

Press Release

Kirkby Design and Transport for London Collaboration

Kirkby Design are delighted to reveal the launch of an exclusive new velvet upholstery collection, "Underground", an exciting collaboration with Transport for London (TfL) in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Underground.

Kirkby Design have recreated five iconic moquette fabric designs taken from the London Transport Museum's archive to be re-worked into a collection of contemporary woven velvets. Originally used for seating fabric across the Underground and wider TfL network, the designs selected have been stripped back and re-coloured in Kirkby Design's signature colours, encapsulating the original source designs, whilst adding a contemporary twist to suit modern tastes for both the domestic and hospitality sector.

The designs that feature come from a range of modes of transport including iconic 1930s London buses, 1950s Green Line coaches and Tube seating from the 1970s and 1990s. Each design with its own individual history.....

District

Designed by the prolific Architect and Designer Misha Black, this brightly coloured block design was first introduced on the London Underground's District line (D78 stock) in the late 1970s to complement the brighter finishes within the carriage interiors. The fabric was also used on most new buses entering service in London, notably the large fleets of Metrobus and Titan types. In 1983, the design was introduced on new Underground trains on the Jubilee Line and fast became a subconscious icon of the city.

Marylebone

This design was developed in the late 1930s to be used on the new batch of RT-type London buses delivered between 1939 and 1942. This model was the forerunner of nearly 7,000 buses of its type which dominated the streets of London in the 1950s and 1960s.

Piccadilly

The 1973 Tube stock which serves this line underwent a huge refurbishment in 1997. This intricate, geometric design was introduced as part of this refurbishment to co-ordinate with the new carriage interiors.

Southbank

After World War II, London Transport's bus and coach fleet was out-dated and rather careworn after nearly 6 years of continuous conflict and the rigors of wartime service. A new fleet of coaches were ordered for London Transport's Green Line coach service and thus a new and elegant moquette was commissioned. This design was also used on a small fleet of Private Hire coaches which were ordered to run tours to and from the iconic Festival of Britain at London's South Bank in 1951. It remained in use for several years.

Bakerloo

Designed in the 1960s, this geometric moquette design consists of staggered rectangular shapes. It was used extensively to refurbish trains from the late 1930s serving the Bakerloo, Northern, Piccadilly, East London and Central Underground lines. It worked particularly well with interiors featuring polished wood panelling and cerulean blue paintwork.

The new Underground collection will be showcased within a pop-up bar concept created by Transport for London at Designjunction at The Sorting Office, from 18-22 September 2013. This is a key event during the London Design Festival.

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Editors' Notes:

Based in Nottinghamshire, Kirkby Design produces a contemporary range of high performance, upholstery fabrics. Kirkby Design is part of the The Romo Group and is available worldwide through an extensive network of selected interior designers and retail outlets.

For further information, samples or press loans, please contact Hannah Stirland at Kirkby Design on T. +44 1623 727691, Email: hannah.stirland@kirkbydesign.com.