



RE-MAKE/RE-MODEL:
Material ConneXion's extensive Manhattan source library where members can research design solutions. (Inset) Dr. Dent. (Below left to right) Miami's Moore Building, built in 1921, which frequently hosts Design Miami events; Design Miami's Craig Robins; Zaha Hadid's 2005 installation in the historic building's atrium.

MATERIAL CONNEXION

Dr. Andrew H. Dent is a materials maestro. From his post as Vice President at the global company Material ConneXion, the New York-headquartered scientist has consulted designers and manufacturers on efficient or sustainable materials for their products for nine years. With a PhD in materials science from the University of Cambridge, Dent introduces clients such as Ikea, Puma and BMW to alternative fabrics and finishes. And they take the doctor's prescriptions seriously, since he was also a consultant on turbine blades for Rolls Royce and protective materials for US Navy warships.

As an example, the English ex-pat cites Konstantin Grcic's injection-molded Myto chair (2007) of how a material can improve both manufacturing and sustainability. "The use of BASF Ultradur High Speed plastic requires fewer steps in the production process," says Dent. "The innovation means that it flows like water. Most plastic flows like cold porridge." Mindful of the market's desire for both performance and energy efficiency, this gent gets it right. materialconnexion.com LA