



## Trade Shows

November 08, 2009

[Neocon East 2009 - Wrap Up](#)



*Bentley Prince Street booth at Neocon East 2009*

Another year, another trade show - at least we are happy for that in today's discouraging economy. So the show must go on, and we were Baltimore bound for the seventh annual **Neocon East** on October 28th and 29th, (which grew out of Interplan, which grew out of Designer's Saturday). Now holding court at the Baltimore Convention Center for its regular tenure, Neocon East is not to be confused with Neocon - the contract industry's

premier 3-day trade show which attracts approximately 60,000 people yearly to Chicago in June. No, this is the regional version, a smaller 2-day show that does not take place in permanent showrooms but rather in an open floor plan of makeshift booths of over 250 vendors. The show typically has a heavy focus on the GSA (government) market, being close to Washington DC and all, but there is still plenty to see and experience, even if you were at Neocon in Chicago. Being that textiles, wallcovering, and carpet tend to have seasonal introductions, there were lots of new patterns to be had: Wolf Gordon, Eykon (distributor for Circa and Ulf Moritz), Arc Com, CF Stinson, Designtex, Milliken, Bentley Prince Street, Tandus, Shaw, and Atlas among others all displayed new products that are just hitting the market. Even the big furniture manufacturers had new things to show in this slow economy - Herman Miller with the new "Setu" chair series, Allsteel showed "Stride", Gunlocke showed "Silea" and "Villi", DIRTT had plenty of cool enhancements to its wall systems, and our favorites were Allermuir and Andreu World, both European manufacturers making a strong showing. There were new materials launched at the show, the most interesting being more MDF sculpted panels by Interlam, Torzo finished biocomposites now distributed by Stone Source, and lots of new porcelain tile with recycled content (our favorites were from Ergon). Our day was filled with all these products, as well as reconnecting with friends old and new. That's the best thing about trade shows: industry buzz, new ideas, and connections. Neocon East was bustling with designers from all over the East Coast (the show filled up with a crowd) - we went home exhausted and we can't wait to come across these products (and friends) again.



*Back of the Andreu World booth*



*Tandus carpet booth - smart they left the bottom area open for a peek*



*New upholstery fabric patterns at Arc Com: "Chit Chat" and "Etc"*



*Keilhauer's booth introducing the new 'Vanilla' conference chair*



*Steelcase and Designtex - their message of sustainability is clear*

See more photos from Neocon East 2009 [here](#).