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Inside Story Fantastic New Interiors



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Hello Cupcake • Project4 Gallery • Transmaterial.net

by Mary Fitch, AICP, Hon. AIA

You had me at...: **Hello Cupcake**, a new shop just south of Dupont Circle, is set to open by the time you're reading these pages. Offering a sophisticated twist on an old-fashioned classic, owner Penny Karas makes cupcakes that are out of this world. We know this because she made cupcakes for AIA | DC's garden party at the Swiss Ambassador's Residence last May. Her delicious lemon creations for that event were decorated with tiny fondant Swiss flags. These "bespoke" cupcakes, like all of Karas' products, were made entirely from natural ingredients. Penny's new store is designed by her husband, Bill Bonstra, AIA, of the DC firm **Bonstra | Haresign Architects**. Bonstra used a rich palette of sustainable materials to design an interior that transcends the typical retail bakery. Visit Hello Cupcake at **1351 Connecticut Avenue, NW**, or online at **www.hellocupcakeonline.com**.



Shavanna Miller, Travel and Leisure Fall 2006

Art for Architecture's sake: **Project 4** is a new entry into the Washington art scene. Designed by the DC architectural firm **Inscape Studio**, this two-level gallery showcases a variety of media, including installation, video, sculpture, and site-specific works. The gallery also operates an art consulting service, called Art + Space, which emphasizes trends in contemporary art and design. So whether you're looking for a single piece for a favored location or enough to fill an entire office building, visit Project 4 at **903 U Street, NW**, or online at **www.project4gallery.com**.

Materially Green: We just finished our annual DesignDC conference, which was devoted this year to green design, and have been pondering the question, "What's the next green innovation?" Architect Blaine Brownwell has an answer to that—many answers, in fact: He locates innovative new green building materials and products, and shows them on his website, called **Transmaterial**. Products featured on Brownwell's site at the time of this writing included *Permapave* driveway pavers that allow water to pass through, helping to reduce stormwater runoff;

GreenPix, a solar power-harnessing, light-emitting facade system; and *xGnP*, exfoliated graphite nanoplatelets that can change the fundamental properties of plastics, enabling them to perform more like metals. There's a lot of innovation out there—find out more about it at **www.transmaterial.net**. You can also sign up for a free email newsletter that will bring it all directly to your inbox. 📧

