

# *idfx*

INSPIRATION FOR INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS

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**LINES IN  
THE SAND**

Who's in charge -  
architects or designers?

**DINING A LA CARTE**

New options for eating at home

# Homme Sweet Homme

Designing for the single man



MAY 2008 / £4.50



» idea of stepping some of the panels out adds an extra dimension to the room.'

Traditionally, it was timber panelling that was used to add decorative detail to a well appointed room. 'Depth of detail and elaborateness of panelling and moulding are a reflection of the desire for highly crafted, luxurious interiors,' says Sean Sutcliffe of Benchmark. 'The trend now is for contemporary detailing with negative rebate panelling details, where the details protrude inwards as opposed to traditional detailing which generally protrudes outwards.'

With Sutcliffe's comments in mind, we take a look at some of the contemporary timber options on offer, and also enjoy some of the new materials on the market. From polished metal or minute-cut crystal, chiselled stone or super-glossy acrylic, you'll be spoilt for colour and textural choice.

**Panel pointers from Aidan Mortimer of building and joinery specialist, Symm**

- Choose panelling that is sensitive to the architecture of the building
- **Proportion is key:** the panelling must make sense in the room and not crash into windows and doors
- Think first about all the services to the room so that vents, grilles and switches can be integrated into the design
- Panelling is a good way to conceal cabling in a home cinema, for example, but, again, it must be planned carefully first
- The surface upon which the panelling is to be built need not be perfect, because the frame behind can be used to take out irregularities, but tread with care - success depends on the skill of the installer.



## ECO OPTIONS

### OMARNO

The Palm Panel Collection is an eco-friendly option, produced from renewable and biodegradable coconut. These three-dimensional panels are made from individually carved and hand placed pieces, and available in sheets up to 1.22m x 2.44m in size. They can also be cut into personalised shapes or produced in smooth finishes. [www.omarno.com](http://www.omarno.com)

### 3FORM

Customers can choose what they want laminated between 3form's sheets of Ecoresin. Think flower petals, shells or bear grass, shown here. The co-polyester material has 40 per cent recycled content and produces a flexible sheet, which can be formed around corners and curves. Futimis Systems is the UK's sole distributor. [www.futimis-systems.co.uk](http://www.futimis-systems.co.uk)



## ACRYLIC

### PARAPAN

Glossy Parapan is a solid acrylic with brilliance and depth of colour which is totally water-resistant and non-porous, so making it easy to clean and a good choice for wall cladding in steamy, moist environments. Available in thicknesses of 4mm and 18mm, it is cut from solid sheets, so no need for unsightly plant-on edges, and there's a good choice of UV stable colours: 20, to be precise.

[www.parapan.co.uk](http://www.parapan.co.uk)



## PLASTER

### BUTCHER PLASTERWORKS

The three dimensional form of this fibrous plaster makes an unusual wave effect, enhanced by shadows cast wherever light hits the surface. Created by one of this country's oldest fibrous plaster work companies, Butcher Plasterworks, the Tegula cladding shown here, is formed of interlocking tiles and was produced in collaboration with design-build company, Robin Ellis. [www.butcherplasterworks.com](http://www.butcherplasterworks.com)

## GLASS

### THE LIGHT LAB

Head to The Light Lab for bespoke wall panel designs with light and glass, including its SpectraGlass panel lighting system which can be lit from within the frames along one single or two opposing edges. Choose from single colours or pre-programmed sequences across the spectrum, these panels can be cut to fit any space and are also available in curved shapes.

[www.thelightlab.com](http://www.thelightlab.com)