



/PRESS RELEASE - MATERIAL MATTERS 2022/

Nature Squared presents a range of interior surfaces, furnishings and accessories made from eco-friendly and responsibly sourced eggshell at the inaugural edition of Material Matters 2022.

20 September 2022:

Swiss-based ethical design brand Nature Squared marks their first appearance at the inaugural edition of Material Matters with a collection of contemporary calcium carbonate surfaces, furniture and accessories made from eco-friendly and responsibly sourced sustainable eggshell.

Over the past two decades, Nature Squared has not only mastered eggshell inlay application in interiors from wall surfaces to complex furnishings such as bathtubs, but, since 2019, Chief Innovator Elaine Yan Ling Ng has focused her research on developing an eco-friendly composite suitable for an even wider variety of interiors, designed to maximise the use of greater volumes of waste eggshell generated by commercial kitchens in the Philippines.

The broader applicability of the eggshell composite is especially important given that 250,000 tons of eggshell waste are generated annually worldwide. Eggshell is a bioceramic, absorbs carbon dioxide, and serves as an absorbent decarbonating filter separating CO₂ from industrial gases, in stark contrast to traditional ceramic and porcelain. The crushed eggshell is cured at room temperature avoiding the use of energy.

At Material Matters, Nature Squared will show this revolutionary material in several different forms: CARrelé wall and floor tiles – the world's first eco-friendly, zero CO₂ emission tile made of waste eggshell – and TERRAMIQUE, a new mouldable material made of sustainably sourced crushed eggshell that is used to create handcrafted organic surfaces, and bespoke eggshell inlay. The installation will also highlight the different textures of moulded waste eggshell and show a variety of eggshell inlay techniques.

"This is the first time we have shown CARrelé and TERRAMIQUE in the United Kingdom and we are very excited about sharing the extraordinary results from using the different techniques that we have developed," says Elaine Yan Ling Ng. **"It is not just a beautiful article; the materials mean that eggshell can be used for commercial interior products as well as bespoke finishes for special projects in the most sustainable way possible."**

Nature Squared employs its own highly qualified artisans, engineers, and chemists, developing new materials to use in innovative ways. Their workshop is based in the Philippines, where the entire design and making processes follow a strict circular approach with sustainable practice at its core. Nature Squared's commitment to the



environment extends well beyond recycling and upcycling to include every stage of sourcing, design and creation. Fair wages and job security are essential conditions, as is the long-term support of craft heritage in developing countries.

Nature Squared's materials and products are used by architects, designers, and stylists worldwide to add a distinctive touch to their projects, which range from residences to hotels, and from yachts to private jets, while meeting the highest standards of environmental and social responsibility. This new exclusive, handmade, sustainable collection, extends the company's renowned custom design service.

"We urgently need to divert more waste from landfill where it produces methane, which is even worse than carbon dioxide. The challenge is enormous, but we feel that it is essential to highlight these very important issues. It is what we have devoted ourselves to doing for the past twenty years," says Nature Squared co-founder Lay Koon Tan.

ABOUT MATERIAL MATTERS

Bargehouse
Oxo Tower Wharf, London

Room 2.3, on the 1st Floor

Thursday 22 September 10am - 6pm
Friday 23 September 10am - 6pm
Saturday 24 September 10am - 6pm
Sunday 25 September 11am - 4pm

www.materialmatters.design

VIP and Press preview - Wednesday 23 September 4pm - 7:30pm
Opening Party - Thursday 22 September 6pm - 9pm

The newest fixture on the London design calendar, Material Matters 2022, is based on the critically acclaimed podcast of the same name. Free to visit with advance registration, it brings together over 40 world-leading brands, designers, makers and organisations to celebrate the importance of materials and their ability to shape lives. The fair features five floors of exhibitions, site-specific installations, a marketplace, learning space and an extensive talks programme, providing a new platform for engagement, collaboration and inspiration for the design and architecture industries. Material Matters also looks at how the design industry can address issues around the circular economy, asking how it can lead the drive to Net Zero, and why material intelligence is so important.

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ABOUT NATURE SQUARED

Founded in 2000 by Paul Hovee and Lay Koon Tan, Nature Squared is a pioneering, Swiss-based, ethical design brand that uses material innovation and artisanal skills to transform abundant natural materials that would normally be considered waste into bespoke, handcrafted and sustainable products and surfaces for yachts, hotels and homes.

Nature Squared has always pioneered the use of eco-friendly and responsibly sourced sustainable natural waste materials such as eggshells, seashells and feathers, employing heritage artisan skills and innovative technical solutions to create exquisite, handmade, bespoke surfaces for leading architects and designers.

The brand's collections reflect the extraordinary diversity of natural materials, from the common, such as bamboo, to the most unusual, whether tobacco leaves, seeds or bark, mother-of-pearl or eggshell, bones or feathers. These are predominantly sourced in Asia, Africa and Europe. For instance, eggshell sourced from local commercial kitchens is crushed, and then either roasted or dyed using natural plants such as madder and indigo, before being formed into CARrelé wall and floor tiles, or moulded into complex forms, for use in interiors. This new range of original, high-performance, handmade materials was developed by trailblazing British-Chinese textile designer and weaver Elaine Yan Ling Ng, who was appointed as Nature Squared's Chief Innovator in 2020.

NATURE SQUARE IMAGES

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