texture + materials

n the feel, appearance or consistency of a surface or a substance

the matter from which a thing is or can be made
Plastics

Seen as a wonder material, heralding the dawn of a new age of industrial design or, alternately, as vulgar and kitsch, cheap and disposable, the epitome of bad taste and the emblem of the throwaway society. Plastics arrived very late in the day when compared to the other materials that we have looked at so far, but their effect on design, on society and on the environment have been more dramatic and far-reaching than probably any other material in everyday use.

Capable of being shaped or moulded into a huge variety of objects and products, surfaces and finishes, plastics are everywhere. A material that is so ubiquitous, of infinite form, colour and texture. Objects and products, surfaces and finishes, that we cannot imagine living without, have all been designed and produced using techniques and innovations that started with the application of rubber gum to cotton by Macintosh in 1823 – and the waterproof ‘mac’ was born.

Name:
The Elastic Plastic Sponge at The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival

Location:
Indio, USA

Date:
2009

Designer:
Ball-Nogues Studio

The Elastic Plastic Sponge is a large-scale installation made from recycled plastic that can be twisted, arched and curled to form different types of space, including a lounge, a theatre, or a large, sculptural Mobius strip.