

May 2026

MILLIKEN AT CLERKENWELL DESIGN WEEK 2026: A PACKED PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF UK MANUFACTURING

Milliken Floors have been a showroom partner of Clerkenwell Design Week (CDW) every year since the event's inception 15 years ago. For 2026 Milliken will focus on reuse, circular design and reducing waste. A headline event will take place on the first evening of CDW when businesswoman, broadcaster, author and activist Mary Portas OBE and Katie Treggiden (author, journalist and communications strategist) will be in conversation at Milliken's Clerkenwell showroom. Mary and Katie will explore what the commercial interiors sector can learn from fashion's evolving relationship with resale, repair and reinvention.

2026 marks a significant milestone for Milliken, as the company commemorates 40 years of manufacturing flooring products in the United Kingdom. Milliken's Clerkenwell showroom will be transformed into an exhibition space that highlights the company's distinguished history in UK manufacturing and features displays paying homage to 1986, the year Milliken started manufacturing floor coverings in the UK.



Mary Portas, photo credit © Linda Nylind, Guardian



Katie Treggiden, photo credit Alice Bray

Milliken has consistently promoted the reuse of its carpet tiles over recent years, implementing manufacturing processes and selecting materials that facilitate both recycling and reuse. At CDW 2026 Milliken will be running workshops focused on promoting practical approaches to reuse. Textile artist Isabel Fletcher will deliver two different workshops on creative mending and repair as well as how to elevate an ordinary tote bag using decorative waste textiles and intricate hand embroidery techniques. Thursday will end with a relaxed 'Stitch It, Wear it' Embroidery / Sip & Sew Workshop, where participants will learn with tutor Katy Horwood how to use embroidery to embellish and enhance clothing and other fabric items.



Workshops focusing on reuse with Isabel Fletcher & Katy Horwood

On day one Ren DeCherney, Director of Built Environment at the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute, will talk about how Cradle to Cradle Certified® supports circular design, material health and carbon reduction in the built environment. This talk will share practical insights into the updated certification framework, why circularity matters now, and how designers can specify products that are healthy, circular and equitable - without adding complexity to their workflow.

Day two starts with 'Designing for Neuro-Inclusive Workspaces (RIBA approved) CPD. A hands-on creative workshop led by the Milliken design team will follow. Learn how inclusive design thinking translates into real spaces. During the afternoon there will be a Lino Printing Workshop with Lavender Print School: A beginner-friendly lino print workshop creating repeat patterns that echo the linework, texture and geometry running through Milliken's latest collections Open Studio and Quiet Statement.

For day three a RIBA accredited CPD: 'The Journey to WELL Platinum - Showroom Tour.' Milliken's showroom is the only WELL Certified Platinum showroom in Clerkenwell. Share Milliken's real-world journey to WELL certification, insights, challenges and all, hosted by one of Milliken's in-house WELL AP's.

Mary Portas bio:

Businesswoman, broadcaster, author and activist Mary Portas OBE made her name creating change. Aged 30, she became a board member at Harvey Nichols before founding her own retail consultancy. Mary has since worked with some of the biggest names in global retail. Her BBC series - Mary Queen of Shops - premiered in 2007 and she has presented on television and radio for the BBC and Channel 4 ever since. In 2009, she partnered with Save The Children to reinvent charity shops. To date, the 26 Mary's Living & Giving shops nationwide have raised more than £30 million for charity. She also conducted a review of the future for high streets for the British government in 2011.

Mary is the author of three books: an autobiography *Shop Girl* [2015] and two non-fiction books - *Work Like A Woman: A Manifesto* [2018] which looks at the restructuring how we work for the future; and *Rebuild: how to thrive in the new Kindness Economy* [2021]. The Kindness Economy podcast was #1 on the business chart. As co-chair of the Better Business Act, Mary heads a coalition of businesses calling for a change in the law to ensure UK companies align their interests with those of wider society and the environment. In addition to presenting two series of *Mary Portas: On Style* for BBC Radio 4, Mary is also a podcaster - in her latest series *Beautiful Misfits* she interviews fellow changemakers taking the imaginative leap to create a better world.

Most recently, Mary took on the government with Kevin McCloud & Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall in *The Great Climate Fight on CH4*. In 2024, Mary made the King's New Year Honours list, being awarded an OBE for her services to business, broadcasting and charity.

Katie Treggiden bio:

Katie Treggiden is an author, journalist and communications strategist on a mission to share true stories of imperfect progress towards genuine sustainability. With 25+ years' experience in communications within the creative industries, she has worked with Fortune 500 brands such as Emirates and Kia Motors and designer - founders such as Bethan Gray.

She has written six books on craft, design and sustainability and countless articles for newspapers and magazines from *The Guardian* to *Dezeen*. *Homes & Gardens* named her their 'Eco-Champion Thought Leader' – the first non-designer to be recognised in their Design Awards.

She has a degree and two post-graduate qualifications in marketing and a master's in History of Design from the University of Oxford. And she is a Design Council Expert, BioLeadership Fellow and a Change in Nature facilitator.

ABOUT MILLIKEN

Milliken is a leading supplier of floor coverings, with a rich history of delivering dynamic carpet and luxury vinyl tile collections from its award-winning design studios and manufacturing facilities in Wigan, UK. Combining global insight with national expertise and proprietary technologies, Milliken is at the forefront of innovation and design, offering high-performance, expertly-engineered products. Founded in 1865 Milliken has achieved an amazing 160 years in the textiles business and is now one of the largest privately owned companies in the world, providing expert solutions across a range of disciplines, including specialty chemicals, floor coverings, and performance materials. With over 100 years of environmental stewardship, the Milliken family of companies is one of the world's most responsible manufacturers.

Designing innovative products and solutions for our customers is of the utmost importance. Through meaningful design, deep science, and unique insights, we advance product development to the next level, while supporting Milliken's efforts to increase sustainable results and minimise environmental

impact of all products. Milliken's holistic approach to innovation encompasses all stages of the life cycle - from material sourcing and manufacturing practices to end-of-life management. Our commitment to transparency, health, safety, quality, and sustainability allows us to put our customers, associates, and communities first. In 2025, Milliken was named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies by the Ethisphere Institute for the nineteenth year running.

WWW.MILLIKENCARPET.COM

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