

Design world dreams brought to life



ALYKHAN VELJI
ALY'S FAVOURITE THINGS

I recently had the chance to go to New York City to attend the ICFF — International Contemporary Furniture Fair. This world-famous event (North America's platform for global design) is understood by designers to be the place where trends are discovered and set for years to come. This year's ICFF was held at the massive Jacob K. Javits convention centre and found 629 exhibitors from around the world showing everything from the newest in tile, fabrics, wallpapers, furniture, and lighting — a designer's dream.

So what's coming? It seems that we can look forward to bold colour, pattern and texture — and I couldn't be happier. We're also seeing statement lighting design by smaller, boutique-style companies that are going to inspire entire buildings!

I could have spent days perusing the aisles of the show, probably seeing something different every time. However, I only had a day, so I put on my most comfortable shoes, a styling outfit, and headed out to conquer ICFF 2014.

Although it was very hard to choose, I have narrowed down my top picks for you this month.

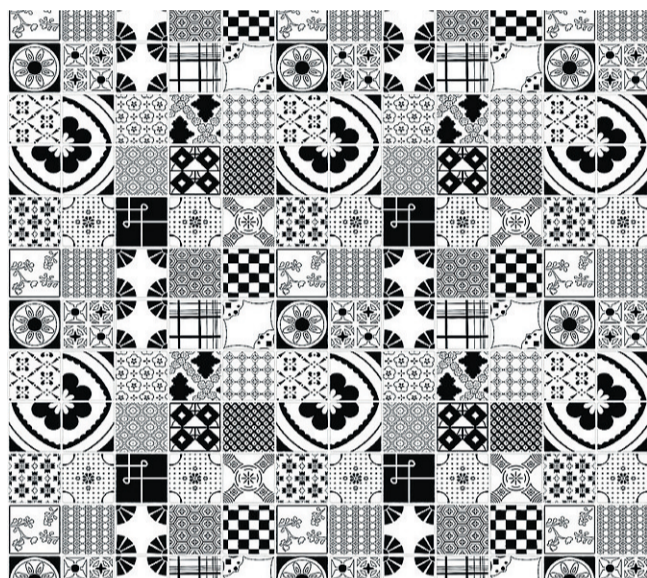


Apparatus Studio, Cloud 2 (www.apparatusstudio.com): One of the heavy-hitters at this year's show, each glass orb is frosted by hand and three central light sources emit a soft glow that is refracted by each orb, creating a light that is ethereal. I love the integration of the gold chains, as well.



Asher Israelow

Asher Israelow, Anamorphic Console (www.asherisraelow.com): This is not your average console. Setting itself apart from the rest is its attention to detail, with the inlaid metal. Graphic in its design, but subtle and understated, this piece will be a hit in any modern space.



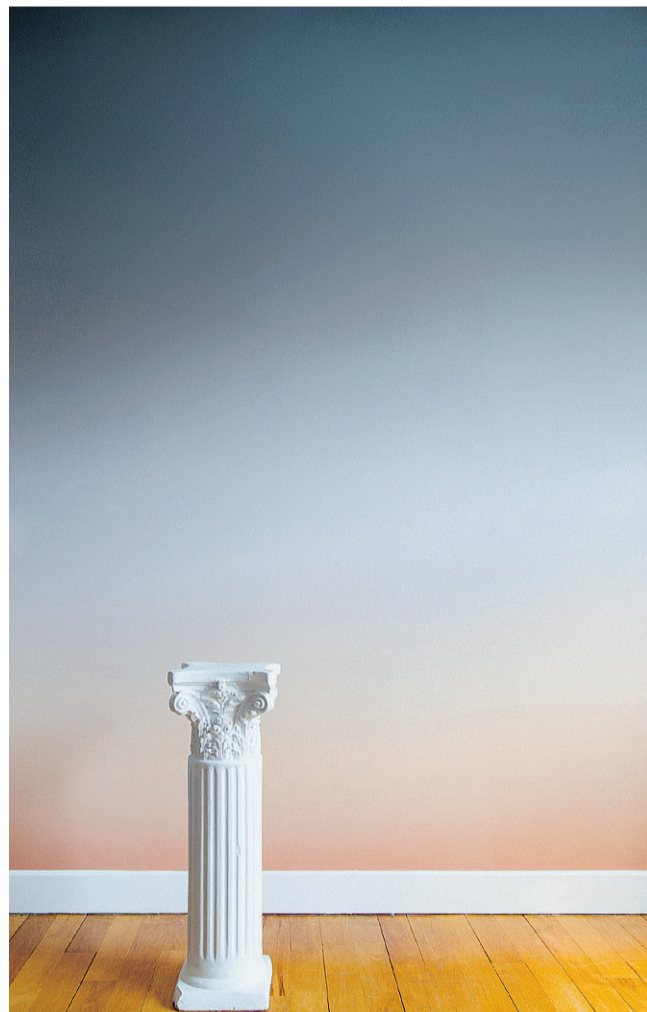
Dupenny

Dupenny, Mixed Tile Wallpaper (www.dupenny.com): Based in London, Dupenny designs and produces exquisite wallpaper, homewares and fine ceramics with a refreshing twist. Inspiration comes from all things cheeky. The mixed tile wallpaper caught my eye as patterned tiles are the "it" thing in design at the moment. Love the black and white graphic quality.



Garden Glory

Gold Digger Hose with Black Reindeer Wallmount and Black Nozzle (Garden Glory, DeLuxe Collection, garden-glory.se/en/shop): Who knew garden hoses could be sexy? This company is making a statement with its bespoke hoses and antler wallmounts. Coming in a range of colours, from pink, black, and on-trend gold, these would be the perfect final touch to a chic outdoor space.



Calico Wallpaper

Calico Wallpaper, Aurora, Ray (www.calicowallpaper.com): Ombre is king for fashion and design and this wallpaper works magic on any wall. A gorgeous gradation of colour makes any drab wall fabulous.



Tom Fallon/Daniel Heath

Daniel Heath, High Wire Wallpaper (www.danielheath.co.uk): High Wire is a British-based design company doing extraordinary things with pattern. Inspired by Victoriana and the wonder of the circus, these hand silk-screened prints are made in East London with bespoke colours upon request. Quirky and fantastic.



Volk Furniture

Volk Furniture, St. Charles Coffee Table (www.volkfurniture.com): A mix of materials that is sophisticated and stylish. Copper, white oak, and laminated white glass make this coffee table perfect in any way and shows that mixing materials is more than OK.

For most of us, simple flirting is simply futile

Both women and men fail to get the message

HARRY DE QUETTEVILLE
THE TELEGRAPH

Reading signals and expressions from women has never been my strong suit. In fact, it's a miracle that I managed to get married.

Of all the signals from the opposite sex that I'm bad at interpreting, flirting is No. 1. And it turns out I am not the only one. According to new research from the University of Kansas, only a third of men are able to tell when they are being flirted with.

Flirting. Just the mention of

the word sends shivers down my spine — terrible memories flash up of parties and dinners from my days as a single man.

There I would be, happily milling about, glugging down the booze and chatting inanely to some vague friend when he would say, "Oh, have you met Madeleine? She's a pal of my sister," and I would say, "Oh, hello hello." And then the stream of nonsense chat would continue pouring out of my mouth.

Sometime later, I might catch Madeleine looking at me oddly. Polite being that I am, I'd brush it off as some tic the poor girl had to live with. Then, after a while, I would push off and go and bother someone else. At the end of the party, the vague friend would side up and say: "So, what about you and Madeleine, eh? You two

were getting on famously."

And I would say: "Really? Are you sure?"

And he would say: "Didn't you see the way she was fiddling with her purse/rolling her eyes/being sick into the pot plants? It's clear as day: fancies you rotten."

And I would honestly have no idea if he was kidding me or not. For the only way in which a woman could have unambiguously flirted with me would have been to wear a sandwich board emblazoned with: "I AM FLIRTING WITH YOU, YOU IDIOT."

But get this: when it comes to diagnosing flirtatious behaviour, men are astonishingly accurate — compared, that is, to women. According to the Kansas study, only 18 per cent of women get the message when we men are beaming out the lurr-vve waves.



Warner Bros. Pictures

What do I have to do to make him see that I like him? Might as well give up and just tell him. Flirting appears to be lost on most of us, says a new study from the University of Kansas.