



While autumn brings with it notions of cosiness, romantic nights in and the desire to hibernate in style, the shift in seasons also heralds a brand new aesthetic. Call us sentimental, but we never really stopped thinking in academic years. Of course, these days it's not so much the thrill of a new syllabus as a fresh A/W collection that makes us feel all renewed and forward thinking-like. In interiors, just as in fashion, September was our new year, and with a plethora of London design shows to report back from this month, there's only one word on our lips: texture. Celebrating the height of tangible design, where the lines between floor- and wallcoverings blur, we give you our pick of the best cutting edge, touchy-feely wares.

Just launched at Focus/14, part of The London Design Festival, Dedar's brand new wallcoverings collection takes inspiration from nature's wild and varied textures and includes the brilliantly

snake-like and slithery Alabastro. The large abstract geometric design in fact recalls the veins and shading of semi-precious alabaster stone, interpreted in an elegantly extra-wide jacquard silk blend. We might be bemoaning those shorter autumn days ahead, but with light-catching loveliness like this on our walls we can't wait to hit that dimmer switch and cosy up. *Above left.* £114.50 per m (www.dedar.com)

Kyle Bunting's tagline is "the extraordinary in hide", and we're not going to argue with that. The Texas-based designer works exclusively in super-luxe hair-on-hide creations that are as pleasing to the eye as they are to the touch. What's truly groundbreaking is Bunting's use of colour - from pop art brights to muted metallics - the man is clearly a master manipulator, single-handedly redefining how hide is used in our homes. Excitingly, each beautiful rug can be reimagined for our walls, too. And why not? They're every bit a work of art.

Top centre. Prices start from £870 per sq m, Fameed Khalique (020 7490 5524; www.fameedkhalique.com)

Straight from the prestigious stands of Decorex International, De Ferranti, whose raison d'être is bespoke, luxury surfaces, has created some seriously tactile leather briquettes in which to beautify our floors. We love the traditional, stamped pattern of these plush, chocolate-toned bricks - the design is in fact inspired by time-worn leather brogues. But may we suggest a no shoes rule when walking upon this level of opulence? *Bottom centre.* £702 per sq m, 583 King's Road, SW6 (020 7384 4424; www.deferranti.com)

The King's Road's Decorum Est has come up with a radical new surface material that's really making waves. Used as a luxury accent in tiling and wall panelling, the Ocean Leather collection is made from skins of Atlantic salmon, perch, cod and wolffish, sourced from a tannery in Iceland as a by-product of

the fishing industry. If you think this sounds, well, a little fishy, do stick with us: the skins are intricately overlaid onto substrates and combined with luxurious materials like vellum to achieve a striking textured finish. Planning to deck out your superyacht? Make sure you incorporate this season's most creative material. Talk about a fresh idea! *Main image.* Prices from £500 per sq m, 568 King's Road, SW6 (020 7731 5556; www.decorum-est.co.uk)

And where modern art meets interiors, Tracy Kendall's bespoke wallcoverings are all about the touch. From sequins to buttons, multicoloured papers to jigsaw pieces, her dazzling designs are far from flat. It's no wonder the innovative artist has picked up a string of major design awards. We love the fun, feathered and totally strokeable Black Swan. Dripping with drama and Gothic glamour, it's fit for the walls of the most discerning femme fatale. *Abow right.* £366.60 per sq m (www.tracykendall.com)