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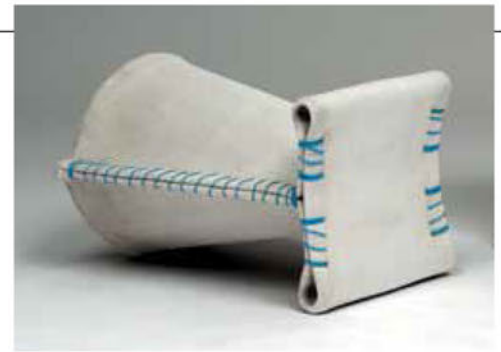


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THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE

Stitching concrete may sound impossible, but not for German designer Florian Schmid, who has developed a project that takes inspiration from the material and production technique of concrete canvas. Schmid's 'Stitching Concrete' stools are made from concrete canvas formed around a specially designed rack. Concrete canvas is a flexible cement-infused fabric that on hydration sets to create a thin concrete layer, allowing Schmid to stitch exposed seams during its drying process. Using blue, red or yellow thread, the fibre reinforcement makes these stools extra strong and, as Schmid explains, the cloth aspect of the stools gives a 'warm atmosphere' to the normally utilitarian material. [Text: AS]

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MIX AND MATCH

"One divided by eight equals six," German designer Sarah Böttger says. Luckily, she isn't talking about arithmetic, but rather her new collection of glassware. 'Viitri' takes one elegantly shaped glass vessel and, with eight variously placed cuts, creates six different pieces that can be connected by a series of flexible rubber rings to create numerous configurations in a variety of sizes. The resulting glass containers, which are a combination of transparent and coloured glass, can be used as vessels or to store nearly anything in the home. They are the perfect alternative to plastic containers for storing and keeping food fresh. Otherwise, they can serve as decorative glass containers, vases, for storage in the bathroom, or to keep a neat desk – the possibilities are virtually endless. 'Viitri' evolved from Böttger's own project, a collection of glass storage titled 'Juuri'. The collection is being produced by Danish company MENU, and will be available early this year. [Text: MK]

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GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT



Leading solid-surface supplier Caesarstone has recently released five delicious new additions to its 'Classico' range – Ocean Breeze, Crème Brulee, Wild Rice, Cocoa Fudge and Shitake. These additions, which all sound good enough to eat, are still neutrally based, making them easy to work into any spatial setting. However, they represent a shift in the 'Classico' range from monotone quartz to a more luxurious blend of textures and colours. The five new designs have been developed in close collaboration with Caesarstone's top quartz engineers. Ocean Foam, for example, is a whiter white with a fine quartz structure that has evolved from the core white palette from the 'Classico' range. Crème Brulee and Wild Rice, however, present a new design family in which the gentle mixing of variable quartz sizes allows a delicate integration of colours. Each of the new designs reflects a combination of new directions in local and international design directions, with Caesarstone's trademark dedication to classics with longevity. [Text: AS]

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