

Design for the future

Bright Goods filament bulbs at Albert's Schloss

BARS AND CLUBS CONTINUE TO THRIVE BY KEEPING THEIR DESIGNS FRESH AND RELEVANT

At the ALMR Late Night Awards in October, Peter Marks received the ALMR Icon Award for his contribution to the UK's late-night hospitality sector as chief executive of The Deltic Group. This comes five years after he and his team took over the former Luminar and went on to transform the troubled business through an ongoing commitment to having "the best invested portfolio in the late-night industry".

Deltic works with four design practices across its portfolio, such as Keane Brands and Design at Source. "When it comes to our club brands, like Pryzm and Atik, we usually give the designers a fairly detailed brief, but also ask them to put their own twist on it," explains Eric May, Deltic's head of club development. "Customers have come to know and love these brands so we want to give them the experience they expect whilst adding something different each time."

Deltic has taken a different approach for its newest brands, Steinbeck & Shaw – now in six locations including Plymouth and Watford – and Bar & Beyond which has opened in Chelmsford in Essex and Sheffield. "We knew we wanted something that would bring the trendy Shoreditch

vibe to London, and it was Keane Brands who helped us bring our idea to life," Eric says. "The use of graffiti, the choice of furniture and fittings, from the booths to the lighting and signage, and the distinctive upper bar back-fittings, help give the brands their edgy vibe. The bars also offer loads of interesting features – a perfect backdrop for photos, which is a must with today's social media-savvy customers."

Keeping the interior design fresh is important for even the most high-profile of world-class bars. It is 12 years since the

Blue Bar was unveiled at The Berkeley hotel in London, creating a stir with its interior design by the late great David Collins, inspired by the signature blue loved by the building's original designer Sir Edwin Lutyens. Maybourne Hotel Group brought in one of today's most respected hospitality designers, Robert Angell, who has refreshed the colour scheme of blue with touches of red with black and silver tones.

The dramatic central lighting structure has also been retained, based on a Lutyens design, with broad flat glass rims to diffuse



Blue Bar at The Berkeley

the light and elegant suspended red tassels – all restored along with other lighting by their original creator Dernier & Hamlyn. As well as being extended with a new glass pavilion, the bar has new furniture designed by Robert and made by Ben Whistler. It features fabrics in blue and silver created by Irish textile designer Jude Cassidy – a nod to David Collins' Irish heritage. "I was particularly mindful of respecting David's design legacy whilst still trying to add a touch of my own aesthetic," Robert explains.

Luxury furnishings remain popular for bar interiors, says Michael Sinclair, design director of hospitality specialist Catering Design Group (CDG). "A strong trend we are seeing in bars and clubs, and especially in high-end sites in the city, are vibrant, in-your-face, luxury fabrics and materials, together with bars manufactured in brass and marble stonework, complemented by polished finishes."

At the same time, pared-back interiors and distressed finishes are spreading, especially through the rise of the craft beer bar, Michael points out. "The emergence of bare bricks and eye-catching beer displays, together with butcher block tables and re-claimed, distressed wooden furniture arrangements, are currently all the rage. This design effect divides yet unifies the different areas in a bar or club environment, whilst also offering a unique, off-the-wall feel."

CDG has been working with an operator in South Wales to create a modern craft beer bar, with a retro games room featuring a Pac-Man arcade game plus pool and ping-pong tables. "We brought to life their vision by using battered chesterfield sofas and reclaimed metal shelving to house the retro board games in order to characterise the entire customer experience," Michael adds.

Vintage and reclaimed elements remain popular for bar interiors. In Edinburgh, Colin Church and Martin Luney of Big Red Teapot have been repurposing and upcycling vintage art and furniture for their new bar, The Voyage of Buck. "Upcycling not only saves on monetary cost, but it means we can create something truly unique to us," Martin explains. "The Voyage of Buck has a cocktail menu that explores the Edwardian era, and we wanted to use furniture pieces and an overall design that continued this style. We have taken classic country kitchen cabinets and sunk sinks in to serve in the bathrooms, deconstructed a piano to become an outdoor seating area and set glass-fronted display cabinets into the walls to exhibit an array of knick-knacks. Possibly the most creative project is the Edwardian writing desk, which we have repurposed as

a feature piece into a DJ console. The result is an eclectic space which transports guests to a romantic bygone era."

Classic interior design looks are most definitely here to stay for 2017 and beyond, predicts David Bigland, managing director of luxury vinyl floor manufacturer Moduleo. "As vintage and retro trends continue to dominate the hospitality market, traditional woods are certainly still fashionable." He also predicts that natural wood-effect

THE STABLE AT 16

A completely new style was revealed for the 16th site of The Stable, the restaurants specialising in pizza and craft cider. Working as ever with Studio B, the group transformed a former tourist information centre in Bournemouth using a blonde, light Scandinavian wood as a strong base to explore new finishes and materials. While other locations of The Stable make the most of original features, there were few of these in the Bournemouth building, prompting Studio B to install Douglas fir plywood to wrap around the floor, ceiling and walls. A botanist, Lucy Drane, was brought in to add greenery alongside other features such as reclaimed terracotta and galvanised troughs.

Studio B managing director Sidonie Warren adds: "For the furniture we used a mixture of new and old timbers to add warmth to the scheme, which was another first for us, including a handful of extremely comfy restored 1970s leather Danish sofas. We chose a bold palette of blue, orange and black, keeping all things such as signage, artwork and branding simple and effective – no fuss just like the ply."



Global tiles from Solus Ceramics



The Stable in Bournemouth



Geometric shapes from Moduleo

products featuring registered emboss, like Moduleo's Impress collection, will continue to be in demand for the year ahead.

David believes that the hero trend of 2017 will be geometric design, with a huge rise in designers already opting for this quirky and eccentric look. "Traditionally, designers implemented geometric shapes into their projects through wallpaper and accessories. However, since the launch of our Moduleo Moods collection earlier this year, we've had an incredibly positive response to our triangle, hexagon and diamond-shaped tiles in particular."

These trends can also be seen in the latest tiling for floors and walls from Solus Ceramics. Its new angular Global range consists of geometric shapes including an equilateral triangle, a rhombus, a small hexagon and a hexagon-shaped star. The colour palette features seven earthy shades including soft greys and natural browns, inspired by volcanic stone, cement and clay. Solus Ceramics has also introduced the Intrinsic range, capturing the elegance of natural stone, inspired by metamorphic rock, quartzite. They are available in five colours including white, grey and a sandy beige with a golden shimmer.

New wall tiles from high-end wood flooring manufacturer Hakwood offer designers opportunities to create all kinds of geometric shapes. Launched at the 100% Design show in September, it uses a hanging system for easily installing the Duoplank pre-fabricated wood tiles. They are available in a variety of designs, dimensions and thicknesses with a broad range of colours and textures. "The options are endless," says Hakwood's product designer and developer, Edwin Hak. "For instance, a square panel of tiles can be installed as a statement piece on a painted



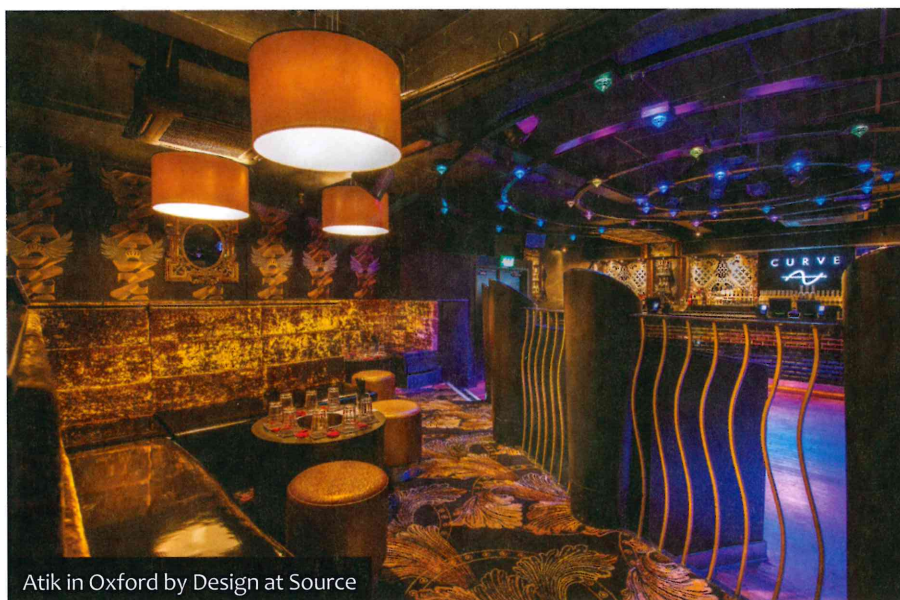
CUTTING-EDGE COPPER

The Woodford, the award-winning restaurant opened by young chef Ben Murphy in South Woodford in London in February, features a luxurious, opulent interior, enhanced by a wide range of copper lighting. This was supplied by vintage specialist Industville, with bespoke light fittings given a metallic finish of copper. "Singling out one material can be an interesting way of creating a truly on-trend feel within a project, especially when juxtaposed with vintage-inspired shapes," explains Elizabeth Coulson from Industville.

wall, a strip along the wall or even the whole room from floor to ceiling."

Wood is used throughout at Albert's Schloss in Manchester, from planks on the ceiling and floor to long benches, stools and other furniture, bringing to life the idea of a Bavarian house and beer palace. Designed by Millson Associates, it adds warmth through fabrics and lighting, including Bright Goods LED Josephine filament lamps and LED George filament globe lamps – part of an overall lighting scheme by The Light Corporation. "Offering a perfect combination of elegance, style and energy

efficiency, the Josephine and George enabled us to create the atmosphere of a traditional Bavarian schloss in the pulsing heart of Manchester," says lighting project designer Michael Wake. The design is clearly part of a winning formula: in October, Albert's Schloss was named both best bar in the Manchester Food & Drink Festival Awards and best late-night venue in the ALMR Late Night Awards.



Atik in Oxford by Design at Source



Hakwood Wall Tiles