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INSPIRED LIVING: December 2011/January 2012

This month, we introduce you to brand new products in the Trade Essentials® range, which has been designed with you, the trade and design professional in mind. We share some insights into interior trends set to make their mark in 2012, plus explore how decors in The Laminex Group's portfolio can achieve these up-to-date looks. We're also out and about in Brisbane looking at how a 1910 building was transformed into a stunning boutique hotel.

NEWS: SPECIALTY BOARDS FOR TRADE PROFESSIONALS

The Trade Essentials range offers one of the largest ranges of wood panelling products available to specifiers, architects, builders and trade professionals. Giving design professionals:

- **More product choices to gain valuable Green Star credits**
- **Economical solutions for structural and non-structural applications**
- **A variety of low formaldehyde and low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) products**



The latest addition of Specialty Boards products include Litecraft®, Strandboard™, Strandfloor™, and Triboard™ available in High Density, Pinnable and Lite varieties, to expand the range even further for environmentally preferable solutions in structural and non-structural applications.

Strandboard has robustness suitable for a wide range of building and furniture joinery applications. Constructed from large timber flakes bonded

together with no added formaldehyde resins, Strandboard delivers aesthetic appeal when polished, washed or raw.

Triboard has unique three-layered structure, consisting of a Strandboard core sandwiched between fibreboard skins, resulting in a smooth outer surface and strong inner core. With surprising strength, Triboard is available in High Density (HD), Pinnable or Lite varieties featuring individual performance properties ideal for applications from workstation partitions to commercial tables and benchtops.

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Strandfloor is a smarter solution for commercial and residential flooring. Bonded together with no added formaldehyde resins, Strandfloor is made up of large timber flakes randomly layered for an attractive flooring solution. Manufactured with a polypropylene tongue and groove system, Strandfloor is easy to install and is available in two additional treatment possibilities to provide resistance to insect attack (Termite Treated) or both fungal decay and insect attack (H3 Treated).

As a self-supporting pinnable substrate, Litecraft saves time and money. The low density panel is lighter and easier to handle than other panel products and, with its self-supporting structure, it eliminates the need for additional fabrication materials, making Litecraft more economical than traditional construction methods ideal for workstation partitions and office screens. .

In addition to accruing valuable Green Star credits, these additions to the Trade Essentials range have all been sourced from responsibly managed forests and carry FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council) certification, made from FSC Mix wood sources.

For more details on Trade Essentials, click [here](#)

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DESIGN FOCUS: TWO KEY INTERIOR TRENDS FOR 2012

Want to impress your clients the latest interior trends? We sat down and spoke with Laminex Design Centre Manager, Lorraine Brigdale to get the inside word on what will be shaping our interiors this year.

Trend 1 - Modernist



One of the key design aspects for 2012 is 'Modernist' design. This trend focuses on using as little as possible and as much as necessary to achieve a stylish look. The 40s and 50s was a key style influencer of the Modernist look, with clean geometric lines and sometimes with 50s decorative details which were in turn influenced by Art Deco, New York Chrome, Scandinavian style and Bauhaus design. As far as furniture pieces go, think oblique coffee tables, sleek natural wood table tops and cabinets, teamed with furniture with splayed legs in wood or black metal.

As seen here, to get the modernist look, use:

- Laminex Finished Designed Timber Veneer panels in **Spotted Gum Wave**

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Or from the wider portfolio from The Laminex Group, use:

- Formica **Slalom**
- Laminex **Chamois**
- Laminex **Hydramesh**



Trend 2 - Revisit

In a new direction from the popular retro style, the 'Revisit' trend peels back to real design, embracing a forward-thinking approach to decorative details and scale. This contemporary style mixes and matches arty, hand-crafted patterns and colour, with vintage treasures blending romance, flowers, graphic images, script, patterns, wood, paper, metal and linen to create one of the most sought after interior movements for 2012.

As seen here, to get the modernist look, use:

- Laminex Fusion Design Source in **Cantata**

- Laminex **Peacestone**
- Laminex ColourTech doors in **Peacock** and **Pumice**
- Laminex Metaline splashbacks and panels in **Diamond Ice**

Or from the wider portfolio from The Laminex Group, use:

- Formica **Bliss Cinder**
- Formica **Bliss Shitake**
- Laminex **Hakata**
- Laminex **Anticipation**
- Laminex **Sassi**

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ALL EYES ON: WOODGRAINS AND EARTHY TONES

Wood and other natural materials are claiming the title as the ‘new black’ in everything from jewellery to interior design. The latest products from Formica® make it easy to encapsulate natural beauty in interiors.



Formica Gloss Panels and Formica Vinyl doors introduce nine fresh decors, ranging from neutrals to woodgrains that are suitable for creating stylish drawers, doors and other vertical kitchen surfaces.

From the catwalk to the kitchen, the movement of ‘new neutrals’ means increasing attention is given to surface finishes. Helping designers embrace this trend for a subdued palette, the Formica Gloss Panels and Formica Vinyl doors ranges boast a number of earthy hues ranging from *Gentle Beige*, *Mulga* and *Streetlight*, that will continue to be desirable for seasons to come.

Across a spectrum of tones and grains that will turn heads, *Hotham Oak*, *Idyllic*, *Urban Wood*, *Silver Strata* and *Snow Elm* introduce the timeless look of timber to kitchen surfaces.

Design Centre Manager, Lorraine Brigdale said the updated Formica Gloss Panels and Formica Vinyl doors ranges are inspired by colours, textures and prints seen in all realms of fashion and design to add a new dimension to interior surfaces.

“The latest decor additions capture the most desirable colours and patterns making waves in international design capitals to make it easier for homeowners and renovators to create contemporary looks that will remain fresh and on trend,” Lorraine said.

Each of the colours within the Formica Gloss Panel range have matching gloss ABS Edging and can be easily colour coordinated with the Formica Vinyl doors range as well as the wider Formica Colour Range.

Formica Vinyl doors are not only available in the desirable look of gloss; the range also offers a stylish velvet or beautiful pearl finish.

To find out more Formica Gloss Panels and Vinyl Doors range or view brochures and product information, click [here](#).

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OUT AND ABOUT: BALFOUR HOTEL CASE STUDY

Nestled in the fashionable inner-city Brisbane suburb of New Farm, a beautifully restored and refurbished 1910 building has been transformed into the stunning and intimate five star hotel.



Queensland-based Coop Creative was the company behind the interior fitout of the Spicers Balfour Hotel, calling on a host of Laminex products to complement the original characteristics of the building, while bringing understated luxury to the heart of the hotel.

Coop Creative interior designer, Claire Stevens, said the original building was built in 1910 to house returning soldiers as a short term accommodation facility until 1940.

“With the bones of the building holding so much history, we wanted to maintain the modesty of its structure and make reference to the original tin used for the hotel’s roof with carefully chosen decorative surfaces,” she said.

Stevens looked to the versatility of the Laminex Colour Palette and Laminex® Innovations® decors to highlight the beautiful historical quirks of the building. From the hotel rooms to the back office, a variety of decors were used throughout the hotel’s interior in a wide range of applications, blending together to provide a setting that effortlessly makes guests feel at ease.

Each of the nine rooms have their own quirky design elements and feature *Moonstone* for the wardrobes and the tin-like decor, *Steel Blue*, as the choice for the desktops in some of the rooms.

The neutral tone of *Moonstone* extends into the hotel’s office, complementing another metallic decor, *Charcoal*, for the office shelves and desktop.

Even the gym is lightly infused with the subtle undertones of luxury thanks to the use of *Stipple Burnished Plum* for handy storage cupboards.

In the butler’s room, a splashback made from Laminex Innovations *Brushed Brass* continues to highlight the origins of the building, and works harmoniously with cupboard doors, drawers and open shelves in Laminex Colour Palette *Oyster Grey* to create a luxurious space for guests to unwind and enjoy the views.

For Coop Creative, another consideration when choosing Laminex was the ability to vary the colours of the cabinetry interiors while still using the same ABS edging running around the exposed gables.

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The refurbishment of the Spicers Balfour Hotel was named as a 2011 Australian Interior Designs Awards (AIDA) finalist.

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