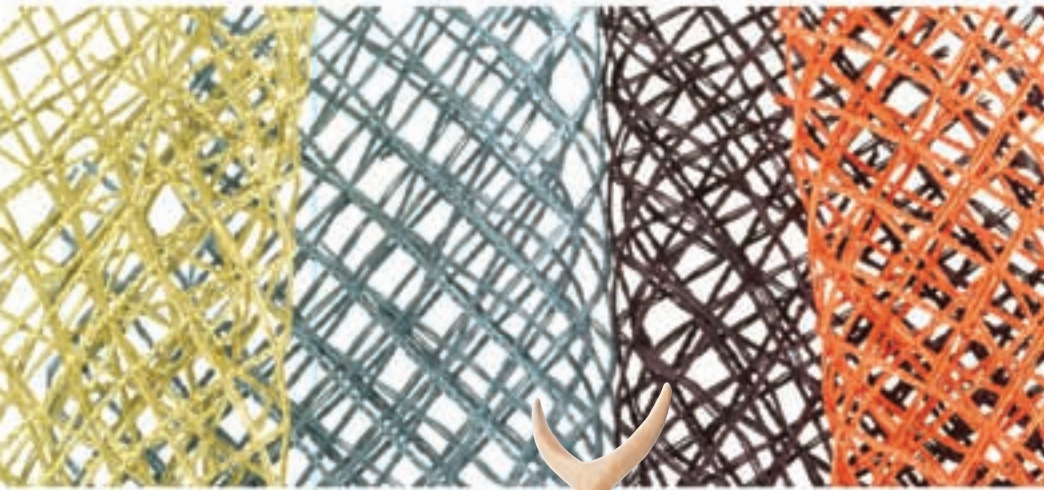


# NEOCON

Right: **Urban Optimist**, a modular broadloom from Nood Floorcovering, comes in 12 patterns and an infinite number of colourways. Made as a tufted white carpet, it's then piece-dyed to the client's exact specifications.



Below: The pattern of **Bloom**, an eco-resin panel from 3form, is printed in three layers, creating translucency and depth. The panel comes in lime (shown), tangerine and wheat.



Above: An open-net drapery textile from Carnegie, **Malta** is knitted (not woven) using flame-retardant Trevira CS in 16 colours.

Below: **Oom**, by Matthew Weatherly for Brayton, serves as both stool and coat rack. Upholstered in fabric or leather, it's fitted with casters.

Below: Joel Berman Glass Studios reclaimed discarded tempered glass panes to create **Stones**, a kiln-cast panel that can be used for partitions, doors and movable walls.



providing an additional workspace or impromptu meeting place (it can also be used free standing and stows when not needed). On a larger scale, Haworth presented Patterns, a robust office system based on the folded plane. Its rectilinear tables, desks, benches and wall units can be configured for smaller workstations, open collaborative areas or private offices. Since the wall units come in different heights, they can also be used as room dividers or library stacks, creating a variety of interior landscapes.

If these products are capable of putting a positive spin on the workplace, perhaps they – and other colourful introductions, many of them green – also had something to do with the optimistic vibe pervading the Merchandise Mart. It wasn't just the products themselves that proved the office no longer has to be boring; more companies than ever seemed to welcome visitors with hip showroom designs (Herman Miller, Steelcase, KI and Haworth immediately spring to mind). And despite the infamously slow elevators – even the Starbucks Express seemed to be out of service – attendees (numbering more than 50,000) and exhibitors (topping 1,200) remained positively upbeat.

For sources see page 180