‘Sometimes things are planned, most often they just occur. We may focus on one thing but often it’s “the other” that is more interesting – sometimes it takes a change of light or a repositioning of view to see the potential in a sample panel.’

Ruth Morrow

**Drawing on the interior**

**Name:** Prototype panels  
**Location:** N/A  
**Date:** 2008  
**Designer:** Tactility Factory

A designer cannot just draw a proposal; they must also have an idea about how the effect will be achieved. More experimental effects are best explored through the development of prototypes and samples with the best results being achieved through experiment followed by a more rigorous process of looking and analysis.

Tactility Factory is a research and development project run by Trish Beford and Ruth Morrow that aims to create innovative ‘soft’ interior products. It challenges the perception of textile and pattern as the ‘dressing’ to structure and instead integrates textile technologies into the production of building products such as concrete.

Through a process of making they are developing increasingly sophisticated techniques for combining pieces of fabric within poured concrete slabs. In the example shown, the linen fabric seen on the surface has had holes cut into it allowing the concrete to pour through to create the ‘concrete petals’. In the ‘embroidered concrete’ example, the stitching on the surface known as the ‘faceloom’ is part of a multilayered fabric which is bonded back into the concrete by means of another layer buried below known as the ‘substrate’. Other experiments have included using hybrid fabrics made of linen and stainless steel and also further working of the surface using the laser cutter.

**Above:** Pouring the panels  
Fabric and concrete is combined in the prototype panels.

**Below:**
- ‘Embroidered concrete’ prototype panel  
- ‘Concrete petals’ prototype panel  
Linen, concrete and gold foil.