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# AZURE

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outdoor products

## Fantastic plastic?

RETHINKING A TRICKY MATERIAL



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# Wall Treatments

EDITOR \_Kendra Jackson

Papers, panels and a scene-making surface designer

For the lobby of The Hub hotel in Oslo, Giles Miller used his studio's hexagonal Alexander tile in a tessellating installation to create a stunning double-curved surface.

## Depth Perception

LONDON DESIGNER GILES MILLER'S 3D INSTALLATIONS MOVE SEAMLESSLY FROM HUMBLE TO HIGH-END

WORDS \_Jaclyn Tersigni  
PHOTO \_Edvinas Bruzas

**More commonly associated with shipping boxes** and protective packaging, corrugated cardboard seems an unlikely source of inspiration. But for surface designer Giles Miller, this humble material was the impetus of his career: "I ended up developing surfaces through an interest in the materials themselves."

During his bachelor's degree studies in furniture design at Britain's Loughborough University, Miller had a self-described "eureka moment" after discovering that manipulating angles in the cardboard created different tones. What followed was a series of buzzed-about cardboard furniture — and the interest of fashion

powerhouse Stella McCartney: In 2009, as he was finishing a master's degree in design products at London's Royal College of Art, Miller was commissioned by her brand to create a large-scale mural for a retail store in Paris.

His fluting process was the "catalyst for the whole studio coming together," Miller says of his eponymous London-based atelier, founded in 2011. "Everything since then has been an evolution of that idea,"

"Everything" includes the conception of space-defining wall and surface treatments for such clients as Harrods, Hermès, Marriott International and Qatar Airways. Early undertakings include an archway for Clerkenwell Design Week in 2012 — composed of 20,000 laser-cut wood hexagons, each set at a unique angle — and additional work for Stella McCartney locations. More recently, the studio developed a large-scale lobby installation for Oslo's The Hub hotel; fanned strips of tessellating ceramic tiles create a double-curved surface that resembles a starry night sky behind the reception desks.

When a client approaches the studio, Miller undertakes a comprehensive study of the project's context, then weaves in whatever he and his team are excited about at the moment. "Every project is a combination



of our creative trajectory at the time, the client and the context," Miller says.

The studio also engages in "ongoing experiments in material development and composition." Both the Clerkenwell and The Hub projects, for example, incorporated Miller's own hexagonal Alexander tiles. He typically has his production partners fabricate the designed parts, which are then hand-assembled into panels at his workroom. The final product is about feeling as much as function. "There are all sorts of reasons why we would choose a certain finish," says Miller, "but what we're also trying to do is create that kind of character that can define and actually improve people's experience of a space." [gilesmiller.com](http://gilesmiller.com)





**1 SQUARE**

A new 3D texture in the Dimension Walls collection, Square takes on a different profile depending on which angle it's approached from. The thermoplastic cladding — in sheets 122 by 244 or 305 centimetres — comes in a range of metallic finishes, from red and silver to the Burnished Brushstroke shown. [mdcwall.com](http://mdcwall.com)

**2 ATMOS**

Under Pure+FreeForm's new Interiors umbrella, this series of painted aluminum sheets is offered in a standard size (122 by 450 centimetres) or formed into panel systems for both wall and ceiling applications. Custom shapes are also offered, like the rest of the product line, in more than 20 finishes. [purefreeform.com](http://purefreeform.com)

# Modern Metals

ADD INTEREST AND DEPTH TO INTERIOR PROJECTS WITH PANELS — FLAT, 3D OR PERFORATED — IN LUSTROUS METALLIC FINISHES

WORDS \_Kendra Jackson

**3 NUBILA**

Part of Paola Lenti's foray into wallcoverings, these single-faced wood fibre panels are clad in a close weave fabric coated in copper that has undergone a unique oxidation process. A collaboration with Italian metals studio De Castelli, the panels come in four colours (Foliage is shown). They're fixed using a hooked mounting system and separated by rigid copper elements. [paolalenti.it](http://paolalenti.it)

**4 BACKLIT METAL SOLUTIONS**

Coupled with a new key-slot wall system, these ready-to-install perforated and laser-cut aluminum panels can now be backlit from above, below or behind by integrated LED strips. Five perforated and 27 laser-cut patterns are available, while custom designs can be accommodated. All are available in a variety of colours and finishes or digitally printed images. [mozdesigns.com](http://mozdesigns.com)

