

Chelsom delivers custom lighting for Crystal Esprit



Chelsom has supplied bespoke public area lighting onboard Crystal Cruises' newest addition to its fleet.

Crystal Esprit marks Crystal's first foray in to the super yacht market, and Chelsom worked closely with the design team at AD Associates to create a unique lighting scheme designed to enhance the striking contemporary interior concept.

Highlights include a ceiling fixture for the Cove Lounge consisting of multiple rows of trietri crystal drops suspended from an antique brass rectangular frame and illuminated by LED retrofit lamps.

Steen Friis reworks Mercy Ships vessel



Designer Steen Friis is to create a new interior design for Mercy Ships' Atlantic Mercy, a hospital vessel intended for worldwide operation.

The new project is taking place at Tianjin Xingang Shipyard in China, and includes work on the vessel's gym, reception, offices, staff lounges guest lounges auditorium and dining room. Cabins for crew, owners and guests will also be worked on, as will the vessel's hospital facilities and a number of stairways and corridors.

"The challenge, compared to a normal passenger ship, is adapting to the fact that people stay onboard for a year or sometimes for several years," said Friis. "This has resulted in a large number of different cabin configurations depending on the situation of the volunteers, if they bring their family onboard or if they come as a couple or single."

Friis added: "The interior theme is a mix of African inspiration in colours and Scandinavian coolness and practicality. Materials have also been chosen from an easy maintenance point of view."



Almaco redesigns Crystal Mozart crew area

Almaco Group has redesigned the crew areas of Crystal River Cruises' Crystal Mozart vessel.

50 crew cabins and areas such as the gym, mess and recreation areas were worked on as part of the project, which took place in Austria.

The Crystal Mozart embarked on her maiden roundtrip from Vienna on 13 July, with guests able to visit a number of European destinations, such as Germany, Slovakia and Hungary.



SAVE ENERGY
UP TO 25%

ICM INTEGRATED CATERING MANAGEMENT

State-Of-The-Art Control and Monitoring System for all Catering Areas: Galleys, Provision Stores and Refrigeration Machinery, featuring Enhanced Energy Saving Capabilities.

Learn more about ALMACO's solutions at www.almaco.cc



Staying One step ahead

With modern trends and tastes constantly changing, it's vital for design companies working in the cruise and ferry industry to stay on top of what is fresh and appealing to passengers. We speak to leading figures in the interiors business to get their take



For every vessel that a passenger sets foot on, those that take the breath away tend to be the ones that stick in the memory. **Creating a feeling of luxury while maintaining a high standard of comfort and practicality is of paramount importance to cruise lines and ferry operators, and deploying the leading companies in their respective fields is a logical way to achieve the desired effect.**

But how do the companies that specialise in designing interior spaces ensure that the 'wow factor' keeps being achieved? What was 'in' 20 or 30 years ago will no longer have the same effect on modern passengers. Therefore it's important that design teams study and are inspired by the latest trends and themes on the market.

"Within the world of design there will always be pioneers and innovators, from clothes fashion designers to car manufacturers," says Will Chelsom, managing director of lighting specialists Chelsom. "Our design teams at Chelsom always stay in touch

with what is on trend across all industries. We are not just influenced by what is hot in the lighting sector, but by what is hot in all design sectors. Only by constantly looking across multiple industries for inspiration are we able to always stay ahead of our competition and appeal to a wider global audience."

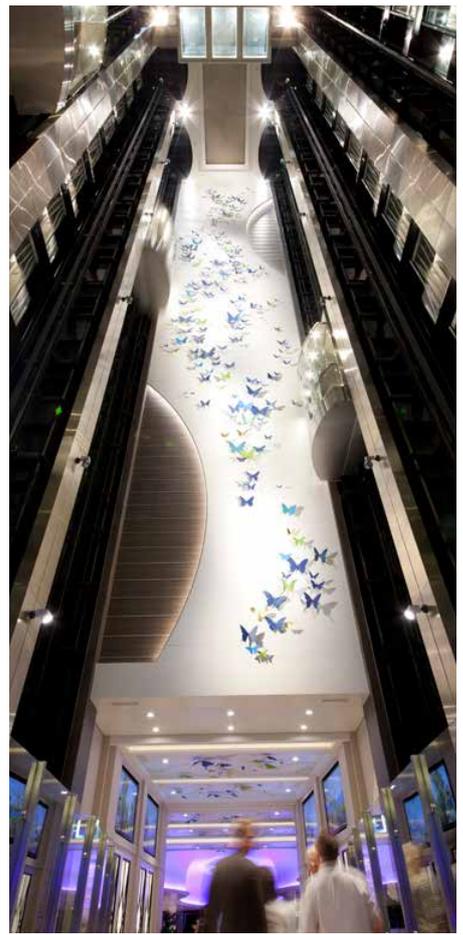
"Historically, trends have trickled down from the fashion industry to the interiors world over an extended period of time, so it has been particularly helpful in predicting colour stories for the coming years," says Greg Walton, vice president of CallisonRTKL. "Given that cruise ship projects are often delivered up to five years after the design process begins, this has worked out quite well in terms of delivering on-trend, contemporary interiors that feel fresh and modern."

According to Emily Woelste – director of Smart Design Group, who regularly design for BC Ferries vessels – the company's inspiration comes from a mix of culture, traveller demographic and technology. She says enhancing the traveller experience should always be front of mind.

"Traveller experience is key," she says. "All facets of a project are considered in order to create this experience – it's a holistic design approach. Smart Design Group is made up of three highly specialised entities – interior design, graphic design and food service design – which come together to create the entire identity of a project."

"Cruise liners keep to the 'spirit of extravaganza', where everything should be larger and shinier, because passengers are spending a long time onboard and can be or want to be disconnected from their actual life," says Anette Ustrup Svendsen, communications manager at Scandlines. "Some luxurious liners are more contemporary in their design but in general they stick to a conservative spirit or a 1930s inspired design and atmosphere. They are timeless rather than trendy."

Ensuring a spirit of innovation is also vital, as Gerflor's Karine Bouttier attests to: "Since the launch of our first homogeneous flooring in 1937, Gerflor has been innovating continuously to provide specific solutions complying with the highest



Main image: Chelsom was responsible for the lighting in the Epicurean Restaurant on the P&O Britannia. Left and above: CallisonRTKL was responsible for a number of interior projects on board the Royal Caribbean International's Quantum of the Seas

customer requirements. Our French group has developed a full range of floorings and finishes dedicated to marine applications – always taking into account markets trends.”

There are also practical ways to ensure that the needs of customers are met, and that the latest trends are adhered to.

Kiki Vrendenberg, marketing manager at carpet specialists Desso, says: “We stay on top of the latest trends by creating a yearly trend book together with external designers taking in trends we see within the fashion industry, art scene and other areas. We then translate these trends into custom made carpet designs for our customers in the marine industry allowing the latest trends to combine with the philosophy from our customers.”

According to Jason Holmes, head of textile design at flooring specialists Forbo, when it comes to the latest trends, it's important to prepare in advance.

“Because of the time frames involved with build and refit, we research trends up to 18 months in advance to ensure our products fit aesthetically with the needs

of the designers specifying them,” he says. “As a global flooring manufacturer we have an extensive design, R&D and innovation resource with specialists who work across a number of product types and sectors.”

Trade and design fairs are important hubs of information and inspiration, with designers looking to make sure they form part of the latest wave of creation.

“In my opinion, the leading design fair is Salone del Mobile in Milan, which is the best example when it comes to taking a look at future trends,” says Jessika Rauch, head of PR at Villeroy & Boch. “Different patterns

and textures from the fashion and interior industries are as important as current food and restaurant trends. Both together are the base of every new design for hotel, restaurant and cruise tableware collections.”

“The design team at Chelsom makes regular visits to the world's finest interiors exhibitions all over the world, whether that be the Miami based Cruise Shipping Miami show or the Maison Objet interiors show in Paris,” says Will Chelsom. “These exhibitions, many of which Chelsom exhibit at, are always the platforms upon which creative organisations showcase the latest

“Different patterns and textures from the fashion and interior industries are as important as current food and restaurant trends”

and greatest trends and are a superb source of inspiration.”

Nina Herrmann of creative greening design company Dauerflora takes a similar viewpoint. “We draw inspiration from trade magazines, visits to trade fairs, from the internet, instruction from outstanding florists and social networks,” she says. “Sometimes inspiration can even come from street art; ultimately, the trend of vertical greening stemmed from urban gardening. We always keep our eyes open, because you never know where the next trend might emerge.”

While an advocate of attending trade fairs, Petu Kummula, director of interior design and architecture at Carnival Cruise Line, believes that inspiration can come from many different sources.

“I believe travel can be very thought-provoking and I have always used it as a point of innovation and inspiration,” he says. “Going to a museum, a beautiful place in nature or visiting a bar in an old town will give you much more than scrolling through pictures online will do.”

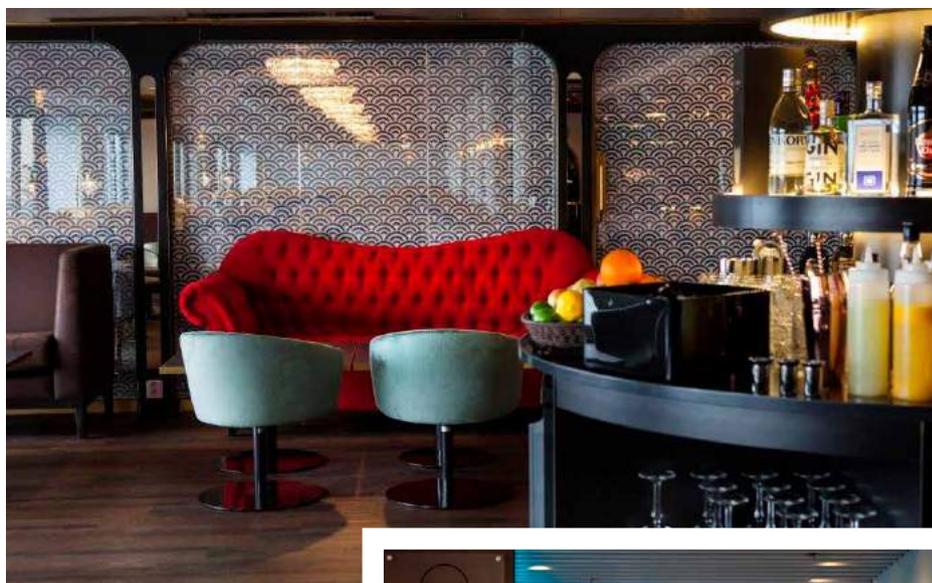
Tomas Tillberg – the man behind Tomas Tillberg Design – says that often it is the clients that provide the biggest design inspiration. “We have ongoing meetings with vendors and manufacturers to view their latest products, which always brings excitement and anticipation – especially if we’re about to work on a new project,” he says. “We are continuously inspired by working with different owners, marketing teams, their branding and other people involved in our industry.”

In companies that cover a number of design areas, an overarching mantra or ethos can sometimes help solidify the creative intent of its team.

“Our business model is driven by our innovation programme based on the three pillars of creativity, functionality and cradle to cradle design,” says Kiki Vrendenberg. “Design excellence is a priority for us. Next to that we want to stimulate co-creation of stunning new designs via our international partnerships with leading architects and designers.”

Richard Field, European sales director at Ultrafabrics, says that at the company, ‘the spirit of pioneering rules’. “With decades of polyurethane craftsmanship behind us, we are continuously reshaping the world of performance fabrics – one surface at a time,” says Field. “Made by humans, for humans, we create materials that suit life.”

Tomas Tillberg Design’s mantra, according to Tomas Tillberg, is: “Always do better on the next project, and aim for the



Streamo Karavel by Gerflor on board Viking Line's M/S Gabriella

best to surpass client’s expectations no matter the budget.”

“When it comes to delivering best-in-class results for our clients, CallisonRTKL knows that staying ahead is as much about mastering the bottom line as it is about understanding people and culture,” says Greg Walton. “In the cruise industry, that means keeping up with the modern traveller and enhancing the guest experience in ways that will keep them coming back for more.”

Villeroy & Boch has a similarly inspiring philosophy. “Without tradition, experience and fundamental knowledge there can be no innovation and without innovation the tradition cannot be continued,” says Jessika Rauch. “We have always been innovative while focusing on high quality – of both design and material or production techniques.”

Every so often in the design world, an idea or development becomes somewhat timeless and transcends the norm. Creating something of this ilk is a huge motivation for many designers.

“Timelessness can come from a combination of things, like proportions between dimensions in a room, colours and textures,” says Johan Nordberg, architect at Viking Line. “Things like style of furniture and the choice of materials can also help create this effect.”

“Timeless is the opposite of fashion and trend,” says Anette Ustrup Svendsen. “To have the chance to be timeless, a design needs



to be minimalistic – less is more – with no connection to details used in the past, using colours and materials taken from nature. A polycolour design is interesting, as is using only one colour.”

According to Richard Field: “Design becomes timeless when innovation is combined with creativity, practicality, high quality, durability and an aesthetic that continues to inspire across the wide number of sectors we serve.”

“Product design’s op being innovative when the adoption rate starts to rise,” says Jason Holmes. “One great example is safety flooring. A real product innovation in its day became commonplace very quickly as the benefits become known. One innovation however that embraces changing tastes is digital printing. Here the substrate maybe timeless but the design can be changed, customised and tailored to any taste.”

While staying on top of the latest trends and movements is no doubt beneficial, it is clear inspiration can come from many places, and designers should be willing to embrace these different sources and points of focus.

But when push comes to shove, perhaps Emily Woelste puts it best: “When it works, it just works.” **C&FI**