

INTERIORS BIRMINGHAM

Having approached with some trepidation, onoffice was pleasantly surprised by what it found at Interiors Birmingham. Looking beyond the usual halls of deathly dull brown sofas, we found Designersblock presenting its own Trends Area. The reaction to the four sections (which came complete with descriptions verging on the esoteric – “Retreat”, which juxtaposed real and synthetic, “Nocturne”, which was about glamour and extreme contrast) was overwhelmingly positive, according to Designersblock co-founder Rory Dodd: “It was the first time we’ve done anything like that and there were a lot of people that really loved the stand.”

Concrete Blond, which produces a range of “walled paper”, was one of five individual stands in association with Designersblock, and elsewhere the work of Birmingham’s School of Jewellery graduate Claire Bevan caught our eye. Bevan combines precious metal with handmade Nuno felt to produce these large-scale suspended interior screens, which we think would look great as a delicate textural partition or wallhanging.

James Design UK, which was part of the Northumbria University stand, has been on our radar ever since it won the 100% Futures award for “highly commended young designers 2007” at 100% Design last year. This year the group presented the gorgeous Wingback lounge chair from its first production batch. The frame is made out of pearl black lacquered beech with Yarwood Albany black leather. James Design plans to use Yarwood leather as a constant feature in its future products as it believes in sourcing all raw materials locally.

Interior screen by Claire Bevan



Geo Walled Paper by
Concrete Blond

