An apartment, only 15 minutes from London Tower Bridge, has been completely redesigned by Studio Alexander Fehre. Intelligent use of this small space was guided by the owner’s living needs. An unusual kitchen solution freed up space in the living area, while integrating much greater functionality. The bathroom is now equipped with a spacious shower adding quite a luxurious touch, and the narrowness of the room was further enhanced. It all goes to show that 45m² in London can definitely be enough of a good thing.

With Filippo’s flat, Studio Alexander Fehre began by analysing the exact functions and requirements that the space should fulfil with the objective of exploiting every last square centimetre to the full. They determined that redistributing the flat’s layout would make a big difference, merging the living room, kitchen and small hallway to create one space. Thanks to a large, L-shaped sofa, stepped table and circular mirror, the living area possesses a very striking lounge-like atmosphere. The bedroom is very narrow, so a platform was constructed that stretches from wall to wall. The bed is positioned on top, thereby structuring the room and making it easier to reach the rear window. The walls are painted a deep purple, contrasting beautifully with the wall-mounted shelving units. In the bathroom a conscious decision was made not to attempt to widen it, instead emphasising the length of this space through a combination of mirror, wallpaper and downlights. Thanks to the generous depth of the shower, it requires no second shower enclosure and the offset ceiling integrates it seamlessly into the overall design. The bathroom floor is covered in woven PVC, just like in the bedroom. The bathroom wallpaper accompanies you from the door to the basin and is also the determining element in the shower.

Although spaciousness is in the eye of the beholder, Studio Alexander Fehre presents a succinct, contemporary solution to the issue of progressive urbanisation.

Architects | Studio Alexander Fehre, London, UK
Location | London, UK
Technical info | PVC flooring and wall-covering
Picture credits | Studio Alexander Fehre
Oversized Silhouette

Fashion designer Valeska Jasso Collado combined PVC, foam and fabric to create Memphis-influenced garments for her University of Westminster graduate collection.

Valeska Jasso Collado chose an unusual combination of materials to create bold shapes reminiscent of furniture from the 1980s Milan-based design movement lead by designer Ettore Sottsass. Using sheets of foam as the base material, Jasso Collado stuck on layers of PVC in different colours. Large sections of both PVC and fabric were folded, pleated and sliced to reveal the layers of colour. The resulting oversized garments create a range of geometric silhouettes. One top formed from a circular section of speckled material curved up to cover the lower half of the face, with holes for arms to slot through the front.

Designer: Valeska Jasso Collado, Barcelona, Spain
Technical info | PVC sheet, polyurethane and fabric
Picture credits | Marek Puc
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Aquatics Stadium Rio 2016

A temporary 18,000 seat arena was created for hosting the Olympics and Paralympics swimming and aquatic-polo competitions. The temporary building structures of stands and roofs, conceived for later re-utilisation, were designed by German architects von Gerkan, Marg und Partner to allow simple disassembling, transportation and later assembling operation.

Scene of the swimming competitions and water polo finals, the Olympic Aquatics Stadium has two swimming pools.

The roof is comprised of identical steel trusses that longitudinally cross the 100 m span and valley cables that accord the PVC membrane the required shape and structural stability. The façade, made out of vertically disposed steel tubes, form a harmonic arrangement with the roof, granting to the arena a high architectural and engineering standard, compatible with an Olympic venue.

Architects | gmp Architekten von Gerkan, Marg und Partner, Stuttgart, Germany  
Location | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
Technical info | PVC mesh membrane  
Picture credits | Dhani Borges, Rio 2016
Italian fashion brand Marni has opened their showroom to the public during the last Milan Design Week 2016 to showcase their new furniture collection, influenced by Colombian culture.

Last year the vast space was transformed into a fruit market mimicking the ones in Bogotá, and Colombia has been referenced once again with the exploration of the ancient dance of Cumbia. Marni Ballhaus sees the traditional, full, circular skirts worn by cumbia dancers and the knotted scarves worn by the men reinterpreted and reproduced in iconic Marni fabrics. Suspended in a circular formation, the floating skirts serve as a vibrant backdrop to the live performances of voice, music and dance celebrated throughout the week.

Additionally, new home furnishings, including lamps, loungers, chairs and bags – all fabricated using Marni’s signature coloured hand-woven PVC cord – have been displayed around the space. The limited edition items have been made in Colombia by a group of women who have gained independence and freedom through work.

Marni Ballhaus reaffirms the brand’s commitment to charitable initiatives, as a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the design items will be donated to the Vimala Association, which supports numerous children’s projects.

Designer | Marni Fashion Design, Milano, Italy
Producer: Marni, Milano, Italy
Technical info | PVC cord
Picture credits | Marni
This is the first, built project of Pattern Design, a London-based architectural start-up practice specialising in rule-based design.

The Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium Al Ain is the new civic landmark of the city and is used by the successful Al Ain football club. The geometry of the roof is developed in order to provide full shade over the playing field and the stands from 5:45 pm reducing the solar energy gains during events to a minimum but allowing natural turf to grow.

Until Pattern’s architects conceived of this project, all Middle-East stadia appeared to mimic a European temperate climate model. Pattern rejected this notion and created an innovative design rooted in the hot dry climate of the region.

The project epitomises their approach to design; patterns, maths, climate and culture. Through a methodology of rule-based parametric design, Pattern Architects have created the first parasol stadium roof.

The parasol roof and palm bole shelter a seating bowl, also a product of its location. Taking the best of classic English football stadia, the unique three-tier bowl is a product of the community it serves. Promoting football for all, the stadium caters to all users: young, old, men, women, families and children. Appropriate segregation respects local customs and the three-tier bowl (a first for a 25,000 seat stadium) has the majesty of much larger stadia whilst responding to the scale of local football crowds.

The striking roof geometry consists of a primary steel structure with a PVC/PES membrane cladding. The exterior palm bole facade consists of a steel diagrid structure with 612 individual adjustable membrane panels to achieve maximum shade but also to allow views from the inside. The membrane panels, in combination with the primary steel structure, is a homage to the palm bole - an emblem of the Oasis of Al Ain.

Architects | Pattern Architects, London, UK
As part of a project supporting a shoe workshop located in Shibuya, known as a gathering place for Japan’s younger generation, Nendo designed a selection of women’s shoes.

Draping material over the heel portion of basic pumps and heeled sandals, the shoes look as though they are wearing skirts.

There are three basic designs: a heeled sandal that uses transparent and coloured PVC, pumps that are covered with punched leather in a dotted pattern, and pumps that combine leather and transparent materials to create some movement.

The heel is visible through the little skirt in each of the designs, with careful attention given to the selection of colours. The differences between the elasticity and hardness of leather and PVC presented a unique challenge to the manufacturing process, where the essence of the product creation stands in the skills and intuition of a shoemaker with many years of experience.

Designer | Nendo, Tokyo, Japan
Producer | Shibuya Fashion Shoe, Tokyo, Japan
Technical info | PVC sheets
Picture credits | Nendo
The OV-A Architectural Studio, founded by Jiří Opočenský and Štěpán Valouch in 2007, works on diverse projects, from the designing of family houses to the urban layouts of the centres of municipalities.

OV-A designed a private house where the living space, situated between three blocks of rooms, gradually transcends from the interior to the exterior. Instead of being encircled by a fence on the lot’s edge, the house is wrapped in a translucent shawl composed of functioning window-shutters.

The facade, with its glazed walls, is covered by larch wood shutters which can be used to create further rooms, the house works as a gazebo providing views of the valley and the wooded slopes opposite constructions and technologies. The load-bearing construction of the timber frame house consists of I-beams, thermal insulation of mineral wool and wainscoting.

The flat ventilated roof is totally covered with PVC foils with a layer of pebble rock on top while the facade system is composed of glazed walls in aluminium frames and terraces are of tropical wood.

Architects | OV-A Architectural Studio, Prague, Czech Republic
Location | Králuv Dvur, Czech Republic

Technical info | PVC membrane
Picture credits | OV-A
Zanotta represents the past and present of international design... expresses a vision of the world, a philosophy that has always strived to go beyond the present, in order to identify languages and products able to speak ‘forever’.

Club Collection is an outdoor collection designed by Italian designer Prospero Rasulo, for Zanotta. The concept starts from a basic naked frame, a steel internal structure, which is painted in black for outdoor use.

Designed with a weave in PVC thread with internal nylon reinforcement, it’s produced in the shade of brown. The sofa and easychair are also completed with an upholstered seat cushion.

Designer | Prospero Rasulo, Milano, Italy
Producer | Zanotta, Nova Milanese, Italy
Technical info | PVC cable
Picture credits | Zanotta
LeShop.ch Drive Pick Up Station

The LeShop.ch Drive Pick Up Station, designed by Swiss group Atelier-Oï, is composed of 36 elliptical umbrellas. The membrane was provided with the latest innovation in PVC material, in order to ensure a long service life.

This special construction receives a functional, added, value by its integrated water drainage system which enables the use of the umbrella as drainage which derives the water through the mast in the earth.

At night there originates an interesting effect, the mast disappears almost in the darkness and wakes the feeling within the viewer that he stands before nothing but coloured air bubbles which just climb up in the sky.

The umbrellas are constructed in three different heights and number about 36 pieces. A single umbrella construction consists of an ellipse-like steel pipe ring with an approximate diameter of 5.10m, on supports 5.70 m in height, on an external, concentric, low ring. This low ring is fastened again concentrically to a mast. The whole construction is connected upwards with wire ropes in the mast.

Below the steel pipe construction, a membrane from PVC-coated polyester fabric is braced. The mast is clamped to a ferro-concrete foundation. The water drainage occurs from the membrane in the low ring and inside through the masts.

Architects | Atelier-Oï, La Neuveville, Switzerland
Location | Studen, Switzerland
Technical info | PVC membrane
Picture credits | MDT-tex
Slalom Partition
The flexibility of space-time is one of the main issues of discussion and research regarding the organisation of space. Slalom, a new flexible partition designed by Italian designers Menguzzato and Nascimben, meet these new requirements, while at the same time offering innovative solutions that allow you to organise the space in a creative, flexible, customisable way, always with great attention to feelings and individual sensitivity.

Even if born of aesthetics-research, Slalom partition systems are not simple design objects but they are creators of quality and highly comfortable spaces. In an extremely dynamic business world which requires quickness and speed in the changes, Slalom products are able to ensure dynamism and practicality in creating private spaces.

Slalom consists of a modular partition system, unique for its flexibility, versatility and simplicity. Slalom creates and separates spaces and environment with elegance and practicality. Thanks to its wide range of colours and PVC flexible panels, Slalom offer every time a customised solution for every different style.

Designers: Gianni Menguzzato, Claudio Nascimben
Vicenza, Italy
Producer: Slalom, Arcore, Italy
Technical info | PVC Panels
Picture credits | Slalom