DE FERRANTi®



PREVIEW

DE FERRANTi®

Imagine the most exquisite surfaces – precious beyond your dreams, lost in time, and using decorative techniques few modern craftsmen can fathom – and then go on a journey in search of these riches. Your quest begins here at De Ferranti®…

The De Ferranti philosophy

An interior should always inspire a reaction; a space, whether private or public, sends a subliminal message to all who enter. Walls and floors – often the longest-lasting elements of interiors – in particular play their part in the spectacle. So much so that it's surprising how an impression of wealth, authority, elegance, taste, artistry or spiritual enlightenment can be conjured up by the simple placement of materials.

From time immemorial, popes and princes, tsars and sultans, caliphs and kaisers all vied to build the most breathtaking churches, palaces, mosques and temples. Their efforts were, in most cases, impressively enduring since natural disasters, wars and the passing of years haven't wiped out their ancient cities in stone and marble – Petra, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Ephesus, Aphrodisias, The Acropolis and the Valley of the Temples at Agrigento are still powerful emblems even if in ruins. Fragments of mosaic flooring at Piazza Armerina and Volubilis are still staggering in their beauty.

Inspired by these historical antecedents, De Ferranti – specialist in rare and unusual surfaces – seeks to supply this level of artistry for today's interiors, believing that natural products given unique, exquisite crafting offer the utmost luxury. A modern day merchant, not unlike the Portuguese, Venetian and Dutch traders of old who loaded their ships high with treasure, De Ferranti searches far and wide, unearthing long lost materials and reviving forgotten, ancient techniques from around the globe.

Stone is one of the oldest and most durable of materials – used by the First Emperor for the Great Wall of China, the Pharaohs of Egypt for their Pyramids and Roman Emperors for their forums, coliseums and temples. De Ferranti brings back materials from the Mediterranean and further a field, reminiscent of these past achievements, but also looks for precious materials much closer to home; indigenous stone, limestone and marble from English quarries.

Collected here, for the first time, is a preview of De Ferranti's favourite products in sumptuous colour and with glorious, detailed photography that does such great justice to each surface that you need not ask for samples. This preview brochure is backed up by an unparalleled library of images and information on www.deferranti.com

The De Ferranti Collection

As you journey through De Ferranti's archive, you'll find river pebbles, rock crystal, antique stone, rare marbles and limestones, semi-precious stones and minerals, pietre dure, scagliola, opus sectile, leather, onyx, metal, molten lava, mosaic and micro-mosaic, glass, gesso, ceramic, majolica, mother-of-pearl, cinnamon bark, bone and horn, coconut shell, carved and pierced stone, wood-fired terracotta, terrazzo, frescos, icons, reclaimed teak and petrified wood. It is a collection unlike any other, assembled with the passion that all true aficionados possess.

As well as surface materials, there are architectural elements that can be specially commissioned – balustrading and columns, staircases and screens, pediments and porticos, basins and baths – anything that can be hewn out of stone or other natural commodities. Materials come as cabochons, micromosaics, tiles, tesserae, briquettes, paviers, flagstones and slabs.

Techniques are wide-ranging but always handmade – embossed, inlaid, gilded, stencilled, printed, cast, carved – and often showcasing unusual, historical skills – pietre dure, cosmati, cocciopesto, opus sectile, verre églomisé, iconography, frescoes…the only limit is your imagination.

Think how King Frederick I of Prussia covered his palace walls in amber to create the 'eighth wonder of the world' and the Norman kings of Sicily decorated the Palatine Chapel with Byzantine mosaics of shimmering gold. Extraordinary ideas are within your grasp from the pages of this preview.

From Italy come three of De Ferranti's favourite techniques. Cosmati, based on the decorative work made popular in 12th century Rome, features patterns of semi-precious stones and minerals such as the rare Egyptian porphyry, Giallo Numidia and Macedonian green found on the Pantheon's floor whilst Pietre Dure, or Florentine Mosaic, mixes intricate pieces of cut and polished stones into colourful surfaces depicting birds, flowers and still-life scenes. Extremely striking is Scagliola, a layering of coloured pigments of plaster inlaid as if they were stone to create elegant patterns. With so many wonders bought back from a single country, just imagine what more there is to explore in the De Ferranti vaults.

Although De Ferranti offers authentic 'historic' products – to a museum quality standard – their craftsmen worldwide are adept at combining old techniques with new technology and many of their luxury products also suit contemporary schemes. A chapel or a conservatory floor, a neo-classical villa or a penthouse, all spaces have a perfect solution – maybe yet unthought-of – that can transform, uplift, inspire.

For this reason, De Ferranti is sought out by architects, designers and a range of international clients whether it's for cladding a yacht, lining a bath in gold leaf, adding highlights or accents in semi-precious stones to a swimming pool or micro-mosaicing a niche in a hallway. Simple or ornate, small or large, residential or commercial, all projects deserve the best that you can afford.

To understand the wealth of possibilities, the London showroom of De Ferranti must be visited. Consultation is strongly advised to make any vision a reality. The archive will reveal much more than can be published within the pages of a preview.

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Deeply Melancholic Fayum Mummy Portrait
Inspired by original encaustic paintings onto
wooden panels, then inlaid into stone
1st and 3rd C. Roman Egypt

De Ferranti's perfect re-creations of Fayum portraits are available by special commission

Sole (detail)
Cosmati pavement consisting of Giallo Antico from Numidia, antique green porphyry (serpentine), antique red Egyptian porphyry palombino from Asia Minor. 12th C. Inspired by flooring at Villa Adriana, Tivoli, Rome

From De Ferranti's Cosmati Collection

Reflections - 'Boy Kissing Lamb'
Bas-relief executed out of rosso verona marble
1980 © M. Montolli

From De Ferranti's Carved Collection

Gesso

Inspired by 15th C. German damask. relifed gesso, burnished over a tortoiseshell background

1m x 1m

From De Ferranti's Gesso Wall Coverings Collection

'Bowl with Flowers', Pietre Dure Tabletop (detail)
Semi-precious and hard stones. Original at Museum of The Opificio delle Pietre Dure, c. 1874

90cm x 60cm

From De Ferranti's Pietre Dure Collection

Section of 'Royal Dolphin' Pietre Dure Tabletop (museum quality copy).
The original was executed in the Grand Ducal workshops in 1716 to the design of Giovanni Battista Foggini, Florence. Semi-precious and hard stones to include lapis lazuli, agate, blood stone, jasper, yellow onyx, yellow jasper, green serpentine, brown aventurine, carnelian

1.8m x 0.9m

From De Ferranti's Pietre Dure Collection

Archangel Michael & Gabriel (detail)
Oil & Egg on wood (old doors)

1.90m x 1.56m

From De Ferranti's Iconography Collection
© D. Kolioussis

Charcoal
Glazed and fired Delft tiles

13cm x 13cm

From De Ferranti's Alternative Delft Tiles Collection

Bitter Chocolate Limestone
Rare bitumous limestone, deep rich chocolate brown colour,
many tonal variations and visible fossil remains, leathery patina

40cm x 40cm

From De Ferranti's Rare Limestone Collection

'Heavy Metal' - Lava bricks
Split-faced glazed basalt

20cm x 5cm and 40cm x 5cm

From De Ferranti's Magma Collection

Delos
Mosaic inspired by the Roman classical era 100AD, near Siracuse, Sicily. Split irregular tesserae, Turkish black marble with Italian white limestone, lime mortar

From De Ferranti's Mediterranean Mosaic Collection

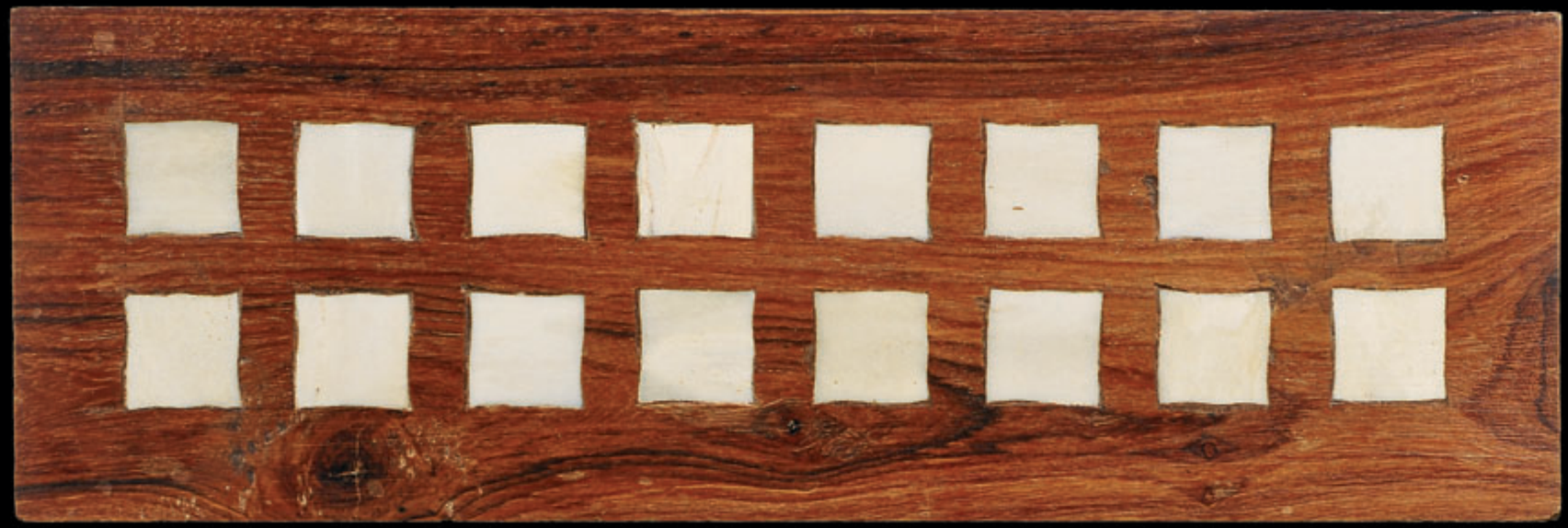
Medievale
Comprised of black marble and white pietra di prun. Inspired by the marble floors in Chiesa Sta Anastasia, Verona, c. 1462

Part of De Ferranti's Pavimenti Collection

'The Ark'
Bath lined with hand beaten brass, carcass made from solid carved teak, bitumen lined, exterior water-line in red agate

1.8m x 0.8m

From De Ferranti's Objects of Desire Collection



Quadrati
Reclaimed Waxed Teak inlaid with irregular Bone Squares

30cm x 10cm

From De Ferranti's Teak Briquettes Collection



Embossed Briquette
Inspiration taken from Iranian ceramics, geometric design
Patinated copper with hints of verdigris

30cm x 10cm

From De Ferranti's Alchemy Collection



Rock Crystal Cycladic Head on Pedestal
Original was made out of marble and is housed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Greek Cycladic Islands, 2700-2500 B.C.

From De Ferranti's Objects of Desire Collection



Rock Crystal Ammonite Tap Head
10cm diameter

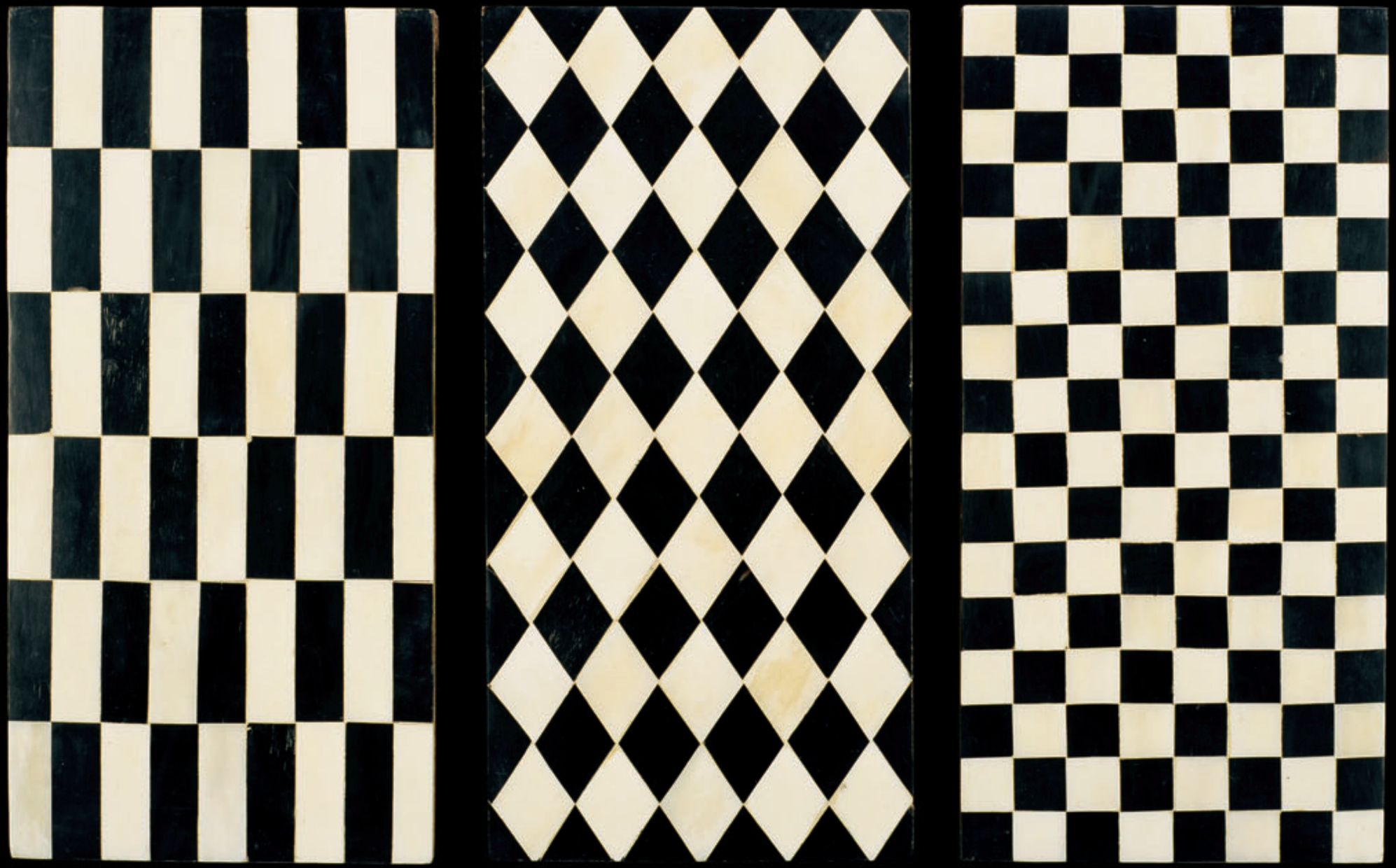
From De Ferranti's Objects of Desire Collection

Reproduction Bronze and Onyx Figure of an Ibis
Seated with feet splayed and head erect, the markings on the legs and tail feathers finely engraved

Late period 716-30 B.C.

17.5cm

From De Ferranti's Objects of Desire Collection



Bone and Horn - Rectangolo, Harlequin and Checkerboard (L to R)
30cm x 15cm / Custom

From De Ferranti's Bone and Horn Inlay and Veneer Collection

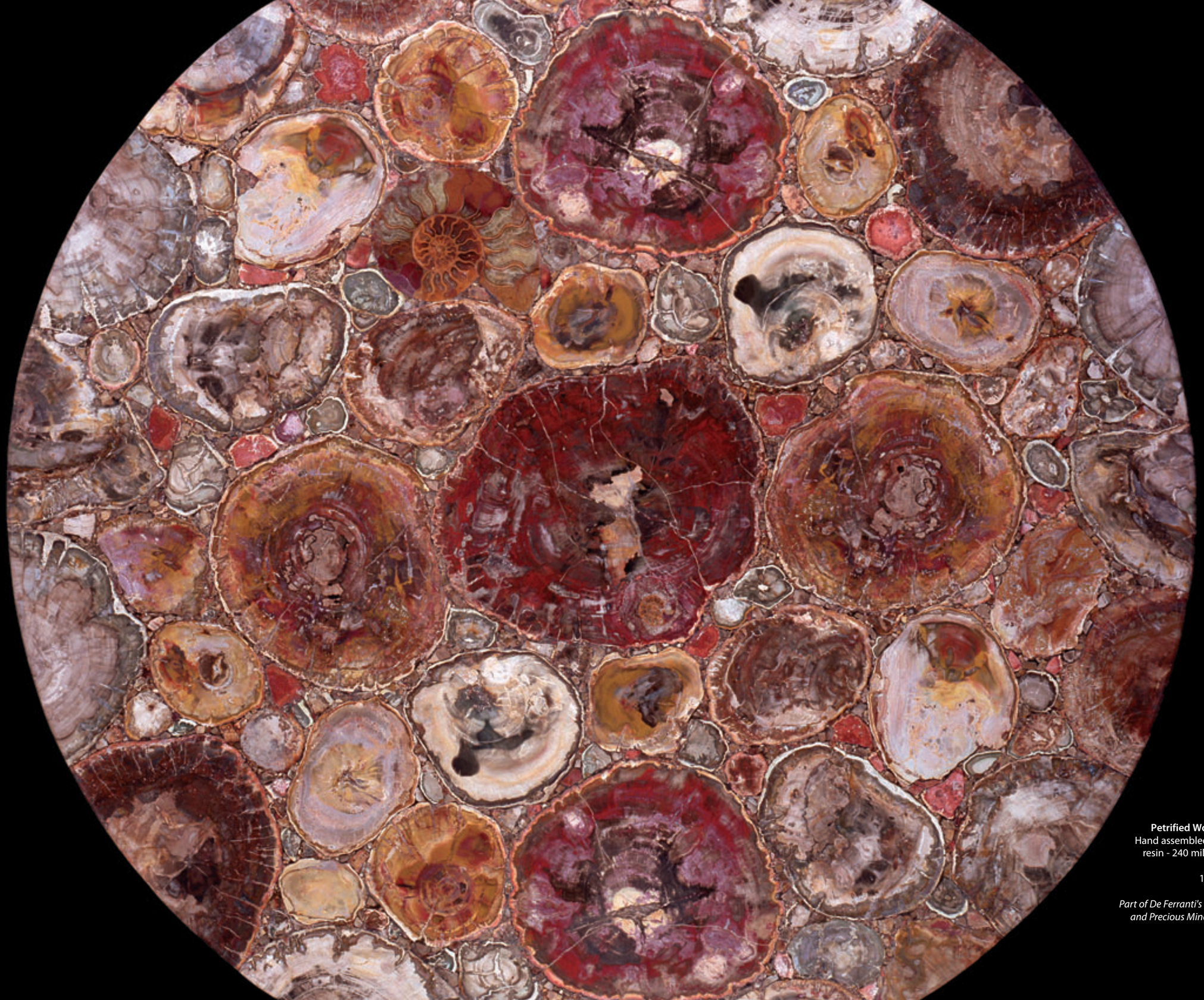
Cast Solid Brass Pierced Screen
From De Ferranti's Jali Collection

Reproduction of Bronze Benin Plate showing a Fish
Republic of Benin, Western Africa, 16th C.
Executed out of patinated copper

From De Ferranti's Repoussage Collection

Scagliola - Pebbles (section)
Inspired by a 17th C. Table top, Rome. Mimicking the following rare marbles: giallo antico brecciato, rosso brecciato, fior di pesco, broccatello, breccia dorata, verde antico

Part of De Ferranti's Scagliola collection



Petrified Wood Tabletop
Hand assembled and set into
resin - 240 million years old

1.5m diameter

Part of De Ferranti's Semi-Precious
and Precious Mineral Collection



‘Legno’ assembled into 'Punto Unghero' design
Baked in Arabesque wood-fired kilns

26cm x 10cm

From De Ferranti's Wood-Fired Terracotta Collection



Handpainted tiles showing the letters A to I
Taken from William Nicholson's woodcuts in *An Alphabet*, published in 1897

12.5cm x 15cm

© Elizabeth Banks



Handpainted tiles showing Animals and Sports
Taken from William Nicholson's woodcuts in *The Square Book of Animals* (published 1899)
and *An Almanac of Twelve Sports* (published 1897)

15cm x 15cm

© Elizabeth Banks

Os Gatos (from the Bestiário series)
Inspired by tile panels from Palácio dos Marqueses de Fronteira, Lisbon. Originals created by the workshops of Jan van Oort and Willem van der Kloet, Amsterdam, 17th C.

14cm x 14cm

From De Ferranti's Portuguese Handpainted Tiles Collection



Collage of tiles from Palácio dos Marqueses de Fronteira, Lisbon
Originals created by the workshops of Jan van Oort and Willem van der Kloet, Amsterdam, 17th C.

14cm x 14cm

From De Ferranti's Portuguese Handpainted Tiles Collection

Marine Scene (detail) - Micromosaic
Original from Pompeii, House of Faun.
Museu Archeologico Nazionale, Naples
End of 2nd Century B.C.

From De Ferranti's Micromosaic Collection

Section of the 'Lion Hunt' Pebble Mosaic, Pella (Macedonia, Greece)
Opus Lapilli - Mosaic consisting of small pebbles . Original from early Hellenistic Period, c. 330-300 B.C.
From De Ferranti's Pebble Collection

Dionysus Riding Panther (detail)
Original housed at the Pella Archaeological Museum, Pella, Macedonia, Greece. Hellenistic Greek, c. 400 - 360 B.C.
From De Ferranti's Mosaic Collection



Female Dancer Pouring Water (detail)
Reproduction of mosaic from Rome's province of Africa, Proconsularis, 4th C.
Sidi Grib, Museum of Carthage

From De Ferranti's Mosaic Collection

'The Woman with the Feather Boa'
Gustav Klimt, 1909. Osterreichische Gallery, Vienna
Rendition made with glass mosaic (Smalto di Murano)
89.5 cm x 74.5cm
From De Ferranti's Mosaic Collection

Composition comprising of Squared-off Hexagonal Tiles and Accents
Inspired by Chinese foliate design. Early 15th century, from either Egypt or Syria

15cm x 15cm

From De Ferranti's Ceramics Collection

Porta Marina - Opus Sectile (detail)
Composed of giallo antico from Numidia, antique green porphyry (serpentine), antique red Egyptian porphyry, palombino from Asia Minor, breccia medicea and rosso antico (Greece). Inspired by a floor at Ostia, the harbour city of ancient Rome

Part of De Ferranti's Pavimenti Collection

Biblical Stone - Antique Jerusalem Limestone
Originally quarried in the southern Hebron Mountains from biblical times until the middle of the 19th century

Specially selected and cut to 30cm x 30cm

From De Ferranti's Antique Reclaimed Limestone and Marble Collection

Opus Signinum
Ancient form of paving based on layers of mortar made from clay powder and lime (cocciopesto), inset with marble mosaic

From De Ferranti's Pavimenti Collection

Arpie
Composition comprised of yellow terracotta and volcanic stone. Inspired by the Michelangeloesque decorations at the Laurenziana Library, Florence

From De Ferranti's Pavimenti Collection

Cyperus Papyrus Fresco (detail)
Replica of the Wall Paintings of Thera from
The House of the Ladies, Akrotiri, Santorini,
Cyclades. Early Bronze Age, 3rd millennium B.C.

From De Ferranti's Fresco Collection

Parquet de Versailles in Tan
Saddle Leather distressed and assembled into
80cm x 80cm panels, marine ply base

From De Ferranti's Hide Collection

Hand Beaten German Silver Briquettes
Silver alloy veneered over a marine ply base

30cm x 10cm

From De Ferranti's Alchemy Collection

San Marco
Fresco tiles inspired by the facade of the Ducal Palace, Venice. Polished slip surface. Similar technique to that used in ancient Greek pottery

15cm x 15cm and 12.7cm x 12.7cm

From De Ferranti's Thera Tile Collection

Ottoman repeat in Bone with Horn Accents
30cm x 30cm / Custom

From De Ferranti's
Bone and Horn Inlay and
Veneer Collection

Hamilton Black Marble
Rare Marble containing substantial quantities of white, fossilized horn coral. Carboniferous Period, 325 million years ago

From De Ferranti's Rare Marble Collection

Bubble Tabletop (detail)
Mother of pearl inlaid into 0.5mm thick wenge. Inspired by works of Jacques-Emile Ruhlmann (1879-1933). Original displayed at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, c. 1923

2.4m x 0.9m

From the De Ferranti Yachts Collection

Ottoman Repeat Mother of Pearl with Black Marble Accents
Inspired by a Mughal door handle, c. 1600

Part of De Ferranti's Shell inlay and veneer Collection

Paternò
Chocolate brown background with off-white geometric décor.
Inspired by the tile decorations of the Scalinata di Santa Maria del Monte, Caltagirone, Sicily, early 17th C.

20cm x 20cm

From De Ferranti's Italianate Handpainted Tiles Collection

Cast Copper Pebbles
30cm x 30cm

One of many from De Ferranti's Pebble Collection

Sage Basketweave
North African green limestone handcut, shaped and polished

Part of the De Ferranti Textures Collection

Black Marble 'Pierced Screen'
From De Ferranti's Jali Collection

Maidenhair
Pattern based on 18th C. Damask

30cm x 30cm

Part of De Ferranti's Stencilled Limestone Collection

Close-up of White Opus Sectile Pavement
White Limestone polished to an egg-shell patina, Roman origin

From De Ferranti's Pavimenti Collection



Mosaic Panel
Private client, Oxfordshire

German Silver Briquettes
Aquascutum, London

Bitter Chocolate Limestone
Private Client, London

Custom Glazed Roof Tiles
Debenham House, London

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