

# ON THE SURFACE

Exciting textures that tantalise



Droplet Tile in Pastel, by Johnson Tile

No more looking at the same four walls - take them from drab to fab with amazing textures....

Design is in everything we experience. Essentially, it's a study of human interaction with the physical world and our responses to it. Designers seek to resolve and enhance this interaction,

through a mixture of craft, science, storytelling, history and philosophy. That's why it's so important.

We experience design through our senses. After visual, touch is a key factor in how we feel in a space. This makes texture a really

important ingredient for your home, bringing a sense of depth and movement, without which a space can feel rather flat.

After years of love for matt emulsion, feature walls are back with great aplomb, as a new vigour for visual detailing hits our homes. From panelling to papering - the length and breadth of Britain has been embracing DIY like never before. So, if you're thinking about leaving blank walls behind, here's some textural delights to whet your appetite.

Gentle sorbet shades are captured in this striking Abstract Droplet tile in pastel mix (image opposite page). It's part of the Absolute Collection by Johnson Tiles, who've been manufacturing tiles in the ceramics heartland of Stoke-on-Trent since 1901.

With the elegance of a mermaid, available in matt or metallic, this is so delicious it shouldn't be reserved just for bathrooms. Imagine it in

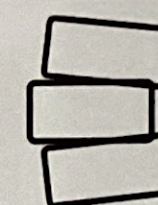


## Step inside Polly Gibbs

Polly Gibbs, Creative Director at Coco Design, shares her down to earth approach to interiors, from design secrets to trends and everything in between.

your home office, kids playroom, or the kitchen as a modern take on a 50s diner. It also comes in white and as a chevron tile to dial down the vibrancy if you prefer a more subtle, origami-like texture.

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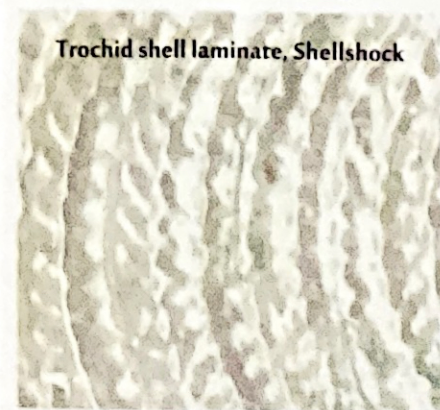
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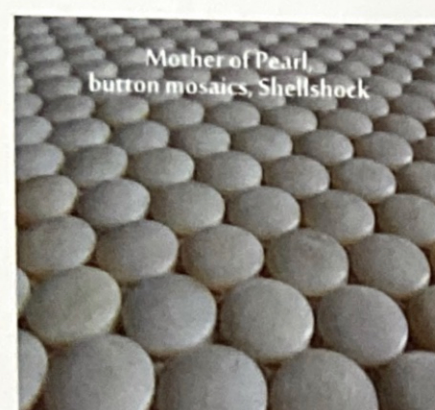
'The service, product quality and installation was first class. Communication throughout was excellent. Looks amazing!'

Unit 23, Kemps Farm, Chapel Road, Ford, Buckinghamshire, HP17 8XG Tel: 01296 706030  
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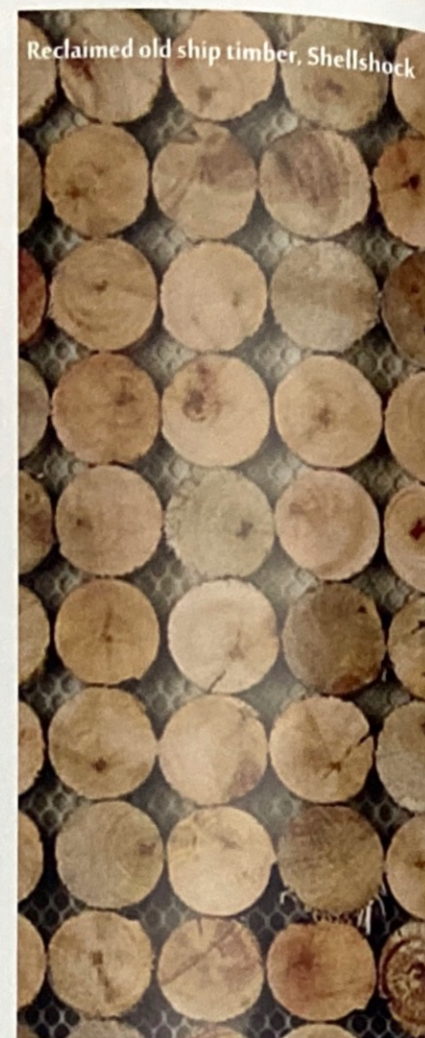
Trochid shell laminate, Shellshock



Mother of Pearl, button mosaics, Shellshock



Reclaimed old ship timber, Shellshock



Reclaimed old ship timber, Shellshock

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The Abstract range takes inspiration from two main trends for 2021 - Serenity and Geometrics. Serenity encourages a natural rhythm and balance to modern life, taking influence from Japanese culture and traditions. Shape and patterning are key to this trend with links to Origami and concertina folds. Light and shadow play across the surface of the tiles when fitted in unusual lay patterns to create simple yet effective decoration.

Colours are captured on a

spectrum scale within the trend, from the architectural colours of stone and steel, to the pastel variations of softer, more playful tones.

The look also sits comfortably within the Geometric surface trend, a staple of design schemes for years now. Chevrons remain vital to this trend, along with the introduction of smoother, more rounded shapes across which the Abstract range straddles. (Abstract Collection, from £75.22m<sup>2</sup>, Johnson Tiles. They also have an outlet store and offer an NHS staff discount).

Next up is Karuun, (see image previous page) a man-made material processed from rattan, a climbing palm which grows quicker than trees. It relies on biodiversity to survive and won't flourish in a monoculture, so supporting its cultivation actively helps preserve our planet's rainforests and gives local communities a sustainable income.

It has a unique capillary structure, which is simultaneously permeable to both air and light, while also being strong and tactile. A hybrid of sorts, it's lightweight as well

Acupanel in Juniper Green

Acupanel in Smoked Oak



Acupanel in Scarlett



Palm Cove

as decorative, that lends itself perfectly to creating wall features with an original look.

Shellshock (see images opposite page) began fifteen years ago when a trip to China to visit a university friend ignited an idea, and a romance. While visiting a beach, founders Jonathan Kern and his friend came across a van selling shell photo frames and tissue boxes. "To cut a long story short we bought the artisan business and started introducing mother of pearl for interiors," Jonathan explains. "I married my business partner's sister and we now live in the Loire Valley in France, having refurbished a 14th century Manor House." Shellshock supplies quality products to hotels, cruise ships, casinos and private yachts in 83 countries around the world. Their extensive collection includes these beautiful, sustainably sourced three-dimensional wooden mosaics,

made from reclaimed ship timber. The mother of pearl products are created by layering paper-thin slices together to achieve a luxurious finish. Such tactile textures will add interest and depth, with the added charm of an artisan's touch and interesting provenance. (From £17.46 per sheet / excluding shipping. Minimum order quantity may apply).

One of the most accessible and easy to install options is Acupanel (see images opposite page).

An acoustic slat wood range offering a state of the art, noise-reducing panelling solution. Each panel has been handcrafted to not only transform walls (and ceilings) visually, but also create a quieter, more comfortable environment. The range features unique finishes from clean modern textures, to warm rustic wood and new matt colours in Scarlett, Juniper Green, Slate

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# Charles Huntington Flooring

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Grey and Midnight Blue. Each panel is created from FSC certified materials and will transform a flat space into an uber cool one. (From £189, Acupanel, available from The Wood Veneer Hub).

The last products I'm sharing are these beautiful Palm panels, reminiscent of LA boulevards lined with gently swaying palms.

Architects and designers love them for their versatility, they're available in translucent form, which work in place of glass as shower screens, sliding doors, room dividers or backlit wall panels for example, and in solid colours for wall panelling and countertop fabrication. Manufactured through a layering process of color, patterns, images or even textiles, that make creative possibilities limited only by your imagination. (Contact 3Form for options and pricing).

There's so many more surface options to really bring your home to life, and one place you absolutely must check out is Material Lab in London. It's a designer's paradise full of samples (including some of those featured here) that will exceed way beyond your imagination. I was like a kid in a candy store when I visited and I guarantee you will be too!

### Source List

[material-lab.co.uk](http://material-lab.co.uk)  
[johnson-tiles.com](http://johnson-tiles.com)  
[outlet.johnson-tiles.com](http://outlet.johnson-tiles.com)  
[shellshockdesigns.com](http://shellshockdesigns.com)  
[karuun.com](http://karuun.com)  
[acupanel.com](http://acupanel.com)  
[thewoodveneerhub.co.uk](http://thewoodveneerhub.co.uk)  
[3-form.com](http://3-form.com)

For a fix of design inspo between magazines visit: [curious-coco.com](http://curious-coco.com) and chat with Polly on Insta, Twitter and Facebook @thecuriouscoco

● Polly is an award-winning designer, Top 50 Home Influencer - Sweetpea & Willow, Decorex100 Interiors Influencer & Amara Interiors Blog Award Finalist... If you've got a rockin' interior or design dilemma, message her and it could feature in the next issue.

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Palm Mini Daiquiri



Palm Panels by 3Form