

IN THIS ISSUE...

KOOLHAAS'S SEATTLE LIBRARY, MILAN FAIR, TORONTO'S TERMINAL 1, MODERN MINIMALIST COTTAGE

DESIGN ARCHITECTURE ART

# AZURE

JUL/AUG 2004  
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**THE BEST  
OF MILAN**

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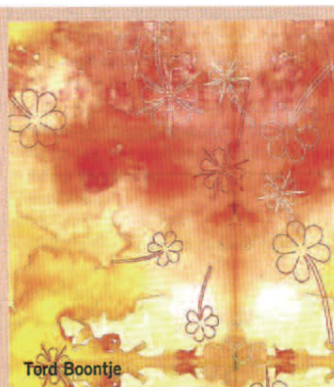


Every nine months, Prada's flagship SoHo store gets new wallpaper. Currently, colossal humans set in a digitized landscape loll across the store's 61-metre-long feature wall. Back in February, a stadium crowd adorned the space, flourishing poster cards that formed the coloured pixels of six Asian women's profiles. When the store first opened, in 2001, giant pixelated flowers composed from fragments of video images filled the same wall.

"We change the store by the injection of each new image," says Michael Rock of graphic firm 2 x 4, responsible for transforming the unlikely material of wallpaper – what he calls an "impossibly decorative solution" – into a hip couture backdrop. "Every time, it's essentially a 3,000-square-foot one-off."



Prada SoHo by 2 x 4



Tord Boontje

In his installation for *Moroso at Milan's Salone Internazionale del Mobile*, Tord Boontje introduced hue-rich hangings created by scanning his watercolour paintings and digitally printing them on silk. His lace-like strings of white flowers are equally fanciful products of digital technology, laser-cut in suede-like synthetic fabric. [www.tordboontje.com](http://www.tordboontje.com)

**HERMAN MILLER** In Herman's Miller's Design-on-Textile program, the translucent screens and canopies of the Resolve furniture system provide the canvases for digital prints. Pre-designed images range from wispy textures to punchy graphics; you can also create your own. [www.hermanmiller.com](http://www.hermanmiller.com)

**ARTCOUSTIC** Danish company Artcoustic conceals high-end speakers behind striking digitally printed fabrics. A portfolio of works from artists worldwide provides sound choices, or you can custom-create visuals to be applied to the interchangeable speaker fronts. [www.artcoustic.com](http://www.artcoustic.com)

**BRUNKLAUS AMSTERDAM** Embracing a Daliesque sense of the surreal, Nicolette Brunklaus adorns pure silk curtains with images of long blond hair and tall birch forests. Printed digitally, they take their place within a collection of playful photographically adorned objects ranging from silk-screened lampshades to candleholders. [www.brunklaus.nl](http://www.brunklaus.nl)



Timorous Beasties

**TIMOROUS BEASTIES** Digital designs from Glasgow textile artists Timorous Beasties range from whimsical insect motifs to edgy abstractions. Bridging New and Old Worlds, a recent Moth print combines digital with hand-printing techniques, while the Iguana print is solely digital. [www.timorousbeasties.com](http://www.timorousbeasties.com)

## Wallpaper

Digital imaging frees wallpaper from the constraints of mass production, allowing both large design firms and individuals to experiment.



Wolf-Gordon

**WOLF-GORDON** In a newly launched program, upscale wallcoverings manufacturer Wolf-Gordon will custom-print your images to an impressive range of materials, including satin, flag mesh, muslin, oxford, vinyl, solar screens, photographic films and laminate. The company also offers a selection of substrates for custom wallcoverings. [www.wolf-gordon.com](http://www.wolf-gordon.com)

**ORNAMENTA** London artist Jane Gordon Clark's dramatic wallpapers feature enormous digitally enhanced flowers. Scaled to fit any space, they're delivered in ready-to-install overlapping rolls. The company also does made-to-order wallcoverings from your design. [www.ornamenta.co.uk](http://www.ornamenta.co.uk)

**GREVILLE DESIGN** Based on her charcoal and gouache sketches, Toronto textile designer Miriam Grenville creates non-conformist wallpaper that combines patterns with art. One composition juxtaposes a giant Chinese dragon with swatches of oriental clouds, stripes and skateboard decks. Scale and repeat are all up for grabs. [www.grenvilledesign.com](http://www.grenvilledesign.com)

**METRO WALLCOVERINGS** With a digital imaging program that dates to 2001, Metro fills the custom commercial niche with product that meets contract and enviro-friendly standards. As part of its digital printing program, the firm's fully staffed studio will help clients develop custom designs by providing technical support with concept and layout. [www.metrowallcoverings.com](http://www.metrowallcoverings.com)

**SHOWROOM DUMMIES** Co-founded by British artist Abigail Lane and Brigitte Stepputtis – head of couture for Vivienne Westwood – this recently established design collective subverts the notion of the cozy interior with macabre skeletons, taxidermic studies and natural disasters. Its latest wallpapers feature dark, monochromatic photographs of volcanic eruptions, tornadoes and lightning storms, in immense panels that stretch from floor to ceiling. [www.showroomdummies.com](http://www.showroomdummies.com)

## Image to go

With any surface a potential substrate for digital printing, some designers are marketing pattern rather than product, while other services are set up to realize custom designs of anything, anywhere.

**STUDIOSTAMPA** Working with concepts based on mathematical fractals, Studio-Stampa's designs are constantly on the

move. Co-founded by Rina Greer and Arlene Stamp, the company creates original designs as the basis for computer-generated, non-repeating recursive patterns. The digital files can be scaled to any size and used to create custom carpets, glass, tiles, wallcoverings and solar shades. [www.studiostampadesign.com](http://www.studiostampadesign.com)

**DOMINIC CRINSON** A pioneer in digitally printed ceramic tiles, Dominic Crinson creates bold and intricate designs, now available for wallpapers and flooring. Current collections include bisected exotic fruit, purple cabbage whirls and sensually curled bodies. Crinson also does custom work. [www.digitile.co.uk](http://www.digitile.co.uk)



Civello by 3rd Uncle

Digital imaging is an integral component in many of Toronto firm 3rd Uncle Design's residential and commercial projects, providing precise colour matching and creating unique atmospheres. "You can use this technology in a literal way, or you can create materials that add dimension to space," says principal John Tong.

Applied to sheer fabric, digital imaging has cultivated an ethereal forest inside Toronto's Civello salon and spa: 3rd Uncle printed translucent banners with life-sized bamboo to use as both visual branding tool and spatial device.

"It's a multi-layered element," Tong explains. "The material diffuses light and defines space, while the graphic image evokes a whole other level of experience."