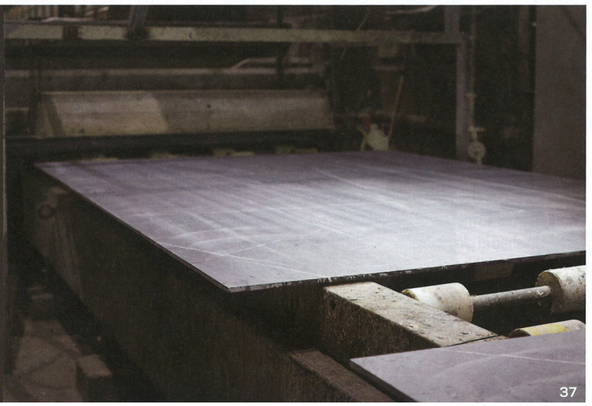
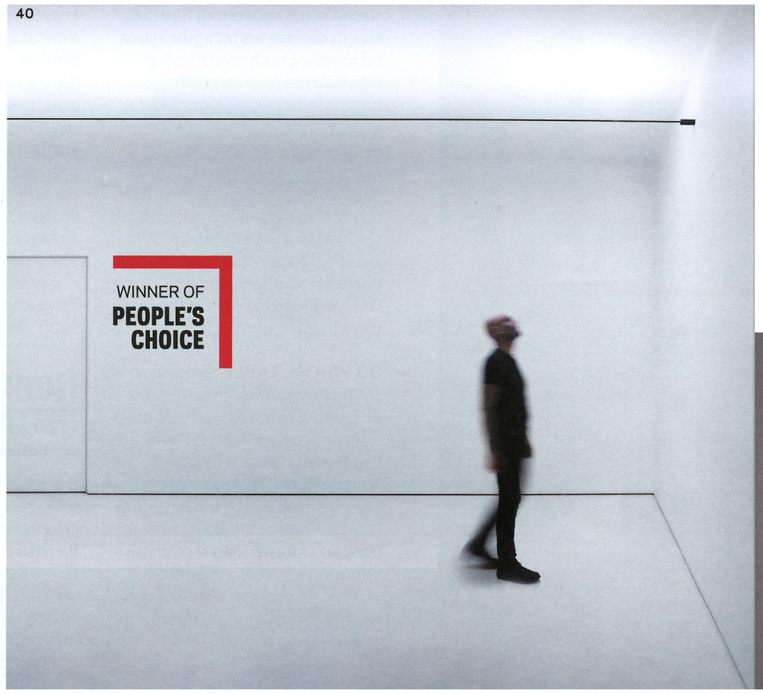

37

39

42

43



40

38

41

44

45

ARCHITECTURAL PRODUCTS

37 THINK THIN Massive slabs of genuine marble have evoked luxury since the dawn of architecture, but at a financial and environmental cost. Think Thin, a series of all-purpose marble slabs from Nemo Tile & Stone, brings a notable trend in the tile industry – extra-large sizes with an ultra-slim profile – to real marble, in tones from milky bianco to dusky graphite. Nemo's state-of-the-art stone-cutting technology enables marble to be cut at depths of 1.2 centimetres (much less than the usual thickness), even at dimensions over a metre squared. The remarkable thinness makes the slabs lighter and thus easier and more eco-friendly to ship, schlep and install. **Designer:** Matt Karlin **Manufacturer:** Nemo Tile & Stone, U.S.

38 ANDREW With its slab-like stem and neatly curved spout, Co.Studio's Andrew faucet is the pinnacle of sublime simplicity. To enhance its austerity, the designers did away with anything remotely superfluous, like knobs or handles. Instead, the faucet's water flow is controlled by a single thin lever that operates like a joystick, then disappears into a notch in the faucet's base when not in use, preserving an exceptionally clean profile without sacrificing ergonomics. It might take a while for users to apprehend the hidden controls, but that mystifying element offers its own kind of poetic beauty. **Studio:** Co.Studio, Belgium **Designers:** Gert Van den Steen and Christian Van Suetendael with Marc Dekegel, Alain Gillieaux and Louis-Philippe Gilleaux **Manufacturer:** RVB, Belgium

FURNITURE SYSTEMS

39 ZONES Two years ago, when *Azure* asked Tom Lloyd of PearsonLloyd about the future of offices, he talked about the importance of humanity. "We aren't aiming to make offices look like homes," he said. "We are investing in people's emotions." That thinking is at the core of Zones, a growing collection of furnishings that, more than anything, encourage employees to focus, engage and interact with one another. The collection's light and inviting profiles are distinctly contemporary in their merging of technology with tactility. Many pieces have natural beech wood legs with business-casual inflections, while the semi-private enclosures feel as inviting as a first-class train cabin. **Studio:** PearsonLloyd, U.K. **Designers:** Tom Lloyd and Luke Pearson **Manufacturer:** Teknion, Canada

LIGHTING FIXTURES

40 INFINITO Like a line drawn in the air, Davide Groppi's Infinito is a concept of breathtaking simplicity; the lighting maestro has called it an homage to modernist artist Lucio Fontana, who famously made razor-sharp incisions into blank canvases. The fixture's two purpose-made turnbuckles pull a variable 12-metre-long LED strip tight to form a continuous light source concealed behind a housing of black composite. When positioned near a ceiling or wall, it casts a soft, indirect illumination ideal for framed artworks. Infinito's linearity is so pure, it defies the eye's ability to perceive depth, and seems almost to disappear into thin air, leaving behind only an ephemeral haze of light. **Designer:** Davide Groppi **Manufacturer:** Davide Groppi, Italy

2,758
PEOPLE HAVE ATTENDED THE AZ AWARDS GALA TO DATE

41 SURFACE-MOUNTED WALL LIGHT COLLECTION The uncomplicated beauty of Brightgreen's four decorative lighting fixtures conceals the hard work going on behind the scenes. These wall lights are no mere sconces – they're building blocks for creating luminous, ambient wall art with a colour spectrum fine-tuned to replicate the Australian sun. The wall-mounted bases are switchless and extendable, while the shades themselves are touch sensitive and provide haptic feedback. In two models and sizes – saddle-like Curve and boxy Cube – the cast-aluminum shades tilt freely and rotate 360 degrees, affording installers the flexibility and control of a sculptor when throwing and shaping light. **Designer:** David O'Driscoll with Trent Carter **Manufacturer:** Brightgreen, Australia

EXPERIENTIAL GRAPHIC DESIGN

42 STORYBOARD ON THE LANDSCAPE Part of a 955-hectare National Historic Site by the South Saskatchewan River, Lot 47 was the location of the Métis Nation's village of Batoche, and of the 1855 battle that defeated Louis Riel's resistance. The installation, erected by a multidisciplinary group from Nova Scotia, comprises three large-scale interactive structures that sit unobtrusively on the site to invite contemplation of this nation's cultural history through the landscape. On these wide-open plains, the architecture serves as a mechanism for both wayfinding and viewfinding, revealing the Métis Nation's story and giving visitors a sense of what life was like before and after the conflict. **Location:** Batoche, Canada **Firms:** Form:Media and Ekistics Planning & Design, Canada **Team:** Chris Crawford, John deWolf and Devin Segal with Julien Boudreau, Sahisna Chitrakar, Tom Evans, Adam Fine, Jean Lanteigne, Rob Leblanc, Genevieve McIntyre, Justin Neufeld, Natália Ultremari and Ed Vella

43 PONT FERROVIAIRE Civiliti's viaduct shunts a rail line around one extremity of the Université de Montréal's future Outremont campus, scheduled to open in 2019, in singular style. Spanning the new campus's main *allé*, defining its eastern gateway, the viaduct greets passersby with an unexpected and eye-catching folly. Taking cues from conceptual artist Sol LeWitt's minimalist "Wall Drawing" series, the local urban landscape firm transformed the 44-metre-long guardrail on the viaduct's campus-facing side into an animated tableau. Its irregular diagonal grid motif, made up of 135 LED bars, generates playful graphics of the changing seasons, featuring vines, fireflies, raindrops and snowflakes. **Location:** Montreal, Canada **Firms:** Civiliti and Group S.M. International, Canada **Team:** Peter Soland with Fannie Duguay-Lefebvre, Pascal Forget, Tuong Phong Huynh, Marc Mousset, Etienne Ostiguy and Petrica Voinea

SOCIAL GOOD

44 OLD BREWERY MISSION
Food tastes better when it's served with a side of dignity. That was the thinking behind the Old Brewery Mission's decision to unify the ground floors of three different buildings that had served as the homeless shelter's food service areas. Architem Wolff Shapiro Kuskowski introduced storefront windows, elegant awnings and bold signage to update the decor and give the shelter's seating areas a more restaurant-like atmosphere. For durability and maintenance, the design team used colourful Marmoleum flooring throughout. An exposed brick wall now displays art by the community's members, while a table with a line of PCs offers Internet access. **Location:** Montreal, Canada **Firm:** Architem Wolff Shapiro Kuskowski Architects, Canada **Team:** Margo Dennick, Mira Katnick, Magda Kuskowski, Elizabeth Shapiro and Andrea Wolff with Angelo Amicarelli, Sylvain Caron, Jacques Chartrand, Jean-Claude Guénette, Kristian Morse, José Orúe-Bonneville and Tania Pilon

45 MRS FAN'S PLUGIN HOUSE
Like a diamond among stones, this faceted gem showcases the People's Architecture Office's "Plugins" – a proprietary building system of prefabricated modular panels that includes insulation, plumbing and electrical, as well as interior and exterior finishes and glazing. By allowing Mrs. Fan to return to the site of her childhood home, Plugin House fights the flight to the suburbs (and reduces Mrs. Fan's commute from four hours to one). As infill in Beijing's central Changchun Jie neighbourhood, this inventive home also places urban regeneration within easier reach: Plugin House costs 30 times less than an apartment in the city. **Location:** Beijing, China **Firm:** People's Architecture Office, China **Team:** Zang Feng, James Shen and He Zhe with Chen Yihuai and Zhang Zhen