

Weaving Material ConneXion into Curriculum

What is Material ConneXion?

Based in New York, Material ConneXion uses material science knowledge to source innovative, sustainable materials. Their over 7,000 materials are available through database access, and in material libraries such as Sheridan's - Canada's first and largest Material ConneXion Library.



IceStone 

Commercially Available

IceStone 

MC 3547-01

GLASS

Recycled glass and cement surfacing material. Up to 3/4 of this material is composed of 100% recycled glass and the rest is a combination of cement, pigments, and other aggregates. This cast terrazzo stone is scratch and heat resistant and is the first durable surface in the world to be Silver Cradle to Cradle certified. Available in slabs 52.5 x 96 x 1.25 in (133.35 x 243.84 x 3.175 cm) in size and a weight of 16.29 lbs/sq ft (0.74 kg/sq m). Currently, 21 colors are available including neutrals, greys, whites, blues, greens, jewel tones and pearls. The use of this product can contribute to LEED® credits. Suitable for application anywhere mined stone would be used including kitchen countertops, bathroom vanities, shower and tub surrounds, table tops, stairs and flooring.



Featured Curriculum

Interior Decorating

INTERIOR ENVIRONMENTS - RESIDENTIAL SPACES (DESN 25738)

Learning Outcome

- Choose appropriate decorating elements (materials and finishes) based on research and analysis of a variety of possible elements.

Librarian Involvement

Pre-Workshop Preparation

- Collaborate with the professors and adapt the assignment for an in-class activity.
- Research physical material selection for colour, texture, sustainability, durability, and functionality.

In-class Workshop

- Provide instruction on database and library use.
- Encourage students to touch and examine the physical materials.
 - What can they learn from a material experientially?
 - How can the multi-modal experience help them design for the client?
- Ask students to choose a material for their client, and defend their choice based on their database research.

CLIENT PROFILE

Paul and James are passionate about organic farming and organic wine. James is very specific about the design of the kitchen and will make most of the decisions because of his work as a chef. They have asked you to redesign their house.

DESIGN PARAMETERS:

Functional & aesthetically pleasing
Elegant, contemporary & sophisticated
Use sustainable materials



Interior Decorating Material ConneXion Competition (Optional Assignment Component)

Using one material from the collection, create a presentation board showing the use of the material in an elevation view. The judges will consider:

- Creative use of the material
- Balance of functionality & aesthetics
- How well the design and use for the material meets the needs and lifestyle of the assigned client

2020 Competition guest judge:
Material ConneXion's Dr. Andrew Dent

Other Examples of Program Integration

- Architectural Technology
- Industrial Design
- Textiles
- Visual Merchandising Arts
- York Sheridan Design

Related Readings

Akın, F., & Pedgley, O. (2016). Sample libraries to expedite materials experience for design: A survey of global provision. *Materials & Design*, 90, 1207-1217.

O'Mahony, M. & Barker, T. (2012). The role of the textile materials library: Providing access to multimodal knowledge in design research. *Art, Design and Communication in Higher Education*, 10 (2), 199-215.

Pompelia, M. (2012). Texture and materiality: Creating a new material resource center at RISD. *VRA Bulletin*, 38(2).