has been designed specifically for display lighting. www.reggiani.net

