

DESIGN July 15, 2009, 4:19 AM

Material World | Corian Design Studio, Philadelphia

By RIMA SUQI



Photographs by Eric Laignel

Inside the new DuPont Corian Design Studio in Philadelphia, designed by Harry Allen.

In recent years, DuPont has commissioned extravagant temporary installations from architects like Zaha Hadid and Jean Nouvel to demonstrate the myriad uses of its [Corian](#) surfacing material. But this year, the company opened two United States design studios — [one in Manhattan](#), by Morris-Sato Studio, and more recently, [one in Philadelphia](#), by the designer Harry Allen. According to Allen, "In the right hands, Corian can do almost anything."

Fortunately, he was given carte blanche to "go crazy with the material," and he did. "Every single thing in the space was designed by me, except some existing columns," he said of the loftlike space in the Marketplace Design Center. In it, Allen demonstrates the versatility of the material in unexpected ways. For example, although it's a hard material, Corian can be formed into almost any shape, as demonstrated by the long, curvaceous conference desk that Allen believes is one of his best designs. "It looks like a piece of chewing gum, stretched out and run through a hole in the [glass] wall, creating two distinct meeting areas," he explained. Corian is also surprisingly translucent, as Allen demonstrated in the studio's back-lit dropped ceiling, where he formed thin panels of the material into soft waves that seem to glow from within. But the conference room window treatments are the true stars. At first glance, they look like typical roller shades that have been screen-printed with black-and-white photographs. But the images were actually engraved on Corian panels by a computer-driven router. "Even the client thought that usage was really wild," says Allen. "I just hope designers will see what we did here, get inspired, and realize they can do it, too."



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corian is perfect I saw corian <http://www.corianshop.com> there are many colours.

[Link](#) — [onr80](#)
- August 5, 2009 8:42 am

I like most the glowing radiator cover

[Link](#) — [trendoffice](#)
- October 4, 2009 11:38 pm

1. I am interested in knowing whether their is any coal ash in the base maqterial for this product?

2. surface scratches very easily, and my installer were not very neat installing their are many areas that simply does not look complete; maybe its the contractor?

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