

Wallpaper*

The floor's the limit: Paul Cockledge digs deep for a new modular furniture collection

DESIGN / 21 MAR 2017 / BY ROSA BERTOLI



A table made, in-part, from the extracted stone

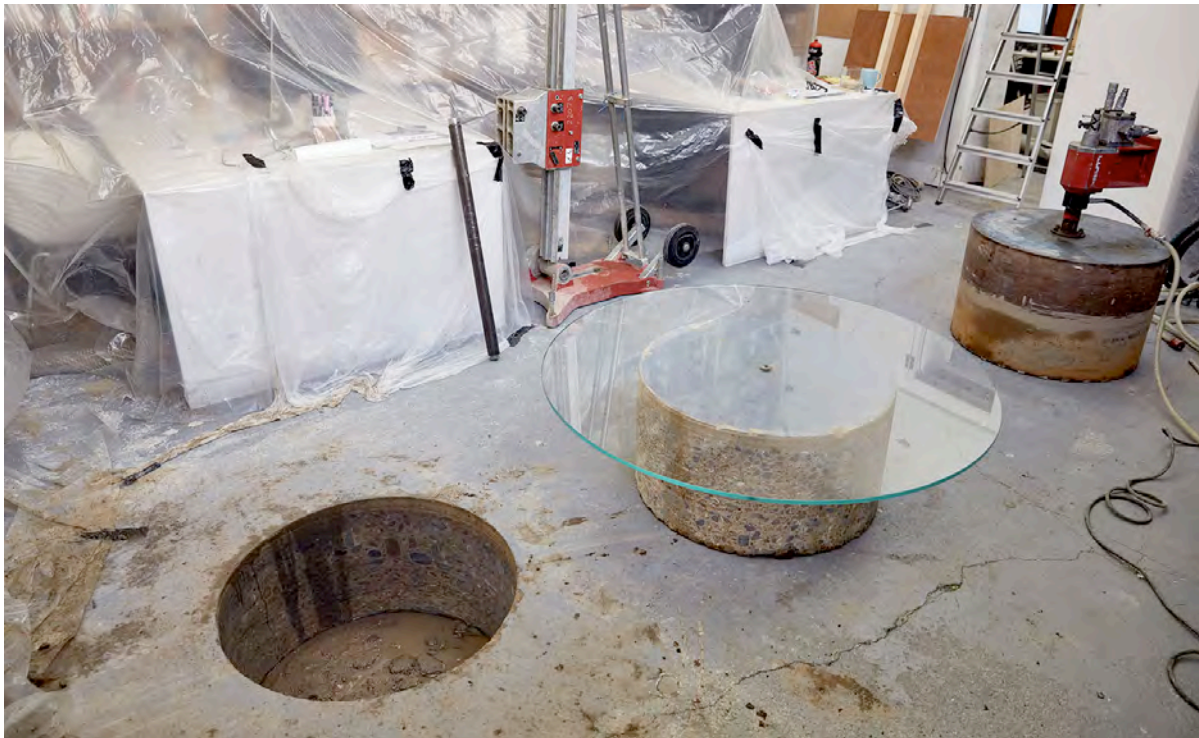
The latest collection from designer Paul Cockledge might be the most personal body of work he has created yet. To be presented at Salone del Mobile by New York gallery Friedman Benda, the project originated when Cockledge was evicted from his London studio. 'Excavation: Evicted' is an emotional and creative reaction to the experience, turned into a collection of furniture.

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'My team and I have been [here] for over ten years,' explains Cocksedge, 'so I wanted to commemorate this space in some way.' While looking around the studio, he had the intuition to explore what was literally below it. He started by digitally scanning the floor, discovering a pathway belonging to a Victorian stable. 'What we found under the floor is an example of London's multi-layered history,' says Cocksedge.

Working with his studio team, Cocksedge drilled into the floor to extract cylinders that were then used as modular elements for the furniture. 'By drilling, we discovered this material that is a mix of concrete and rubble,' says the designer. This accidental material (looking like an intriguing terrazzo or granite) became the core of the collection, which features tables and shelves. The project, the designer explains, was developed to 'celebrate and release the tension and creative energy that's shaped the space for me. I wanted to commemorate my time there.' The collection is also a way to comment on the changing faces of creative neighborhoods globally, and the challenges young creatives face when looking for affordable space to work. 'By creating pieces from the very fabric of a disappearing creative space, I want to commemorate the places inhabited by the creative workers.'



Cocksedge worked with studio team to extract the cylinders – resembling a kind of terrazzo – from his studio floor

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The concept for the collection was created in collaboration with Beatrice Trussardi, part of the Trussardi fashion family and a supporter of creative projects. With the help of Trussardi, the body of work will be displayed in Milan's Palazzo Bocconi-Rizzoli-Carraro, a 17th century building which, like Cocksedge's studio, is undergoing a serious overhaul. From next year, it will become the city's Etruscan museum.

'The brief for this project has basically come from the landlord himself,' the designer half-jokes, noting how he looks forward to taking some of his old studio with him to the next space: 'My Hackney studio will also accompany me to my new workspace.'

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