

News

2004

Your gateway to the world's most innovative laminates

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PROVIDING A CURE

How digital printing cured a lacklustre hospital

BRIGHT EYES

Michel Guillon's new facility in London's Duke Street

PLUS:

The stunning colours of the Tin Fish

What's new? Coming and going

ABET



Making history work

LARGE-SCALE IMAGES USING ABET'S INNOVATIVE DIGITAL PRINTING TECHNIQUE ARE AGAIN ATTRACTING ATTENTION. THIS TIME IT IS AT THE ALSOP HIGH SCHOOL IN LIVERPOOL.

Designed by Team A go-go, the digitally printed laminate have been used to create large posters of famous faces drawn from history as well as creating exciting and distinctive table tops. The laminates demonstrate what the synergy between creativity and Digital Print can achieve.

This project has caused such a stir that it even merits a special mention in the OFSTED report which calls it "A model history classroom.... an outstanding facility where pupils have contributed significantly to producing a highly imaginative history classroom that combines the latest technology, artefacts, resources, staging and lighting.

The result is a working environment where a wide range of different learning experiences are created and pupils have an enjoyable and stimulating place in which to learn."

The Digital Print method of reproducing images directly into laminate has revolutionised both the laminate industry and the world of interior design as more and more ideas are being brought to life.



HPL - Yesterday's material or still a product for the future?

This is the question we and other producers of high pressure laminate are constantly being asked. The answer is of course both simple and complicated. In the 1960's, there was no need to ask that question, because times then were booming. In the 1980's the seeds of HPL decline had already been sown but now, in 2003, our beloved HPL is still here, a little bruised but fighting back!

We are all familiar with the recent past, having moved on from the inclusion of gold-dust, textile, veneer, metal and fibres into the decorative layer, and the addition of coloured layers into the core.

More recently there was the introduction of translucent and 3D laminates and, even more recently, the development of a very sophisticated printing process - digital printing that enables the production of near photo-quality images within the decorative surface.

So what of the future?

Where is there left to go for a product that is still basically manufactured in the same way today as in the 1930's? A number of interesting new HPL developments are now under investigation, including a heat-sensitive surface that changes colour on touch or by application of halogen lighting plus a laminate that can heat itself up under certain conditions.

Greater 'depth' within the surface is becoming an important factor for designers and we, as manufacturers, must also address this requirement. It should be possible to achieve more 'illumination' within compact HPL sheets and there are also great strides still to be made in the postforming of compact HPL.

Maybe all of these developments will come to fruition, maybe only some of them. Either way, there is still much life left in the old HPL yet, and maybe even a much brighter future.

**Comment from Abet
Sales Director, Philip Tuhill**

What's new?

10 YEARS OF 100%

Abet is again exhibiting at this year's 100% Design Exhibition at Earls' Court on the 23rd - 25th September. We will be on our 'usual' stand number (K30) although this year it is significantly larger. We decided to return to 100% as we feel it has finally 'got it right' and is returning to its design-led not product-led roots.

The main reason Abet didn't exhibit last year was that we felt the exhibition had moved in a different direction. The last couple of shows seemed to be far more along the lines of a Facilities Managers' show rather than the hard core design for which it got its name.

However, Abet is once again delighted to be supporting this important show in its anniversary year and look forward to welcoming our customers to come visit us

TOMORROW'S DESIGNERS TODAY

As part of Abet's continuing campaign to help and promote design students, the Company recently donated laminate to two students who were exhibiting their design works at public shows.

Judith Whyte, studying for a degree in Design at Goldsmiths College, used Magnetico dri-wipe laminate for her conceptual retail dressing rooms (pictured), which aim to enhance the retail experience for female shoppers with multi-view mirrors and laminate boards and walls where comments can be recorded and consumers are in control of their own experience!

This concept has proved so popular that it has already been on trial in Selfridges.



and to view our exciting Digital Print ranges and projects and a preview of the exciting new Serie Metalli 2005.

Abet is also donating an area of the stand to the British Laminate Fabricator's Association for promotional purposes.

The BLFA has been established for more than forty years and the only recognised trade association representing the laminate industry in the UK promoting best working practise among manufacturers, specifiers and fabricators



British Laminate Fabricators Association

Pictured below is a radical design for a dining room sideboard manufactured from Abet's COLOURS range by Alys Watson, a student from Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College.



This cleverly designed piece is manufactured to hold a complete dining solution of place settings for a full four-course dinner. Exhibited at Boiler House, Brick Lane as part of the Under Graduates exhibition, the sideboard drew much attention - especially the detailed routing involved and the subtle but practical use of space.

Abet congratulates both Judith and Alys for their innovative ideas and wishes them every success for the future.

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SEEING STARS

Abet has launched a revamped Serie Stars collection including several new colourways. The original collection proved very popular and Abet decided to relaunch a more comprehensive range so that specifiers had the widest possible choice.

It is hoped that the new range will inject even more vitality into this exciting and innovative stylish decorative laminate.

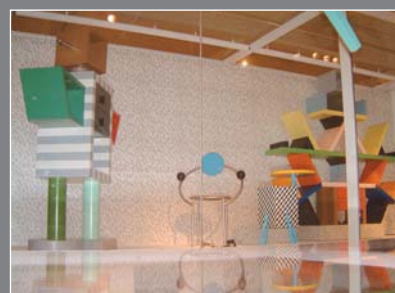
More information can be obtained from the sample line on 020 7473 6915

MEMPHIS DESIGN

Abet has once again donated laminate to the Design Museum. This time for "History of Modern Design in the Home".

The museum asked Abet to donate a backdrop to the Memphis Collection exhibit. Abet provided the "Craquele" pattern by Natalie du Pasquier in HPL.

Memphis, headed up by veteran Italian designer Ettore Sottsass and young collaborators including Nathalie du Pasquier, was hailed by the media as a manifestation of the post-modernist movement in furniture design.



It was the development and co-operation between Abet and Memphis that enabled the Memphis era to come to life as everything produced within the set utilised HPL from Abet.

Abet's technical breakthrough enabled dramatic colours and patterns to be produced on laminate for the first time giving rise to this historic trend.

Products in practice

OPTICAL BLUE

Hundreds of sheets of PRINT high pressure laminate from the COLOURS collection have been used to create a stunning interior for the optician Michel Guillon's new facility in London's Duke of York Square.

Designed and specified by Ab Rogers of KRD Design, Abet's 499 'Blu California' in a gloss finish has been used to clad everything from the dramatic and stunning display wall to the consultancy rooms, plinths, archive units and even the seating in the waiting areas. A similar design scheme is being used for a second store in Notting Hill Gate, to be opened shortly. Ab Rogers explains:

"We knew immediately we wanted to use laminate from Abet for this exciting and visionary application. Quite simply, Abet has the best colours and the right quality at the best price."



LAMINATES FEED THE SENSES

Oberflex Real Wood laminate, supplied by Abet, has been used to stunning effect at the new 'Busaba Eathai' restaurant in London's Store Street completed in January this year. The high pressure laminate is used to clad the walls, ceilings and features of this innovative Thai restaurant concept by Alan Yau with design from Paris based Christian Liaigre.

Over 250 sheets of Oberflex high pressure laminate incorporating Teak veneer create a striking and dramatic interior which exudes a distinctive feel to the restaurant.

Marcus Burley, of executive Architects Denton Corker Marshall Ltd, says "Oberflex was specified by Liaigre's office because of its rich finish that had all the integrity of real wood, but the inherent strength and durability of a high pressure laminate."



DRIVING HPL FLOORING FORWARD

PARQCOLOR GOLD HPL flooring is being used for the national refurbishment of Skoda car showrooms. With over 20 dealerships completed so far and further showrooms scheduled, the Birch is used to differentiate between the open show areas and offices as well as provide a visual walkway to guide visitors through the large areas.

Flooring contractor Peter Okun from Timberland Flooring says, "Abet's PARQCOLOR is an excellent flooring system to install. The finished look is superb; it is both durable and visually very impressive. The ranges are in the premier league of HPL flooring."

PARQCOLOR is quick and easy to install with tongued and grooved joints and does not require expensive preparation work. The finished floor is maintenance free, does not need polishing, sanding or varnishing and is easily cleaned with a damp mop.



ABET

Abet UK Ltd, 70 Roding Road, London Industrial Park, London E6 4LS

Tel: 020 7473 6910 Fax: 020 7476 6935 www.abet-ltd.co.uk email: sales@abet.ltd.uk