Research Highlight

Paper accepted for *Advanced Functional Materials*

“Structural Evolution of Self-Assembled Nanohybrid Thin Films from Functionalised Urea Precursors”

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Silica-based hybrid thin-films have the potential for use in molecular recognition and heterogeneous catalysis. This paper discusses the synthesis and evolution of nano-scale structures prepared by introducing organic molecules with silica precursors that have optically responsive ligands. The figure below shows atomic force microscopy (AFM) images of the films deposited by spin-coating from identical silica chemistry that has been (a) base-catalysed, and (b) acid-catalysed.

![AFM images](image-url)