

material advances and product breakthroughs

Noteworthy

Italian lighting manufacturer **iGuzzini** has its first U.S. showroom on Madison Avenue in New York City.

The International Code Council, ASHRAE, the U.S. Green Building Council, and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America have released the International Green Construction Code.

Pionite Decorative Surfaces' high-pressure laminates have received Forest Stewardship Council certification.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named **Kimberly-Clark** 2010 Energy Star Partner of the Year.

NOVA Chemicals was recently awarded five patents for the technology associated with Elemix concrete additive.

Armstrong has added an interactive Ceiling Recycling Environmental Impact Calculator to its website at armstrong.com/commceilingsna.

Superior Walls' insulated precast concrete wall systems have earned the Green Approved Product designation by the NAHB Research Center.

Mohawk Industries announced its alliance with **Polar Materials**, a Covington, Ga.-based company specializing in the use of recycled materials to replace mined minerals.

VAST Enterprises won the Design for Sustainability Award from the Plastics Environmental Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers.

Certainteed Restoration Millwork PVC Exterior Trim now meets ICC Evaluation Services' code requirements as designated in report number ESR-2922.

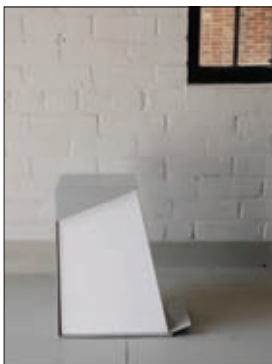
Sto Corp. has re-launched its website at stocorp.com.

Carnegie will use an anti-microbial backing called X-Protect Barrier Backing for its Xorel line of textiles.

Wilsonart Flooring has re-launched its commercial website at wilsonartcontract.com.

Architype Review is promoting an open platform that encourages communication between job seekers and employers at archityperewiew.com.

The **Lighting Quotient** partnered with IESNA to sponsor a \$2,500 scholarship for undergraduate or graduate students in accredited lighting degree programs. Students are required to submit a 1,500 word essay titled "The Next Generation of Lighting: How would you bring a historical lighting installation into the next generation of sustainability?" Visit tambient.com.



ABOVE LEFT: Waste Bin by Grace Lee
ABOVE RIGHT: Tria sofa by Justin Denher
LEFT: Bridge Chair by Tomas Alvarez and Kevin Scott



by Megan Mazzocco, associate editor

NEWS:

Students Revolt at NeoCon

Conducting a design student revolution can be time-consuming, technically challenging and, most importantly, expensive. Students involved in the Furniture Revolution Gallery during NeoCon's World Trade Fair in Chicago have the opportunity to showcase their subversive ideas on furniture design. Young designers like Grace Lee have submitted their creations, and some prototypes will be displayed for attendees and exhibitors to observe, offer suggestions or even discuss mass-production.

Lee designed Waste Bin, a lid-less, touch-less square-shaped trash receptacle (see above). A folded and welded aluminum cover conceals the plastic liner, and the two separate components combine without hardware. Waste Bin is activated by foot for a clean design in both senses of the word. "The idea started with an innate gesture of the body," says Lee. "I started to focus on a foot, using a foot to open something."

The illuminated Tria sofa from Justin Dehner was inspired by the designer's observations of people in dimly lit public spaces, mostly nightclubs, according to the designer. The robust public seating design creates privacy through a high back, arm slats and an underside LED lighting design. In his submission Dehner says, "The LED lighting creates a unique effect in a dark environment. It casts a low glow to the floor for unmatched ambiance." In the future, the design may go off the grid with a solar-powered version.

Bridge Chair designers Kevin Scott and Tomas Alvarez have targeted a market that, in their opinion, is lacking in the contemporary lounge chair department. They see Bridge Chair as a viable seating option for a wide range of contemporary interiors. The high-tech duo has specified a carbon fiber and epoxy resin composite for an arm/leg/sled-base and seat/

back structure. Their research on carbon fiber composites has led them to believe that with the proper techniques, they can successfully break the rules that

"We'll push the mechanics of the [carbon fiber sled-based chair] design as far as we can."

typically govern the structure of the sled-based chair. They are trying to get funding to develop a working prototype to answer a lot of unknowns of the physical properties. "Either way," say Scott and Alvarez, "we'll push the mechanics of the design as far as we can."

Although these pieces have only existed for a short time, or may not even be built yet, their designers have formed some definite ideas about their commercial success and future iterations on their designs. Tria sofa designer Dehner says he would take another look at how the arms attach to his sofa. Lee says she is planning to get her trash bin design mass-produced; she is applying for patents and talking with several manufacturers. Trying to raise money online at kickstarter.com has not dampened their plans: Scott and Alvarez plan to add to the Bridge Chair. "We have a good idea about what the ottoman might look like, so stay tuned," they say.

Whether these designs go forward is the exciting part. Set up to highlight students who have the potential to be the next great designer, the gallery has the potential to become one of the most exciting 'reality' components at NeoCon. "The idea was born out of a discussion about the status of furniture design in the United States," says Antonio Larosa, project chair of the Furniture Revolution Gallery. Hopefully some major players in the design industry take notice of this intriguing concept.