

FURNITURE AND MANUFACTURING MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

WOODNEWS

SEP - OCT 2020
Vol. 30 • No. 3



30
YEARS

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Wood holds the key to safe interiors in post-pandemic world

P.24

CASE STUDY
Thermally treated American Ash
in a modern home P.10

FEATURE
Four essentials for the perfect
edge banding finish P.52

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T.ZED Architects have wrapped KOA Canvas - a unique new residential community in Dubai representing a new era in modernized urban property development - with thermally-modified American tulipwood. Over 750 square meters of tulipwood have been used to create the cladding element which shades and prevents overheating of the double-height co-working and closed office spaces, and which also transforms into an outdoor shaded walkway and elevated public balcony. This is the first time that thermally-modified tulipwood has been specified in these quantities in the region and the architects are confident that the material will weather and stand the test of time in this arid desert climate.

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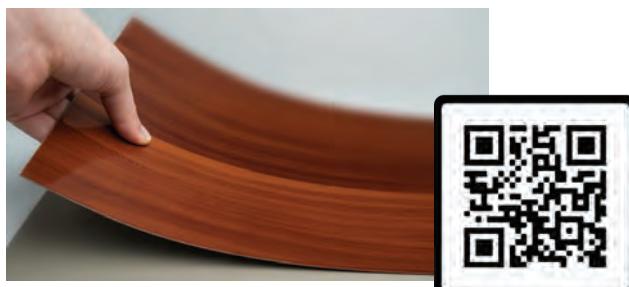


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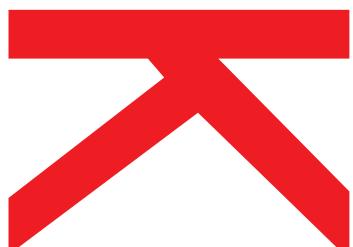
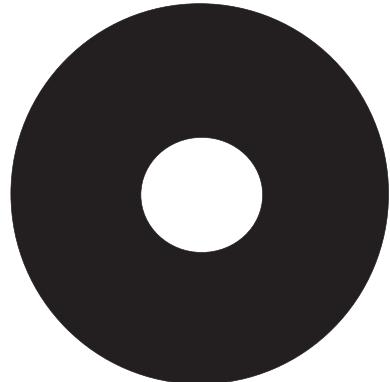
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Contents

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2020

10

CASE STUDY

Thermally treated American ash makes a modern home

EuroTech's automated saw guide pumps up productivity

14

18

EVENT REVIEW

CIFF Shanghai keeps collaboration going strong

Weinig goes 'live' with its latest push-feed saw



10

24

COVER STORY

Floored! Wood holds key to safe interiors in post-pandemic world

52

58

FEATURE

Four essentials for perfect edge banding finish

Dust control system a must for production



24



18



58

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Gabon...Land of Opportunities

Contents

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2020

66

ENVIRONMENT

New 'cloud' service keeps eye on forests

68

REPORT

IKEA leads market in sustainability

Wood coatings markets look positive

72

SPECIAL FOCUS

More industry stakeholders write on the Covid-19 downturn

82

PRODUCTS & PROCESSES

CK Airtech, Durr, Freud, Hafele, Jai, and many more

98

NOTES & NEWS

AHEC, CEMAC, Egger, Hexa, Homag, etc.



72

WOODNEWSChief Editor | Dhananjay Sardeshpande
dhananjay@pdatrademedia.comChief Copy Editor | Roy Thomas
roy@pdatrademedia.com

Founding Publisher | Gouri Ramakrishnan

Founding Editor | Dr. Joseph George

President | Tony Doulton
tony@pdatrademedia.comExecutive - Media | Jyotsna Yadav
jyotsna@pdatrademedia.comExecutive - Media | Vinay M C
vinay@pdatrademedia.comSenior Executive – Circulation/Admin | Chandrababu M
chandru@pdatrademedia.comGeneral Manager - Design | Infant Vikas
vikas@pdatrademedia.comManager - Design | Ramesha K S
ramesha@pdatradefairs.comTaiwan, China and Hong Kong:
Robert Yu, Worldwide Services Co., Ltd., 11F-B, No. 540,
Wen Hsin Road, Sect. 1, Taichung, 408, Taiwan.
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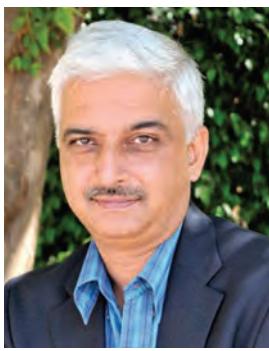
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EDITOR

DHANANJAY SARDESHPANDE

Of safety, sanitation and our 'Magicians' at work!

Dear Readers,

One of mankind's oldest, most trusted and versatile building materials takes centrestage again, this time because of, and amid, the raging Covid-19 contagion. It turns out that wood, because of its inherent characteristics, will hold the key to safe and sanitary interior spaces on our post-pandemic world. Wood's natural tendency to absorb moisture and subsequently dry out – or "breathe" – has proven to diminish the longevity of bacteria (and virus) on wooden surfaces by starving them of the moisture they need to survive!

An Arkansas-based (US) architecture and engineering firm, Harrison French & Associates (<https://www.hfa-ae.com/>), recently teamed up with architects, engineers and other design professionals to produce

valuable content for clients in a post-Covid-19 world. They have set the record straight: paired with well-ventilated buildings, the results of their study apply equally to retail, restaurant and commercial spaces, as well as the real estate sector. What better application of wood in flooring, to minimise the spread of the contagion?

Talking of living spaces, thermally treated Ash (American hardwood) has been featured in this issue as a durable material for modern homes. Despite not being protected by oils or lacquer, and open to weathering naturally, the architects expect the material to last about 25 years! *WoodNews* also showcases the world's first-ever 5-storey, 5-star hotel made entirely of PEFC-certified solid wood that opened in Austria recently.

For the finger-happy, we have an expert from Felder-India writing about the essentials for perfect edge banding finishes. You need not look afar; these are

largely part and parcel of the edge banding machine you already own! And for factory/workshop managers, we have an article on how wood dust is an invisible health threat and a top fire hazard; how it builds up in facilities and fissures; and easy methods to control – even eliminate – dust from woodworking operations.

We are continuing our series of articles on how the Indian furniture industry is coping with the sharp downturn on account of disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. I must say that the industry's consumers (manufacturers) and suppliers (material and technology) alike are magicians at work. Not only have they persevered during the lockdown, they are now springing back into the saddle with all intentions – and strategies – of galloping ahead in the months to come. That's the never-say-die spirit: keep it up! Here's wishing you Happy Diwali and other festive occasions to come.

STAYING IN TOUCH

In keeping with the times and for ease of communication, *WoodNews* has discontinued the printing of Business Reply Envelopes with each issue of the magazine.

However, we continue to welcome your views and reviews of happenings in the industry, your contributions to and suggestions for the magazine, as well as business proposals via email.

Now follow us on:



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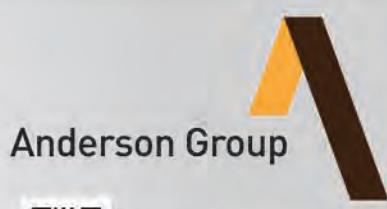
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Thermally treated ash makes a modern home

American architecture studio, Haus, has completed a countryside home in Indiana that comprises interlocking boxes clad in ash, concrete and cement board. Its name, Copperwood House, is inspired by the colour of the surrounding woods and landscape.

It is an untouched natural site adjacent to farmland and bustling with wildlife, but itself not ideal for agriculture. Of the 20 acres, about 3 acres were available for construction, with much of the remaining acreage wetlands.

The design solution was a balance of the unique site opportunities, paired with the owner's simple lifestyle needs and love of travel. Haus chose to specify thermally modified American ash for the exterior walls of the house.

"We researched the product and liked the appearance of the thermally treated

ash samples more than some of the others. Grain and colour were the biggest factors," said Christopher Short, Principal of Haus Architecture.

Durable material

The owner of the house chose not to protect the thermally modified treatment (TMT) through oils or lacquer and instead let the material naturally weather into a darker grey. In the Indiana climate, the architects expect the material to last about 25 years.

Haus was set on detailing the wall as a rain screen system, and Woodhaven, who supplied the timber, offered a clip/furring system supporting that approach, allowing water to drain out of the wall cavity.

The exterior materials are continued through the interior to the bedroom wings and the stair wall cladding and, although the interior has lightened somewhat, it remains true to the thermally treated ash's original base colour.

According to the American Hardwood

The thermally modified ash exteriors are expected to last about 25 years, without oil or lacquer protection

Export Council (AHEC), the external use of thermally modified American hardwoods is growing significantly year on year not just in Europe but around the world, including in the US, as this project demonstrates.

TMT turns non-durable hardwoods such as ash and tulipwood into durable materials that don't decay or deteriorate in outdoor use.

Architects now have a sustainable timber option that ages well, without finishing, and provides increased stability in use. Together with the rich darkening of the wood it means that TMT hardwoods are also being used internally as well.

Internal applications

Haus wanted to design the spaces for passive solar with an east-west primary orientation, but this was counter to the angled pipeline. Ultimately the pipeline became a major driver of the design concept, resulting in an offset series of bars forming the bedroom wing, living wing, and garage wing – each perpendicular to the other forming a Z-shaped layout.

Each component steps with the angle while maintaining the desired solar orientation and orthogonal relationships, which also happened to work perfectly for desired views and site access.

It was no problem achieving abundant natural light to the primary living spaces and bedrooms, but the architects also wanted a nice quality of light in the lower level, which includes a partial walk-out to

Pictures courtesy: Haus Architecture



the south.

The desire for more light led to a north-facing light well garden on the entry side of home, which then led to the idea for the covered bridge feature. The architect also served as the construction manager for the project.

AHEC is the leading international trade association for the US hardwood industry, representing the committed exporters among US hardwood companies and all the major US hardwood production trade associations. For more information visit: www.americanhardwood.org.

The interiors and the stair wall cladding remains true to the thermally treated ash's original base colour.

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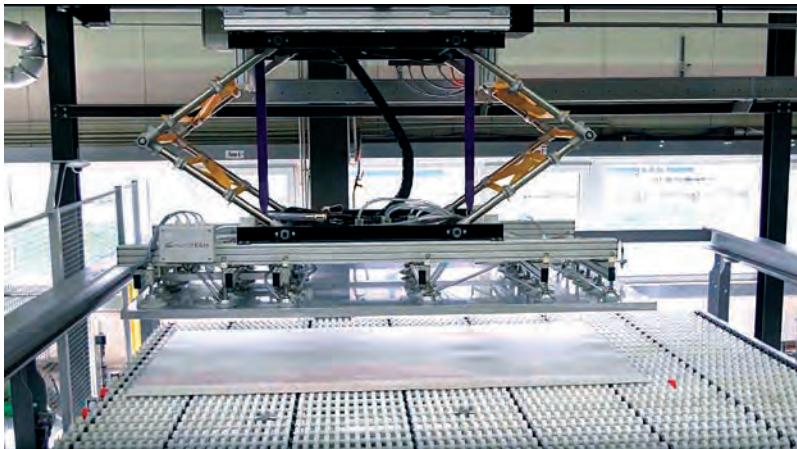
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Automated saw guide pumps up productivity

Alu-Point, a company based just south of Hannover (Germany), has successfully lowered its production time and achieved a considerable boost in productivity, thanks to an automated saw guide from EuroTech Vertriebs GmbH.

Besides mechanical engineering, tool manufacture and mould construction, Alu-Point serves automotive and aerospace suppliers, the furniture and wood industry, automation and packaging machines sector, and producers of measurement and medical technologies.

Alu-Point uses state-of-the-art saws to cut its materials with extremely narrow tolerances to meet its clients' needs precisely. The company recently found itself in need of a provider who could supply an individual solution to automate its saw guide process and increase its overall production speed.

The new EuroTech system simplifies the loading process of the dividing saws by offering integrated handling and transport solutions in the field of vacuum technology.

EuroTech develops customer-specific vacuum systems and components for automated handling tasks. Its product portfolio includes vacuum components, vacuum lifting devices, vacuum suction boxes, vacuum robot equipment and testing devices.

Automation advantages

Automating the loading and unloading of machining lines bring many advantages: they protect the health of their operators and ensure high quality and efficiency. Alu-Point asked for a solution that would automate the loading of its two Schelling single-axis saws.

The new system would need to be able to handle the company's extensive product portfolio with a single machine. It would also have to be able to handle a wide variety of panels weighing up to 1.3

tonnes without any difficulty with the various formats.

The panels would have to be transported securely over a distance of more than 20 metres and the controls of the loading system should be uncomplicated.

EuroTech's result is a loading system that can control three positions within the sawing area from the output area. The 22-metre portal runs along the back of the saw, loading it with panels made from a wide range of materials from the rear end.

The saw uses the profibus system to request the material, while the computerised portal monitors all requirements. A high-powered vacuum unit controls the mechanical intake system, which prevents surface damage to the panels.

An integrated separating unit ensures smooth operations and increases production security. Alu-Point Managing Director Thorsten Otte emphasised: "Our collaboration produced good results very quickly. Our employees and I are very pleased with the outcome."



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CIFF Shanghai keeps collaboration going strong

The 46th CIFF (China International Furniture Fair) in Shanghai (07-10 September, 2020) has once again confirmed itself as a place of dialogue and cultural exchange, contributing to the qualitative development of the furniture industry worldwide.

In this edition, great attention was paid to the culture of good design and good living, with the intent to represent trends and provide inspiration for the entire industry.

Among these, two extraordinary design exhibitions stand out: the East Design Show hosted more than 50 Asian design brands, academies, design studios, and media, shedding light on important topics; and the Design Dream Show, organised by CIFF in collaboration with Red Star Macalline and Innovation Design Alliance.

CIFF had collaborated with main furniture manufacturing and trading associations, media, and institutions in the field of design, to organise as many as 50 conferences and forums and 10 themed exhibitions.

Despite taking place just six weeks after the 45th CIFF in Guangzhou, which was moved from March to July due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this last edition of CIFF has certainly been a success. More than 1,000 exhibitors occupied 2,50,000 square metres of exhibition space and attracted more than 1,18,400 industry professionals.



It represented the entire furniture industry chain: home, outdoor and leisure furniture, home décor and home textiles, office, hotel, and commercial furniture and, thanks to the overlap with the Shanghai International Furniture Machinery & Woodworking Machinery Fair (WMF) 2020, machinery for the furniture industry.

Undoubtedly an unusual edition, it maintained total safety thanks to the absolute commitment and strict pandemic prevention protocols adopted,



the scrupulous services dedicated to visitors, and the digitisation of some exhibitions, thus integrating offline and online activities.

The collaboration between CIFF and Red Star Macalline is now demonstrating how far-sighted and strategic that choice is, closing the circle of the industry chain by directly connecting the fair's exhibition and promotional event with the purely commercial activity of distribution in showrooms.

Now all eyes are on the 47th CIFF in Guangzhou 2021, which will feature home furniture, home décor and home textiles, outdoor furniture and home textiles, and outdoor and leisure furniture (18-21 March).

A separate exhibition on office furniture, hotel furniture, commercial furniture, and furniture for public spaces, as well as furniture machinery, components and raw materials runs 28-31 March.





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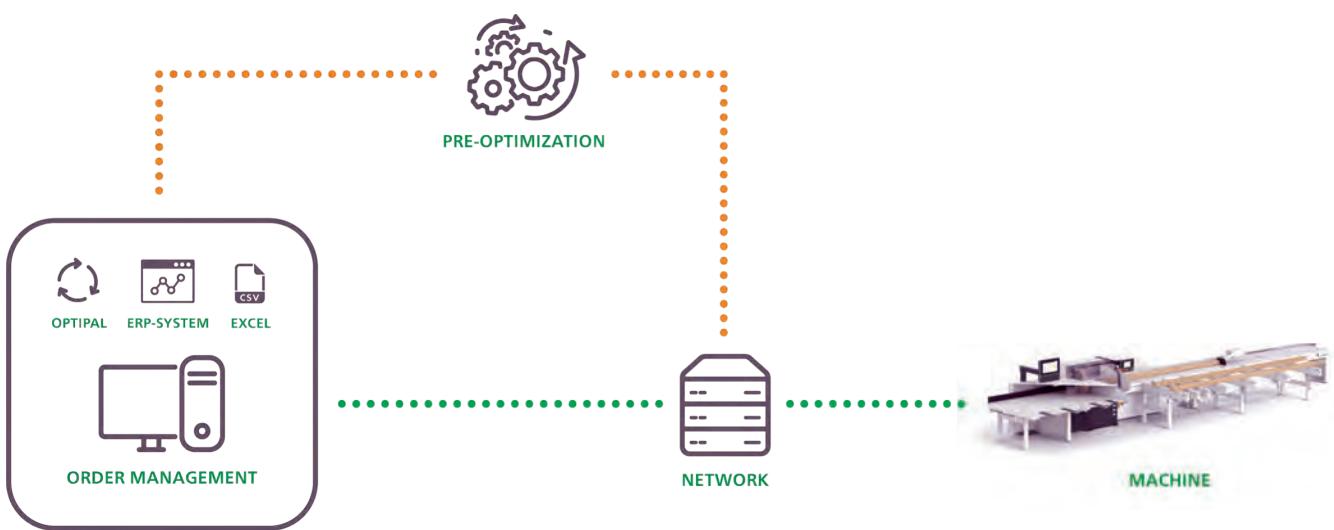
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Weinig goes 'live' with push-feed saw



In the year of 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has created a big restriction of social interaction for all of us. Many countries had implemented different levels of lock-down to try and contain the spread of the virus.

These actions might have imposed quite a lot of limitation on the number of workers allowed in factory operations. Thus, improving the factory productivity will be a critical factor to fulfil customer order with limited human resources.

For the Weinig group, which is determined to continue to introduce valuable products and technology to help its customers ride out this pandemic wave, it has been bit different this time as global travel has come to a standstill and all trade shows have been either halted or scaled down to host local visitors only.

Therefore, to help customers in enhancing the manufacturing efficiency, Weinig recently conducted a live demo, 'Component Production on a Push-feed Saw', for the solid wood working industry from the comfort of everyone's office or home.

More than 80 customers and attendees – including those from India, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines and Australia – were present during the 2-hour programme.

Among the speakers was Sebastian Roth, whose core competence lies in development of technical solutions and sales for the Asia-Pacific region, and Volker von Kries, an expert in machine demos and hands-on training on cross-cutting machinery.

Among the topics covered were the software solution, 'OptiPal', for the creation of cut lists from your customer orders; and the 'OptiResult' software to pre-optimize your material by combining orders.

The duo also demonstrated transfer of the pre-optimisation data to an OptiCut push-feed saw and production of the components; as well as production mode "defect cutting" and how to optimise with manual marking.

Among the many advantages that emerged from the webinar and subsequent question-answer session were:

- Paperless and efficient production, from production planning to the machine;
- No more time consuming manual data input on the machine terminal;
- Optimisation of cross-sections in the order list, which is visible on the machine display;
- Better output compared to optimisation of just one board;
- Lengths with the same cross-section from various orders can be considered.

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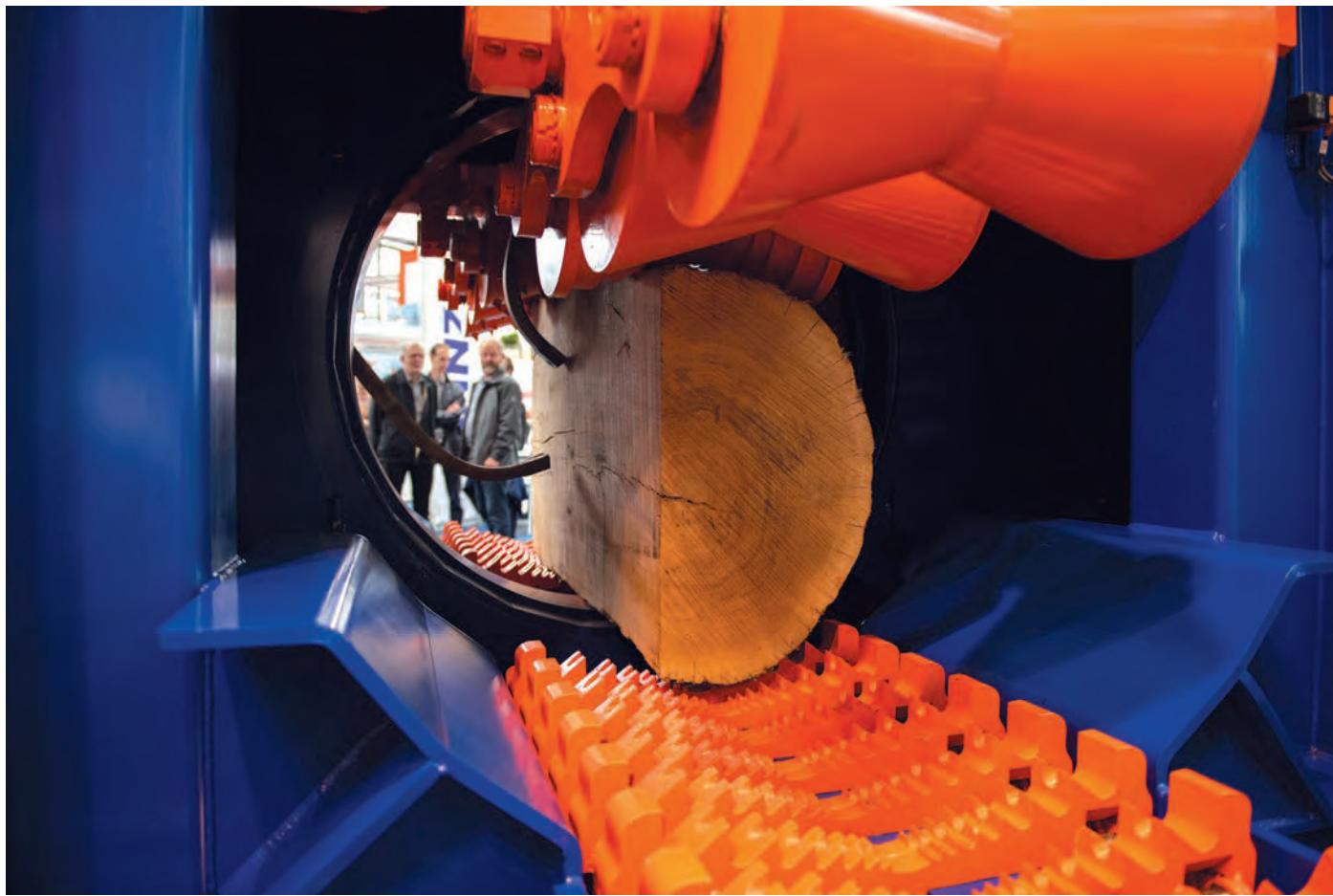
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Ligna 2021 opens window in Sept-Oct

In view of the global incidence of infections from the Covid-19 pandemic, Deutsche Messe and the German association VDMA had postponed Ligna by around five months next year.

It has now been decided that the next edition of Ligna will take place in Hannover (Germany) from 27 September 27 to 01 October, 2021. This will give all national and international participants the necessary time for an optimised trade show planning process.

The world's most important trade

show for the international wood industry will have numerous innovations, particularly in the three focal themes: Woodworking Transformation, Prefabricated Building Processes, and Green Material Processing.

Preparations for Ligna 2021 are already in full swing. Demand for exhibition space is already strong for the 10 halls and open-air site. All the big industry players are on board.

"It seems that after many weeks of social distancing, lockdowns, online-only events and video conferencing from home, the industry is really looking forward to

meeting up face-to-face," says Christian Pfeiffer, Deutsche Messe's Global Director for Ligna and woodworking shows.

Dr. Bernhard Dirr, Director of the German Engineering Federation (VDMA) says, "Ligna is our window into the future. If we manage to showcase our industry in a way that people can physically explore, experience and engage with, then I think we can call Ligna 2021 a success, regardless of the visitor and exhibitor turnout."

Further information about Ligna is available at www.ligna.de.



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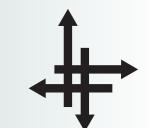
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Wood Taiwan plans on-site, *online show mix*

The Taiwan international woodworking machinery show, Wood Taiwan, will be staged online and offline at the Taipei Nangang Exhibition Centre (Hall 1) from April 22 to 25, 2021.

However, starting December 2020, WooDiscover, a series of video clips from some of its exhibitors' factory tours, will provide visitors an effective way to preview the trade show.

Jointly organised by TAITRA (Taiwan External Trade Development Council) and TWMA (Taiwan Woodworking Machinery

Association), it is one of the leading woodworking machinery trade fairs in Asia.

Wood Taiwan 2021 sets its theme on 'Thrive in Green Manufacturing', for how to make the best use of rare wood resources, and to improve the recycling and reuse of wood as the central issues of the wood processing industry.

Exhibitors such as Cheng Kuang Wood Machinery Works, ABM Woodworking Machinery, and Tsung Chang Machinery will showcase an array of products on energy saving, consumption reducing, waste-less, recyclable and optimised production of plates processing

machinery and components, in line with global sustainable production trends.

In order to meet the emerging needs of processing different wood composites for the industry, Wood Taiwan will include composite materials processing machinery, wood hand tools and plates to comprehensively display woodworking machinery's cutting-edge products.

Exhibitors such as Chiu Ting Machinery, Chuan Chier Industrial and Innovator Machinery will provide their insights regarding those diverse solutions.

In conjunction with industry upgrades, exhibitors Leadermac Machinery, Anderson Industrial, and Kuang Yung Machinery will demonstrate their smart manufacturing solutions which combine the Internet of Things, remote monitoring, sensors and control systems, responding to rapid change of market demands.

The last edition of Wood Taiwan in 2018 shed light on the outlook and development of CLT (cross-laminated timber), and the trend of 'Industry 4.0' in smart manufacturing for woodworking machinery. For the latest information, stay tuned to www.woodtaiwan.com.

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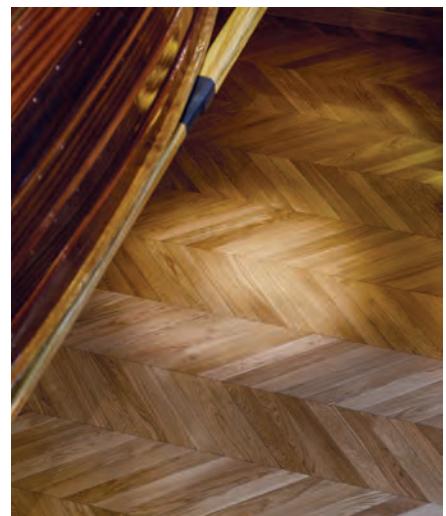


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Have wood? We'll floor you!



The Herringbone, Chevron and Versailles patterns come in engineered and solid construction planks, alongside a select range of genuine reclaimed wood sourced from sawmills in Europe.

Wood is known to be a natural material for construction of homes; comes with several hygienic, psychological and economic benefits; is carbon-neutral; and can be sustainably harvested. What better material can we think of for our interiors – especially in these Covid-19 times – at home, offices and other spaces?

Dhananjay Sardeshpande spoke with **Mr Aashish Poojari**, Managing Director of Havwoods International – and other leading suppliers and experts – to find out what lies in store for this future-proof material for flooring. Read on:

When Aashish started out to plan a flooring venture at the turn of the 21st century, he extensively surveyed various markets and studied wood and flooring manufacturing for 2 years. However, the market in India for wood flooring then was minuscule. The use of wood itself was still skewered with doubts as to its applicability, longevity, assured supply, cost and upkeep.

By 2005, Aashish and his brother, Aadesh, decided they would go into retail to better gauge the Indian market, engage with and educate the specifiers and influencers, and spread real-life examples across India to support their firm conviction that wooden flooring is the best.

And so the brothers started Plan-B, with distribution rights for 12 global players, including Kahrs of Sweden, the US-based Giant, Moso (bamboo flooring) from the Netherlands, and Karelia from New Zealand. They also added some laminate floor manufacturers to their range to offer architects and interior designers some more options.

Plan-B went on to win industry awards for 'Most Innovative Wooden Flooring Company'. It also boasts of having worked with some of India's top architects and designers, including many celebrities.

Market size

According to Aashish, wood and cork are

the only natural materials that are closest to our skins – even the most exotic and expensive stones (including marble) are not conducive to a positive human interaction. Wood "breathes" just as human skin does.

However, Aashish is quite practical in not wishing away natural stones or artificial tiles. "They will continue to have their place; but the space for wood-based flooring is certainly going to increase," he says.

At the time, Pergo was the only known brand, Aashish recalls, but it was into laminate flooring. There was but a sprinkling of importers of solid wood flooring, spread as far across as Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata.

"It was largely an unorganised market meeting an extremely niche demand," Aashish remembers.

Jump to 2020, when the India market is said to be to the tune of 80 million square metres, Aashish says. Of this 80% is serviced by ceramic and vitrified tiles, another 10% goes to laminate flooring, and a mere 0.2% is for wooden flooring.

But, as Aashish points out, the wooden flooring market is growing exponentially. "The small share of wooden flooring only indicates the huge potential that needs to be tapped and upgraded from tiles to wooden planks. It is a market you cannot

ignore!" he notes.

Enter Havwoods

Keeping that in mind, in 2016, Aashish decided to partner exclusively with UK's largest retailer and specifier of wooden flooring, Havwoods International. The company, which specialises in hardwood flooring, reported revenue of 35 million Pounds last year, and already has a strong presence in 35 other countries.

It boasts of an impressive clientele including Harrods, Breitling, Harley Davidson, Paul Smith, Jamie Oliver, Marks & Spencer, Nando's, etc.

Aashish has set up a 3,000-square-foot showroom in Mumbai, from where he currently handles the Mumbai and Delhi markets. He has also added franchisees in Pune, Ahmedabad and Chennai.

Now he is eyeing the hinterland – following up on serious interest shown by architects and interior designers from Aurangabad, Baroda, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Nashik.

The Indian buyer has migrated from being price-sensitive to being quality-conscious, Aashish



The small share of wooden flooring only indicates the huge potential that needs to be tapped. It is a market you cannot ignore.

– Mr Aashish Poojari, Managing Director, Havwoods International.



Havwoods International offers 300 options to the India market, including its colours, textures and finishes.

says. Wooden flooring is now considered as a classy new option and also a status symbol. This paradigm shift has opened up Havwoods' audience to considering using wood flooring extensively.

"Earlier wooden flooring was restricted only to the bedroom – about 200 square feet – but now the end users are more confident of laying wooden flooring in living areas as well. We now have duplex and penthouse accommodation with over 3,000 square feet of wooden flooring," Aashish says.

Extensive range

Today, Havwoods International is geared up with an India-specific portfolio and intelligent stocking programme to complement its core competence in excellent design, installation and after-sales service. It offers over 300 options

to the India market, including its 'Vertical Collection' for wall cladding.

"But it is not only about colours and stains," Aashish is quick to point out. "There are so many more textures and finishes that architects and interior designers can play with."

For example, the Chevron and Herringbone designs come in 20 colours each! There are other collections in machined, unfinished and UV-oil coated finishes.

The parent company relies on its design hub in London to track global trends and encourage innovation in product design and quality. Every 3 months new products are contracted to captive wooden flooring manufacturers, who maintain strict quality checks and technology upgrades.

"It is not at all easy for a manufacturer to stay relevant in a global market, or to quickly react to change in technology, trends and design," Aashish notes. That is where Havwoods International saves its contract manufacturers the trouble and assures them a steady stream of flooring orders for its international clientele.

Engineered floors

These are separate natural wood layers glued together to offer better dimensional stability in varied humidity and temperature conditions. It generally consists of a base layer of Birch plywood, a core layer in softwood (Spruce or Pine or high-density fibre board), and a top layer of premium wood.

While solid wood flooring is available in planks of up to 180 mm width and 20 mm thick, engineered flooring planks can be as wide as 450 mm, yet as thin as 5 mm. The latter are simple in construction and installation, using generally the tongue-and-groove type of "clicking" planks.

Exotic tropical teak species have gradually given way to Beech, Oak and Walnut for the top layer. Walnut has good colour and grain, but is softer than Oak, Aashish says. Oak comes in natural white to grey and dark colours and is more popular – it also stains very well.

Most Oak is from certified and professionally managed forests in Croatia, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, France and Romania. But it is generally treated and

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processed by experts in Germany and Italy. Birch is a long-growth species sourced from Siberia and Finland.

Compressed bamboo, on the other hand, is harder and denser than teak, and possesses greater dimensional stability, Aashish informs. But the selection of bamboo species, its harvesting and processing is very critical. Many Indian companies have attempted bamboo flooring, but have not matched the expertise of Chinese manufacturers.

Concerns & solutions

In India, wooden flooring has been beset with doubts with reference to its durability, stability, quality and cost-effectiveness. Then there are the myths about its resistance

to water and cost of maintenance. To debunk some of these misconceptions, Aashish starts with: "Installation is extremely critical."

Good quality of flooring is primary, but preparation of the sub-structures on which it rests and its insulation are equally so. Flooring must be laid in non-moisture retention areas; accurate profiles must be made and matched; quality glues must be used in strict accordance to procedures when assembling it; and the lacquering has to be perfect.

For small installations, foam is spread as a substrate before interlocking planks are fitted together on a "floating" platform. For larger spaces, the flooring has to be "glued down" to the cement floor and resembles a stone floor.

Water seepage is a major problem area, as

The portfolio ranges from traditional Merbau wood decking (L) to bespoke Herringbone for the exteriors (top) and the Vertical Collection for wall cladding.

is termite infestation in old buildings. Then there are chances of scratches and dents due to movement of heavy objects – mainly furniture. But for all these there are simple remedies. "Damp-cloth mopping every day is fine; but washing with water and detergents is a strict No-No!" Aashish adds.

Havwoods International offers warranties of up to 30 years on its flooring products. It has in place its own trained and tested installations teams spread across its establishments worldwide. That is because installation can make or break the reputation of this sector of woodworking.

Aashish signs off with: "You got a floor to cover? We have wood!"

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Floored by Malaysian timbers

Its beauty comes with age, while its warmth and texture are almost eternal. Nothing beats the presence of timber in our living spaces, and wooden floorings are stunning additions that provide a direct connection to nature.

As an environment-friendly and durable material, timber floorings have never gone out of style. The benefits of timber floorings which are available in the form of solid

timber flooring and engineered timber flooring are:

- Long-lasting: Hardwood floors that are well manufactured and maintained can last for generations. As they are hard-wearing, they can withstand heavy foot traffic and active work areas, providing greater resistance to indentation and abrasion.
- Easy to maintain: Timber floors are better than carpets: the latter can harbour parasites, allergens (dust mites and fleas) and dust. Wood does not retain stains or odours and can be cleaned just by sweeping or mopping.
- Insulating: Wooden flooring insulates against excessive heat, which help keep floors cool.
- Acoustics: Hardwood flooring does not give hollow sounds or vibrations. Wood is hypo-allergenic, thus contributing to a healthier living environment.
- Value-for-money: A simple act of sand and seal will bring a timber floor back to new again, unlike carpets, which may need to be replaced every few years.
- Evergreen appeal: Though stone and tile floors are also hygienic and easy to maintain, they do not exude the earthy warmth that timbers. When it comes to "floor fashion", timber floors win hands down against carpets, linoleum and even granite and marble.

Popular specs for Malaysian hardwood flooring

Type of Flooring	Thickness (mm)	Width (mm)	Length (mm)
Solid parquet	8, 10, 12, 14	30, 38, 50, 60, 70	30, 200-500
Strip flooring	11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22	70, 83, 90, 150	900, 1200, 2000
3-layer parquet	8, 9, 12, 14	90, 150, 190, 300	905, 1818, 1205, 2200



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WOODEN FLOORING

Vivid palette

As other types of floors began to look dull and worn, hardwood flooring will continue to retain its beauty and become more valuable over time. A wide range of Malaysian hardwood flooring is available for use in homes, offices, showrooms, indoor sports arenas, and restaurants.

These timber floors are versatile enough to be paired with virtually any other building material and colour palette for a lovely interior.

Among the popular timber species used for the manufacturing of Malaysian hardwood flooring are Balau, Dark Red Meranti, Light Red Meranti, Kempas, Merbau, Red Balau, Rubberwood, Bintangor, Keranji, Merpauh, Sepetir, Mempisang and Nyatoh.

These timbers come in a wide range of colours that easily attract buyers. Besides the variations in their natural colours, the sapwood of many species can be much lighter than the heartwood,

providing for both light- and dark-coloured boards.

Even within a tree, large colour variations can occur providing a visual feast when the timber pieces are assembled. Malaysian timber floors are specifically milled. Attractive and sturdy, hardwood floorings also provide a look of spaciousness.

Malaysia has long been known as a major producer of high-quality timber flooring whose products are exported to highly discerning markets with stringent requirements such as Europe, the United States, Australia, and Japan.

Buyers opt for either conventional solid strips and parquet flooring or engineered flooring.

Popular Malaysian flooring species

Balau	Sapwood is lighter in colour and well-defined from the heartwood which is yellow-brown, brown or reddish brown. The grain is interlocked and the texture is moderately fine but even.
Dark Red Meranti	Sapwood is not clearly defined from the heartwood which is medium red to deep red to deep red-brown. The grain is interlocked. The texture is moderately coarse but even.
Kempas	Sapwood is white or pale yellow in colour. Heartwood is pinkish when fresh and darkens to bright orange red or deep brown. The grain is interlocked, often very interlocked. The texture is coarse but even, except in areas where included phloem occurs.
Merbau	Sapwood is pale yellow in colour. Heartwood is yellowish to orange brown when fresh, darkening to brown or dark red brown on exposure. The texture is coarse and even, with interlocked grain.
Red Balau	Sapwood is well-defined from the heartwood of purple red or dark red-brown colour. The grain is interlocked, often deeply interlocked. Texture is rather coarse and even
Rubberwood	Sapwood is not differentiated from the heartwood, which is pale cream in colour, often with a pink tinge. Texture is moderately coarse but even with straight to shallowly interlocked grain.



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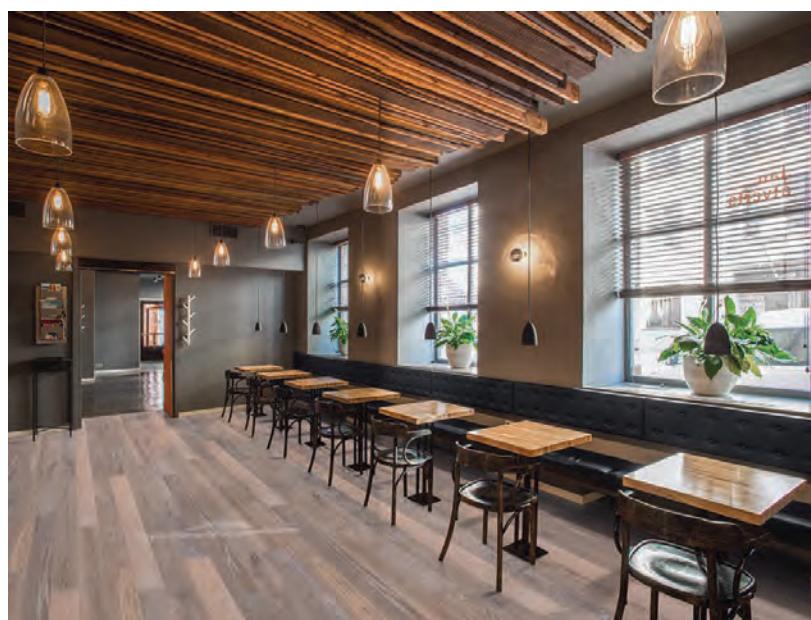


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3,00,000 shades to choose from HKS 1835



Nipun Purohit

Wooden floors are the 'in' thing today: the rich colours, the warmth under- foot, the natural sheen and the endless choice makes wooden flooring a favoured option against traditional surfaces like tiles, marble, stone, etc.

The natural beauty and class of wood is unmatched by any other style of flooring. Though wooden floors have been around in the West for centuries, they have only lately come into vogue in India. In a short span of time, they have overtaken all other flooring options in terms of style and popularity.

They're not only easier to lay but also come in styles and finishes that lend themselves to every kind of decor. They can be used in every part of the home: living

area, dining hall, bedrooms, kitchen, entertainment zone for kids, prayer room, etc.

There are primarily two basic types of natural wood: engineered and solid. Engineered wood, as the name suggests, has a base made of birch plywood and a top layer of natural solid wood. Solid wood is natural wood.

Technically superior

Solid wood constitutes a single piece of lumber material and can either be unfinished, lacquered or oiled, made out of red oak, white oak or maple.

Wooden floors have no fibres, grout lines, or embossing that can trap dust, pollen, particles, animal dander, and allergens that occur with carpets.

Apart from improving the aesthetic appeal of a space and acting as a good insulation material, it increases the value

Solid wood (L) and engineered (R) flooring both offer a wide range of colours and finishes.

of the house (for resale or rental purposes).

Advancements in designing, as well as printing technology, give a realistic look to the floors. Additionally, the wear layer of the laminated floor covering protects it from smudges and stains and also resists fading from UV light exposure.

The family-owned company, Heinr. Krüger + Sohn GmbH (HKS) is a supplier of high-quality parquet floors and decking to more than 30 countries since its founding 185 years ago in Münster (Westphalia, Germany).

Its core competence is wooden flooring for indoor and outdoor applications using FSC-certified wood since 2008. It offers ▶

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WOODEN FLOORING

flooring in Bangkirai and Garapa wood species, and also exceptionally high-quality exclusive species like Ipe and Cumaru.

Product range

HKS 1835 offers over 3,00,000 shades of wood to choose from, and their products come under the A+ category as they are produced in a certain environment which does not contribute to CO₂ emissions.

The product and services of HKS 1835 include solid and plank wood flooring in Oak and American Walnut, engineered and laminate flooring, wooden gazebos and pergolas, flooring installation service, BPC decking, wall wood cladding and many more new products.

Among them is the 'Manufaktur Deluxe' range made from select European resources. A wide variety of designs arise through the use of advanced technology in combination with passionate

handcraft. The Barrique top layer features manual carved texture and knots.

'A-Terra' stands for 'living on pure nature' and is cured with close collaboration with interior architects and designers. This is a special series of ageless wooden flooring to suit the full colour-spectrum of modern interior architecture.

The 'Kruggers' collection, produced with the "in-between" technology, helped us succeed in creating the perfect engineered flooring. The plank wood flooring with Oak top layer is based on first-class Birch plywood through and through. This product exists in several width and thickness and is virtually free from bending, and with reduced risk of joint education.

'HKS Garden' is made from bamboo, one of the fastest growing plants in the world. The composite of 60% bamboo flour and recycled polymer makes the bamboo decking the perfect all-rounder for the outdoor garden decking.

Bamboo decking is kept in shape and is UV-resistant, durable and easy to clean, which is perfect for anywhere in the garden or around a pool.

'HKS Twin Face' is parquet with special construction, combining the advantages of a solid floorboard and the technical advantages of multi-layer parquet. It is, therefore, suitable for installation on hot water under floor heating.



– The writer is Business Head (India) for HKS Flooring LLP, established in Mumbai in 2011. For more information at nipunpurohit@hks1835.com.

(L-R) the Early Grey and Snow products from 'A-Terra' range and the 'Manufaktur' Ambiente.



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Egger to unveil new collection for 2021

Egger Holzwerkstoffe, the 2.8-billion-Euro global leader in wood-based chipboard, OSB, MDF and timber, is scheduled to unveil its new Egger Pro flooring collection, which will be available globally from January 2021.

A benefit of the new Egger Pro Flooring Collection 2021+ for specialist distributors and customers is the high degree of individualisation and flexibility in creating their customised product range.



The excitement is rising: from January, the doors to the new Egger Flooring Collection 2021+ will finally open.

Egger customers have always appreciated the company's design and consulting expertise. In the new flooring collection, Egger offers a comprehensive range of decors that are well thought-out, along with perfectly coordinated decor and product packages.

Egger is focusing on a consistent profile strategy and has converted all products to the flexible 'Clic-it!' installation system. This profile system has yet another advantage in the ingenious interplay of surface, core board and profile.

Egger offers its customers three different product categories for different applications and requirements in the new collection: from Comfort Flooring, characterised by its pleasant feel and acoustics, to the popular all-round laminate flooring, which is also available as water-resistant Aqua+, to the robust GreenTec.

GreenTec and Aqua+ laminates achieve a water resistance of up to 72 hours.

The Tirol-based (Austria) company also demonstrates foresight in the design of the preview and launch events. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Egger is offering innovative solutions to present the new collection; from digital tools and services to traditional events on site.

Egger utilises green room technology and 360-degree showroom tours to present innovative products and services, bringing numerous advantages of the new collections to customers in an interactive way.

Specialist visitors to the showroom can expect to be transported into Egger's decor worlds and discover the latest information on the technical and functional features of the products, as well as the presentation of Egger Pro

marketing tools, point-of-sales modules and sales and advisory support services from its experts.

Egger products are found in kitchens, bathrooms, offices, living rooms and bedrooms. It is a full-range supplier for the furniture, interior design, wood construction and wood-based flooring (laminate, cork and design flooring) industries.

For enquiries email india@egger.com.

In its new flooring collection, Egger offers a comprehensive range of decors, as well as perfectly coordinated decor and product packages.



Pergo's wood parquet goes rustic



Pergo's new Sensation range includes the Village Oak Plank.

There is more to wood parquet flooring than natural charm. A floor also needs to be durable. It needs to withstand the continuous activities or footfalls undertaken by kids, children, pets and at social gatherings too.

Everyone wants their floor to look beautiful as long as possible. Pergo wood parquet flooring is designed to do exactly that. Pergo wood parquet floors come in a rich array of beautiful collections, feature various plank designs, grading, structures and finishes.

When you go looking for an engineered wood floor you're faced with a lot of choices because engineered wood is not only a material that offers a wide variety of natural looks, the variety is increased even more by different surface treatments and finishes.

Engineered wood floors are fire-and-slip-resistant, which are also easy to maintain: effortless

surface cleaning is all you need for long-lasting beauty!

Pergo engineered wood floors consist of three layers of wood with the grain running in different directions to reduce the natural swelling and shrinking caused by fluctuations in temperature and humidity.

An advanced core of spruce, pine or HDF absorbs stress and strain to ensure that the floor remains stable in all conditions.

There is no easier way than Pergo's extremely easy installation, thanks to its revolutionary PerfectFold 'click' systems and pre-applied finish.

The company's high-quality Pergo Sensation flooring takes laminate flooring to a whole new level with the beautiful, authentic Village Oak Plank, which is a perfect alternative for modular kitchens, modern bathrooms (non-bathing areas) or hallways.

With AquaSafe technology, this laminate floor is virtually indistinguishable from real wood and offers exceptional water

resistance. Subtly pronounced cracks and knots – thanks to Genuine wood (a surface texture that follows the wood grain in every detail) – are complemented by an extra matt finish.

The feeling of wooden planks is further enhanced by bevels along all four edges. Sensation floors are ultra-hygienic as dirt and water stays on the surface and is wiped away easily.

Pergo is an international laminate flooring brand with prominent positions in North American and European markets, as well as in India with a growing market. Its products are produced by Unilin BV, based in Belgium.

Pergo's inventions are protected throughout the world by nearly 500 granted and pending patents. Pergo was the first flooring company ever to receive the official Nordic eco-label, the Green Swan.

For more information, log on to www.pergo.co.in.

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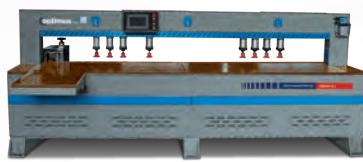
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Hybrid engineered flooring by Xylos



The dream of having the perfect wooden flooring in your client's home feels exciting, but the fear of overzealous kids or enthusiastic pets has become a big problem, restricting your flooring options.

The solution is simple: Xylos brings in a mesmerising flooring

innovation called "hybrid flooring", comprising of many unique layers, including a UV coating and "wear layer".

It is constructed with the perfect blend of limestone and polypropylene. The most exciting part is that it is highly water-resistant making this the perfect solution to getting that beautiful flooring without

the fear of spillage from children or pets.

The new innovation from Xylos is also termite- and fire-resistant due to its core not being wood. This exquisite hybrid flooring is available in seven different shades, including Oak and Hickory.

Xylos is a brand from Samling Global, a US\$ 10-billion Malaysian conglomerate. It is the only brand with integrated products and solutions from forest to finish.

The portfolio of products from Xylos comprises engineered wood flooring, solid wood flooring, laminate flooring, external wooden decking and bamboo flooring as well as wood-based wall-coverings.

To know more, or to schedule a visit to its design centre in Mumbai, check out www.xylosindia.com.

New contender: HempWood!

An East Tennessee hardwood flooring firm in the United States has become the first company in the world to begin making flooring from hemp. Unlike hardwood trees, that take 30 years to grow, hemp only takes 5 months.

Tennessee Wood Flooring (TFW) has formed a partnership with Kentucky-based Fibonacci LLC, the creator of HempWood. The 15,600-square-foot factory officially opened for business in Kentucky in August.

Made from compressed hemp stalks and sealed with a soy-based adhesive, HempWood offers significant advantages over traditional lumber, including a higher availability, a much quicker growth time and a 20% higher density.

It can be used in furniture, flooring and other woodworking projects.

TFW, a custom pre-finished flooring specialist, presses the material into flooring. HempWood is available in blocks, pre-sawn boards, flooring, and finished products such as cutting boards



and skateboards.

Essentially the hemp is grown and harvested, turned into bushels and then soaked in protein-based glue; then placed in a large press and heated to the proper temperature. The customer is left with a lumber board that may be used for any interior purpose.

SLIM LIFT - TRIPLE E



Application areas for feeding of BEAM SAW, PANEL SAW and SANDING MACHINE.

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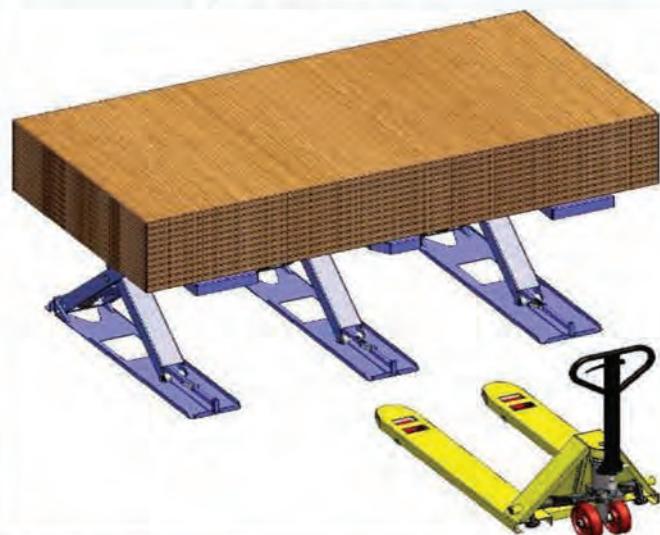


SLIM LIFT TRIPLE - E is the perfect solution for efficient lifting, lowering, and positioning material for variety of wood working machines. They take the backache and strain out of bending & lifting.

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Ultimtec has no solvents, chemical reagents



BerryAlloc, a leading French parquet manufacturer, has always prioritised sustainable development by using naturally sourced materials and renewable resources.

The recent launch of a completely new oak parquet collection was the result of an entirely rethought, thoroughly researched effort, including colours and finishes co-created by a team of architects, colourists and designers.

Thanks to its exclusive Ultimtec technology, BerryAlloc's new

collection succeeds in bringing together the delicate natural beauty of oiled parquet with the ease of maintenance of varnished parquet that is easy to clean, robust and long-lasting.

Ultimtec varnish respects wood and contains no solvents or chemical reagents. It is obtained by impregnating the wood with a primer with a basis rich in aluminium oxide, then applying a UV acrylic finish.

Besides the elegant decorative result that preserves the depth and nuance of every tint in the wood, Ultimtec offers an exceptional matt finish that meets the

high requirements of homeowners and decorators. The matt surface

obtained with the innovative Ultimtec finish comes very close to that of natural wood.

It has exceptional resistance to wear and tear and scratching. In terms of abrasion resistance, Ultimtec's performance is higher than 15,000 Taber CS10 cycles.

The parquet body is in high-density fibreboard of 875kg per cubic metre, is shock-resistant, and offers less echo and increased efficiency when used with under-floor heating.

BerryAlloc's parquets have a positive carbon footprint. It has PEFC, Parquets de France and A+ certifications. (www.berryalloc.com).

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Model: WM-246 A



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Model: WM-241 - 11L



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Bio-based self-matting for flooring



Royal DSM, a global science-based company in nutrition, health and sustainable living, has launched a new, bio-based self-matting resin, Decovery SP-2022 XP, that will take ultra-matt flooring finishes to new levels in terms of aesthetic and functional performance, ease of application and sustainability.

The new resin underlines DSM's ambition of using science and innovation to develop sustainable solutions that outperform conventional market alternatives.

Used to create low-gloss finishes on wooden and seamless flooring, Decovery SP-2022 XP resin offers

excellent levels of functional performance at a much reduced environmental impact.

Specifically, the resin has 30% bio-based content, can be formulated with low levels of VOCs (less than 250g/l based on 40 CFR 59.406), and is low in odour, while also delivering outstanding chemical resistance and mechanical properties, including scratch resistance.

In this way, Decovery SP-2022 XP enables a premium, ultra-matt appearance while safeguarding the environment.

In addition, the new resin addresses the strong market demand for ultra-matt coating products that are easier to apply and formulate. In particular, the Decovery SP-2022 XP resin requires no matting

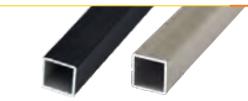
agents, no difficult formulations, and offers excellent in-can stability.

As such, the new resin will enable significantly easier processing than many of the commercially available alternatives, with up to one-hour time savings in operations.

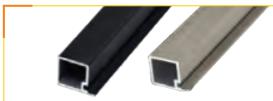
What's more, floor coatings made with Decovery SP-2022 XP leave no roller marks or lapping, and – unlike traditional matt coating systems – show no polishing effect.

More information can be found at www.dsm.com.

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NSR001 – Square Profile



NSR002 – Shelf Profile



NSR2S – Two Side Connector



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Stand Up For Your Health!!!

Did you know that 37% of all livelihood-related bodily injuries are caused by poor work place ergonomics? With working (and studying) from home becoming a necessity – and the preferred choice for many of your clients – it is important that they stay pain-free even after several hours of work or study each day.

Continuously working at your desk in a sitting position leads to poor posture and stress on your muscles and spine. Research shows that for every 45 minutes of sitting, we need to take a break and stretch for 5 minutes.

In this work from home era, Ebcos **Worksmart** has ushered a wide range of SmartLifts and other ergonomic products that helps customise their work/study spaces with a set of essential accessories for safe and clutter-free operation.

Worksmart Smart-Lift desks are the perfect solution in enabling you to work sitting down or standing up, at the exact height that suits your body. These smart desks are ergonomically designed, provide physical comfort and ease of use, reducing fatigue and ensuring active lifestyles.

So how does Ebcos do it? Ebcos leads the way with its innovations through **Worksmart** Fittings for office furniture. It has wide range of smart desk solutions, which features several SmartLift options that come in adjustable dimensions (height and width wise), various load capacities, electric or gas lift mechanism and height memory setting for sitting and standing positions. These desks are also available with table tops and various finishes to choose from.

Ergonomics@Work™

- The height of the worktop should be set in such a way that the user can work without reaching or bending; his/her forearms should be parallel to the floor.
- Ensure that the head, neck and wrists are in relaxed position, not forced up or down at work. The keyboard should be adjustable to a comfortable height.
- The monitor should be at least 18" (or more, depending upon screen size) from the eyes of the user.





*Computer Monitor Arm
(Single Arm Extended)*



Articulated Keyboard Station



Electric Box with Cable Manager 3

- Even when standing, the top line of the screen should be at the user's eye level, so that the middle of the screen is approximately 20° downward for relaxed viewing.
- In the sitting position, the user's thighs should be parallel to the floor, fully supported on the chair and feet on the floor. Add a foot-rest for better support.

Having a standing desk is not just enough. It's important to have complementing products such as Computer Monitor Arm to suit individual choice (and to free up table space), Articulated Keyboard Station, Safe Drawer, CPU Stand, Cable Collector, Stationery Tray, etc. to ensure efficiency at work/study.

To facilitate a smooth and ergonomic home-office setup, Worksmart accessories includes several charging options: Electric Box Slide-out, Electric Box Edge Mount, Electric Box Ceiling Mount, Electric Box with Cable Manager 3. These include features like cable manager, universal power sockets, USB chargers (including wireless micro-USB chargers), CAT-6 sockets and HDMI ports.

For handy stationeries Ebco has Work Station Tray – Round which is ideal for any working or study table. It offers 360° rotation for easy

accessibility and a special catch at 180° for fully closed and open positions.

For clutter free organisation of cables, Ebco has Vertebrae, Under-mount Cable Tray and various Cable Organiser options.

To boot it all (literally!) there is also a tiltable (up to 20°), non-slip surface Foot Rest designed to keep your feet supported and keeping the blood circulation regular.

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Perfect edge banding finish: 4 essentials



Rajaram Joshi

An automatic edge banding machine is a combination of various units and every unit plays a very important role to give the desired finish. We would like to drive your attention to the most important and essential maintenance activities that would help you increase the volume of the production, improve the quality of output and life of the machine.

Calibrated panels

The selection of raw material is also a critical aspect of the kind of finishing that you get on an edge bander. The panels that you use should have no variation or should be within the tolerance levels.

Manufacturers should focus on procuring calibrated panels or have an in-house mechanism for the calibration process before laminating these panels with veneers or laminates.

Maintained gluepot

The gluepot of an edge bander is the most tricky component of the edge banding machine. Keeping it well maintained not only gives you a great quality finish but also ensures that you save on many operating costs. Some important things to remember are:

- Do not fill up the glue pot entirely. Always ensure a level of 300-400 gm at a time. This step will ensure that the original colour of the glue remains intact;

- Clean the gluepot, including the glue roller, after every 72 working hours with a special cleaning agent;
- Always refer to the temperature data sheet provided by your glue supplier and set your machine gluepot temperature accordingly;
- Set up the right amount of glue on the roller/ applicator in order to ensure an optimal glue line between the edge and the panel.

Dust extraction

Additionally, ask your edge banding machine manufacturer or a dust extraction specialist to recommend you the right specifications of dust extraction system. Selecting the right dust extraction system improves the life of the machine.

Keeping your machine components free

of dust or wood chips results in smooth functioning and hence gives you the right shiny finish without waves on radius/ flush on the edge material. It also reduces issues related to gluepot.

Compressed air

The compressed air supplied to the machine should be completely moisture-free to ensure that all the pneumatic functions of the machine are well maintained and have a better life.

We recommend use of air dryer from day one of machine usage because this prevents moisture from entering in the pneumatic system, thereby preventing any malfunctioning in future.

Write to us on communications-in@felder-group.com to know more about your woodworking challenges and we would be glad to assist you.



– The writer is Service Director for Felder Group India. He has been associated with the woodworking industry for more than two decades and holds expertise in every category of woodworking machines, training and development and providing perfect solutions for every segment of woodworking workshops.



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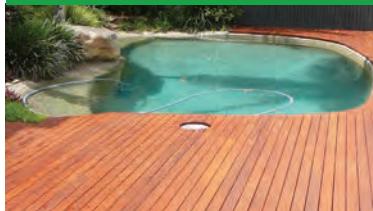
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If you lose wood dust to your workshop air, you will be inhaling it and relentlessly sweeping it off your machines and floor.

Dusting off your air quality woes

Wood dust is a nearly invisible threat and the top hazard in facilities manufacturing furniture. When exposed to an ignition source, tiny, highly-combustible wood particles can serve as the eager fuel for fires and explosions.

Wood dust is particularly dangerous when it is allowed to build up the way it tends to – in cracks, crevices and corners. Wood dust fires and explosions are often started by open flames, uncontrolled smoking, sparks from grinding, welding or torching, or faulty or poorly maintained electrical equipment.

To protect woodworking or manufacturing facilities from wood-dust related fires, good housekeeping holds the key. Dust build-up thicker than a coin creates an exposure.

Factories and woodworking workshops should have dust control equipment in place, especially a system with its own safety shut-off and alarm facility. For example, dust control systems use a tube to suck the dust into the dust control system.

Inside a properly engineered system, a light will illuminate if it detects a spark caused by a piece of metal or nail entering the tube. When this bulb is triggered, the

dust collection system will spray a mist.

When, the spark passes through, it will be soaked. It is basically a sprinkler system within a dust collection system!

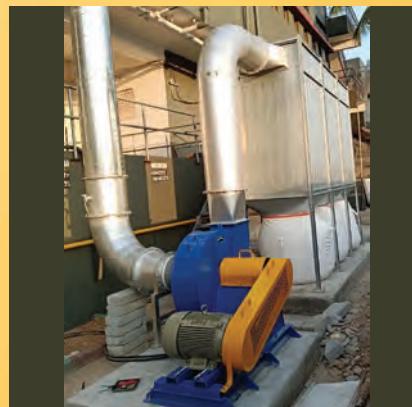
Good practices

In addition to dust collection systems and proper housekeeping, managers and operators should service and maintain all equipment regularly. Ventilation systems and ducts should also be checked often to ensure no blockage is present.

In particular, housekeeping staff and operators must keep an eye on several areas within their facilities that tend to accumulate dust, including:

- Vertical surfaces with adhered dust;
- Horizontal surfaces, including beams, joists and tops of equipment;
- Concealed spaces, such as that behind equipment;
- Electrical panels and motor control boxes;
- Motors, particularly in the area of the dust collection system;

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We offer Centralised and Stand alone dust collectors of high efficiency and energy saving system. This includes Pulsejet Bagfilter, Cyclone Separators, Reverse Air Filters and Energy efficient fans. We do offer state of the art finishing lines with Water curtain / Dry spray booths including Pressurized Dust free enclosures and Drying oven with Hot air generators or Infra red heating for quick drying.



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- Empty bins under enclosure-free dust collection systems.

But collection of dust at source is a poorly understood aspect. You must position the suction hood as close as possible to the source of emission – your lathe, grinder or other woodworking machinery. It's crucial that dust be picked up, as it is generated, and then directed into the collector.



Solvents, lacquers, thinners and oily rags can also prove to be dangerous while simply sitting on the shelf.

If you lose the dust to your workshop air, the task of collecting it becomes futile. You will be inhaling that dust and sweeping it from your machines and floor.

One can determine the efficiency of dust capture fairly accurately by a quick visual inspection of your machinery. Inadequate air volume/CFM allows dust from your grinder to escape onto the floor and into the air.

Ensuring your ducting is large enough in diameter and efficiently laid out are two ways you can minimise restrictions on airflow.

Most woodworking equipment requires about 250-1000 CFM. The amount of airflow or CFM required will vary depending on the size and number of woodworking tools running simultaneously.

Most average size table saws,

planers and jointers with 2-5 inch diameter ports need approximately 300-600 CFM to clean well. A machine that loses a lot of chips or emitting a visible plume of fine dust needs more airflow.

Cyclone separator

Separating the bulk of the wood waste from the airstream before it reaches the filter keeps the filter from clogging. A collector that dumps all of the dust directly into a filter (using the filter itself as a dust bin) is a very poor design.

It will reduce system airflow/CFM and filter efficiency; not to mention that it won't keep your workshop clean. When trying to maintain sufficient airflow at the woodworking machine to prevent dust loss, if the filter clogs too quickly, this becomes impossible.

A cyclone separator can exceed 99% dust separation efficiency, allowing only a very small amount of very fine dust to pass to the filter. The result is that filter cleaning is reduced by a factor of 50 and you maintain a constant, high level of airflow to the machine.

The final stage in dust collection is filtering the fine dust. It doesn't make sense to go through all the trouble of collecting the dust if you still allow the finest particles to pass through the filter and out into the workshop air.

The smallest dust is the most unhealthy to breathe and when it becomes airborne, inhalation is inevitable.

Effective filtration requires a quality filter media of sufficient quantity or surface area. You want to filter near 100%, down to the smallest particle (10 microns or less in diameter). Ideally, one should install HEPA-rated filters, which are certified to be 99.97% efficient at 0.3 microns.

Other threats

Oil-soaked rags have a habit of piling up in residential home garages to commercial woodworking shops to major manufacturing factories. Though a simple tool – rags are handy for applying stains and finishes – those chemicals turn the rags into potent, highly flammable fuel for fires.



Effective filtration is necessary because the smallest dust particles are the most unhealthy to breathe.

Spontaneous combustion and chemical reactions are a major cause of industrial fires globally. Spontaneous combustion occurs when an object increases in temperature without pulling in heat from its immediate area.

If an oily or chemical-laden rag is then thrown in a corner or into the trash, it could spontaneously catch fire. Those rags should be stored in a metal can that has a self-closing top on it – if they do combust inside, the fire can't escape.

Solvents, lacquers and thinners are nearly as common as wood dust in woodworking shops. They can also prove to be dangerous while simply sitting on the shelf. These items should be stored in cabinets with fire-rated doors and grounded to a piece of metal, so that static electricity doesn't build up inside and serve as an ignition source.

Solvent-based glue ('red glue') can also be very dangerous within a manufacturing facility. Red glues emit vapours that are highly flammable and could impair or sicken those who breathe them.

The vapours are heavier than air and sink to the floor, where they accumulate and can easily find an ignition source from an electrical outlet or furnace with an open flame, and cause an explosion.

The use of water-based glues ('yellow glue') is recommended, and that too in a booth protected by a fire suppression or automatic sprinkler system. An exhaust fan should also be used to pull the dangerous vapours from the room.

(Source: Oneida Air Systems, US).



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Aristo India adds state-of-the-art lacquering facility

At Bengaluru-based Kbro's Aristo, lacquering is not just a process of coating gloss or matt finishes on surfaces. The company explores the design possibilities with a range of clear or coloured finishes that not only give life to the material but also adds aesthetic value.

What is lacquering? Why do you call it an art?

It's simply the process of coating with UV, water or PU based on materials to create different types of finishes like high gloss, matte, super-matte, open grain or patina. Our UV coat is approved for European and American standard cabinetry finishing.

This is an art as it's been the journey of working together with experts to combine the latest innovative technology of world-class companies for sanding, application and chemical coatings to bring life and

beauty to our products.

How was your journey with lacquering so far?

Over the past 15 years, we have invested a lot of money and effort in R&D. This facility is a result of that. Today our lacquering capabilities give us a commendable lead over our competition and also help us create unique design possibilities.

For larger volumes in glass, our automated roller coating machine cures the glass with infra-red. The full line consists of a



Our production capability delivers over 25,000 panels every month. This has helped us explore the export market and larger volume products.

– Mr Tom George, Director, Aristo-India.



Aristo can instantly generate 300 colours in any finish, whether suitable to apply on glass or on panels.

glass washing and drying machine followed by the rollers coating machine and an inline IR curing and cooling down units, to complete the process in a matter of minutes.

Our fully automated robotic Italian Cefla lacquering line is used for bulk production to provide a premium, consistent finish. The inline Giardina coating line is used for bulk production of coated glass with quality consistency.

We have also extensively researched and developed colours. Experimentation and development is an everyday activity at Kbro's Aristo.

How does this facility change the brand perception?

We are considered one of the best companies for coated furniture products in India.

What kind of business do you see with lacquering?

We follow European standards at our lacquering facility and we use carcinogen-free paints that are applicator friendly. Our well-trained lacquering team, paired with advanced and automated technology, gives us the edge for quality, on-time delivery and premium finishes.

This has helped us explore the export market and larger volume products. Our production capability with this facility

helps us deliver over 25,000 panels every month.

For our own brands, Aristo and Decopad, this gives us the window to explore new design possibilities and also helps on-time delivery across the country.

What is your USP?

We are the only player in India who has pigmented UV coating capabilities and can instantly generate 300 colours in any finish and suitable to apply on glass or panels.

We have multi-city application centres for quick product availability. For bulk production we have facilities to generate fully dry panels or glass within 10 minutes of the start of the line.

How would you compare your finishes with European players making similar products?

Our quality control department works with US standards, with very tight rejection parameters. For that we use equipment like photo-spectrometers, glossiness meters, pencil hardness tests, etc.

After having worked with very tough customers we are now confident to supply to any market in the world. In fact, we get requests from Indo-European coating suppliers to conduct their R&D using our machines and processes!

Top-end sanders ensure perfectly finished edges and mirror-like finishes.



5 storeys, 5 stars

The world's first 5-storey, 5-star hotel made of PEFC-certified timber opened in Austria recently



The MalisGarten has a larger net usable area due to leaner construction, and lower energy costs due to the wood's natural insulation properties.

The vision to build a hotel entirely of wood has become a reality in the 5-star green spa Hotel MalisGarten, in the Zillertal valley in Austria, becoming the world's first 5-storey hotel made entirely of solid wood.

Certified glue laminated timber (glulam) and cross laminated timber (CLT) supplied by Binderholz Bausysteme GmbH were used for the entire supporting structure.

The inside of the building sees Binderholz solid wood panels and profiled wood from native trees such as pine, nut, steamed spruce, larch and white fir. The doors, furniture and parquet floors are made of walnut and oak wood from local producers.

Wood was also used for the furniture and decoration in the hotel's spacious lobby, and gives the rooms a warm atmosphere as well as a natural scent.

The Italian star architect, Matteo Thun from Matteo Thun & Partners, who planned MalisGarten especially appreciates the material's unique versatility.

"Wood is the only material I know of that combines aesthetics and technical durability," he emphasised.

'Green' inside-out

Not only the inside, but the building's wooden exterior façade is also eye-catching. The front of the hotel blends in with its garden, creating a natural oasis in the middle of the village.

At the back of the hotel, there is a 2,000-square-metre space with relaxation areas, a fruit and herb garden and a large pool. The wooden walls and ceilings give the impression of a wellness landscape in the middle of a forest.

The use of solid wood certified by the EFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) and a sophisticated heating and cooling concept using geo-

The interiors have solid wood profiled panels from native trees such as pine, nut, steamed spruce, larch and white fir.



thermal energy and pellet heating make MalisGarten one of the most sustainable hotels in the area.

Thanks to the use of wood, the hotel has a larger net usable area due to leaner construction, and lower energy costs due to the wood's natural insulation properties.

In MalisGarten, more than 1,500 tons of CO₂ are stored in the solid wood elements. Solid wood structures can be pre-fabricated and assembled on site, allowing for a quiet, clean and fast construction.

Woods such as fir, spruce or pine give a room a warm atmosphere and have a calming effect on the mind and body, making wood the perfect material in every respect for MalisGarten.

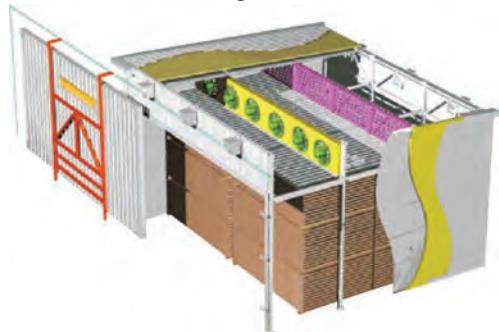
Sliding Table Panel Saw



Wide Belt Sander



Seasoning Kiln



Vertical Band Re-saw



Spiral Cutter Heads



Wide Belt Cum Profile Sander



Straight Line Rip Saw



Multiple Rip Saw



Gang Rip Saw



Double Side Planner



Heavy Duty Automatic Copy Shaper



Oscillation Mortiser MOM-130



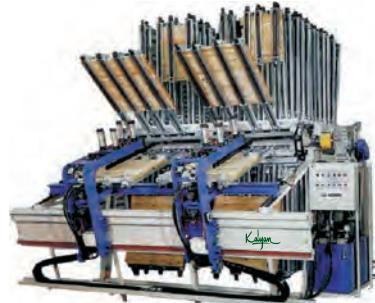
Rectangular Tenoner DAD-115



Four Side Moulder



Clamp Carrier

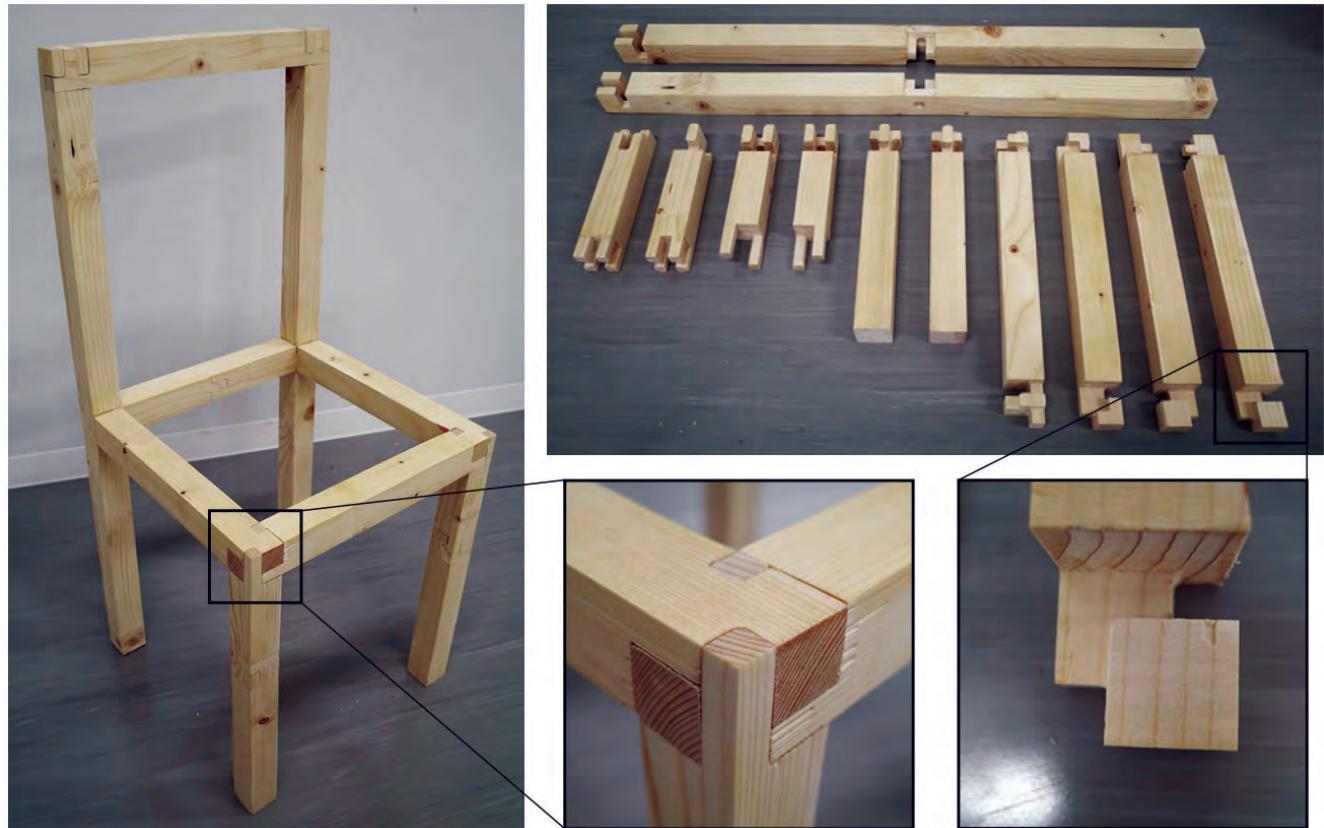


Hydraulic Hot Press



High Frequency Edge Glue Press





A chair designed in the Tsugite software. Complex interlocking components mean that no tools are needed.

Would you try this free 3D software?

Research at University of Tokyo yields application to create wood components in Japanese joinery

Wood is considered an attractive construction material for both aesthetic and environmental purposes. Construction of useful wood objects requires complicated structures and ways to connect components together.

Carpentry is a practice as ancient as humanity itself. Equal parts art and engineering, it has figuratively and literally shaped the world around us. Yet, despite its ubiquity, carpentry is a difficult and time-consuming skill, leading to relatively high prices for hand-crafted

wooden items like furniture.

For this reason, much wooden furniture around us is often, at least to some degree, made by machines. Some machines can be highly automated and programmed with designs created on computers by human designers.

This in itself can be a very technical and creative challenge, out of reach to many – until now!

Simple interface

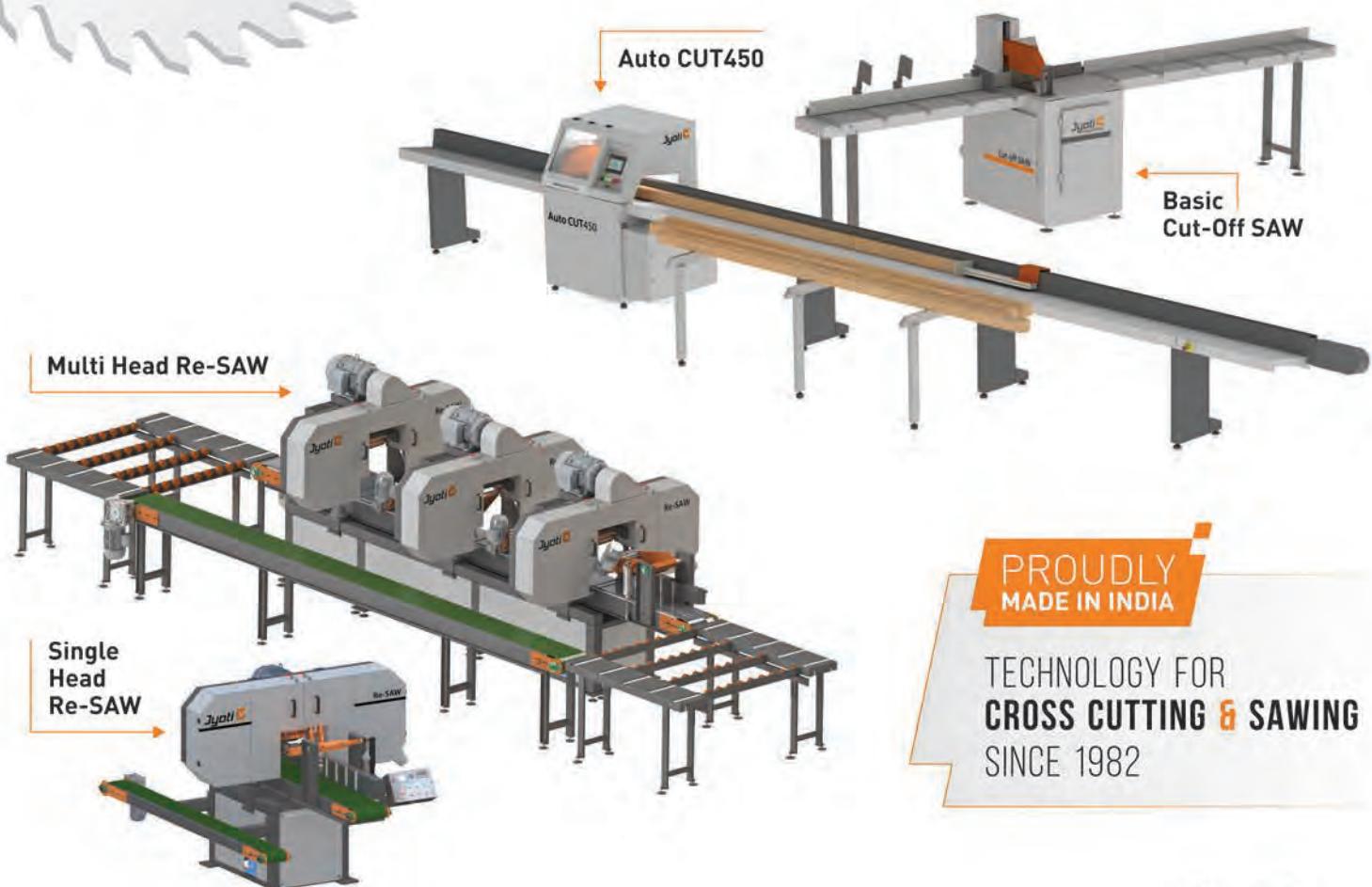
Researchers from the Department of Creative Informatics at the University of Tokyo have created a 3D design ▶

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application to create structural wooden components quickly, easily and efficiently. They call it Tsugite, the Japanese word for joinery.

Through a simple 3D interface, users with little or no prior experience in either woodworking or 3D design can create designs for functional wooden structures in minutes.

These designs can then instruct milling machines to carve the structural components, which users can then piece together without the need for additional tools or adhesives, following on-screen instructions.

The designs do not require nails or glue, meaning items made with this system can be easily assembled, disassembled, reused, repaired or recycled.

"Our intention was to make the art of joinery available to people without specific experience. When we tested the interface in a user study, people new to 3D modeling not only designed some complex structures, but also enjoyed doing so," said researcher Maria Larsson.

"Tsugite is simple to use as it guides users through the process one step at a time, starting with a gallery of existing designs that can then be modified for different purposes. But more advanced users can jump straight to a manual editing mode for more freeform creativity," Maria adds.

Tsugite gives users a detailed view of wooden joints represented by what are known as "voxels", essentially 3D pixels, which in this case are small cubes. These voxels can be moved around at one end of a component to be joined.

This automatically adjusts the voxels at the end of the corresponding component such that they are guaranteed to fit together tightly without the need for nails or even glue. Two or more components can be joined and the software algorithm will adjust all accordingly.

Different colours inform the user about properties of the joints such as how easily they will slide together, or problems such as potential weaknesses.

Something that makes Tsugite unique is that it will factor the fabrication process directly into the designs. This means that milling machines, which have physical limitations such as their degrees of freedom, tool size and so on, are only given designs they are able to create.

Something that has plagued users of 3D printers, which share a common ancestry with milling machines, is that software for 3D printers cannot always be sure how the machine itself will behave which can lead to failed prints.

"There is some great research in the field of computer graphics on how to model a wide variety of joint geometries. But that approach often lacks the practical considerations of manufacturing and material properties," notes Maria.

"Conversely, research in the fields of structural engineering and architecture may be very thorough in this regard, but

they might only be concerned with a few kinds of joints. We saw the potential to combine the strengths of these approaches to create Tsugite," she adds.

Designing buildings

Another advantage of incorporating fabrication limitations into the design process is that Tsugite's underlying algorithms have an easier time navigating all the different possibilities they could present to users, as those that are physically impossible are simply not given as options.

The researchers hope that, through further refinements and advancements, Tsugite can be scaled up to design not just furniture and small structures, but also entire buildings.

When connecting timbers with joinery, as opposed to metal fixings, for example, it reduces mixing materials. This is good for sorting and recycling. Also, unglued joints can be taken apart without destroying building components.

"This opens up the possibility for buildings to be disassembled and reassembled elsewhere; or for defective parts to be replaced. This flexibility of reuse and repair adds sustainability benefits to wood," Maria says.

To download the software, visit <http://ma-la.com/tsugite.html>.

Other researchers on the project are Hironori Yoshida, Nobuyuki Umetani and Takeo Igarashi, who together presented their paper, 'Tsugite: Interactive Design and Fabrication of Wood Joints', in the proceedings of the 32nd Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology on October 21, 2020.



WOODNEWS

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New 'cloud' service keeps eye on forests

Information is increasingly needed on the treatment of forests and on their role as a source of raw materials, carbon sink and carbon reservoir. Satellite images provide up-to-date information on forest resources and the amount of carbon bound by forests.

A new cloud service is lending help to responsible forest management. Together with five partners, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) is implementing the first-ever platform service to produce information on forest resources and carbon sequestration using satellite images.

Using the services of the Forest Flux project, forest companies and forest owners can improve the profitability of forest management and take care of ecological sustainability. The project aims to create a service business for the

forest industry and larger private and state owners of forests.

"Describing forest carbon sequestration is completely new, and there is a great deal of demand for this kind of information. By turning the assessment of forest resources into a product, we can make information easily available," says Tuomas Hame, Research Professor at VTT.

This project, belonging to the Innovation Action category of the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, is currently providing pilot services to nine customers in five countries. In the first phase of the pilot services, completed this autumn, almost 700 satellite-based digital maps with a resolution of 10 metres were delivered to customers.

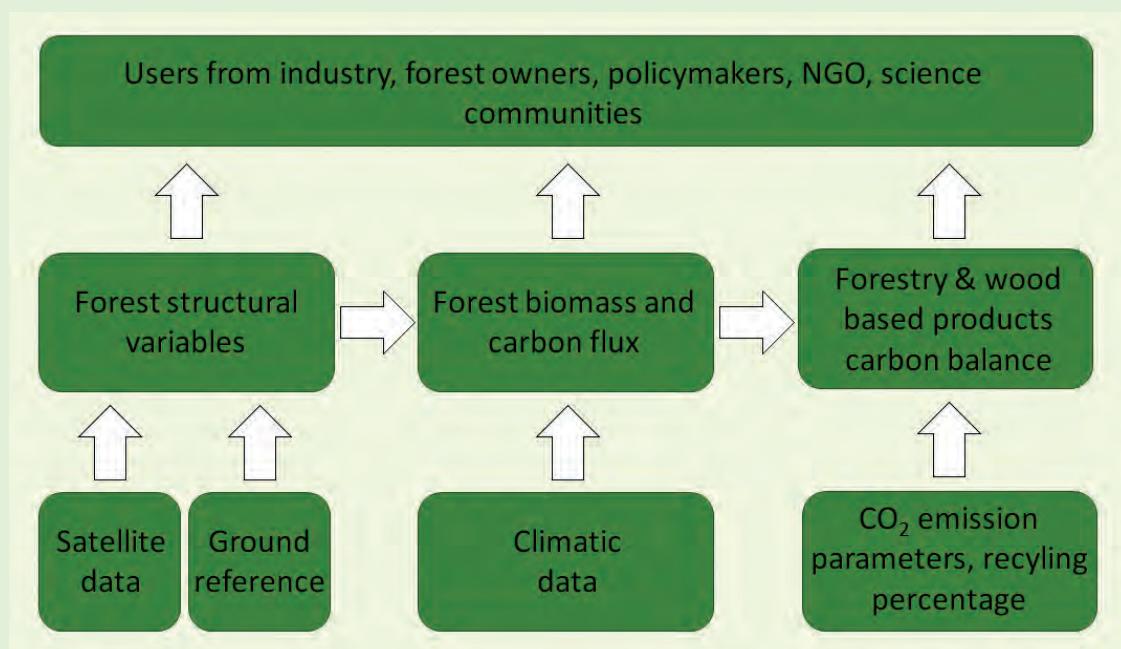
By utilising satellite data and the cloud service, forest owners, using their own computers, can observe changes occurring on forest plots smaller than a tennis court or, for example, examine local forest damage without making a visit to the damage site.

On the other hand, the system enables, among other things, effective making of estimates related to carbon sequestration, even in large forest areas, and gives support to the mapping out of biodiversity.

"Digitisation is at the core of our commercial activities and sustainable forestry. Participation in the Forest Flux project with VTT plays an important role in our search for the best forest resource monitoring system for the management of our company's forest assets", says Kimmo Kortelainen, Forest Data Manager at Tornator Forestry Company.

Simosol Oy is involved in the development of the service with VTT, the University of Helsinki, the German company Unique Forestry and Land Use, the Instituto Superior de Agronomia of the University of Lisbon and the National Institute for Forest Research and Development of Marin Dracea, Romania.

The three-year project will end at the end of 2021. The service business related to the project will be partly started during the project. Check out www.forestflux.eu.



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IKEA leads market in sustainability



A recent GlobeScan market survey indicates that businesses could play a key role to make sustainable living a reality. One of the key findings of the study indicates that people have a strong desire to become healthier and more sustainable, but more affordable solutions are needed to help turn thoughts into action.

The study surveyed 27,000 people's attitudes, opinions, and behaviours linked to enabling healthier and more sustainable lifestyles. The number one action that people want companies to take to enable sustainable living is to make more affordable products and services that are better for both the people and the environment (50%).

Results from the study also show that nearly three-quarters (74%) of people want to reduce their impact on the environment and nature by a large amount. People

want to choose products that last longer (77%) and avoid disposable goods (59%).

A significant number of meat-eaters would be willing to switch to plant-based alternatives (41%) if it tastes equally good, has the same price and nutritional value. The younger generations are more likely to want to make changes.

IKEA has a big opportunity and responsibility to lead the way by making healthy and sustainable living affordable, attractive and accessible for the many people.

"These insights further confirm the importance of making sustainable products and services affordable and desirable. It shouldn't be a luxury for the few. We will use our scale to inspire and enable the many people to live a better everyday life within the boundaries of the planet by 2030," says Lena Pripp-Kovac, Chief Sustainability Officer at Inter IKEA Group.

The company has gone ahead and taken

the lead to inspire and enable sustainable living. Examples of solutions include the plant ball Huvudroll, a more sustainable alternative to the iconic meatball, which has only 4% of the climate footprint of the meatball but the same taste and texture.

Another step in this direction was taken in September 2020 when IKEA announced that all non-rechargeable alkaline batteries will be removed from the global home furnishing range by October 2021.

The company has been encouraging designing products that allow for it to be repaired, repurposed, reused and recycled. The IKEA Circular Product Design Guide aims at making all its products and packing materials to be based on renewable or recycled materials by 2030.

It is offering/testing circular services that support people to acquire products (rent, share, buy second-hand), care for products (repair, upgrade, adapt), pass on products (return, sell, donate and recycle), and furniture leasing.



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Wood coatings markets look positive



(Courtesy: www.europeancoatings.com)

Wood continues to remain a popular building material and the future for the further development of the wood coatings market looks positive, with forecasts projecting that the global volume should increase by 2024.

According to Markets and Markets (M&M), the global market for wood coatings is expected to grow from 3.3 million tons in 2019 to 3.9 million tons by 2024, at an annual growth rate of 3.7 %. M&M also expects demand for wood coatings to be strongly influenced by environmental legislation and economic constraints in the construction industry.

The growth of the residential sector has led to the emergence of do-it-yourself (DIY) coatings. M&M expects the market for wood

coatings to continue to grow as this do-it-yourselfers increasingly look for unique projects that include wood stains and surfaces.

The global market for wood coatings has experienced an upswing since 2009 thanks to the large number of new buildings that have sprung up after the economic downturn. There is a considerable amount of renovation and conversion work going on worldwide.

In 2019, the Asia-Pacific region had a volume share of around 46 % of the total market, followed by North America and Europe with 27 % and 17 % respectively.

However, the wood coatings market in the industrialised countries is saturated, so that it will probably grow more slowly. The market in emerging countries, such as China and India, is expected to grow more strongly in the next 5 years.

Emerging trends

Wood construction seems to be becoming more popular overall, says Steffen Rüdiger of Rütgers Organics. He sees further potential in wood facades with greying glazes. For Dr Arne Deuß from Oskar Nolte wood is attractive as a renewable raw material and could win in favour of other substrates due to the sustainability issue.

According to Jens Hesse from Hesse Lignal, natural-looking surfaces are still in vogue, whether oiled or lacquered. Dull matt and scratch-resistant surfaces, achieved with classic paint systems or with excimer technology, underpin this trend.

For Deuß, the furnishing trend is towards less and less or smaller furniture - which is more than compensated for by the strong interest rate trend in construction and renovation.

"On the market side, medium-sized industrial customers are losing out to small, flexible manufacturers and joineries or to efficient large-scale producers," he says.

For Rüdiger, there is a trend towards oils, waxes and mineral paints – in other words, products with a biological background. "There is also a trend away from thick-film products towards thin and medium-film products," he adds.

Jens Hesse says that potential in a declining market can only be developed with solutions that have high market relevance. "We are able to paint even deep 3D profiles with efficient rolling applications and thus avoid spray applications," she says.

But innovative solutions alone are not enough; new service concepts such as partner programs are essential components, Hesse adds.



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Sohel Contractor

Solli Concepts is a design studio that specialises in hand-crafted and hand-finished furniture. Traditional woodworking methods are used alongside modern machinery to ensure products are built to last.

At Solli function and design are of equal importance and we believe one cannot work without the other. The intended primary function of the product is the inspiration for the design to take form.

I like to keep things simple, by taking everything out that is not needed, to present an elegant yet

simple piece for someone to enjoy. Due to our extensive understanding and knowledge of manufacturing wooden products, Solli Concepts also has a dedicated manufacturing space for corporate clients and clients who are looking for their designs to be manufactured.

Within the indoor furniture space, we specialise in wardrobes, beds, bedside tables, dressers, sofas, bar stools, lounge chairs, dining tables and chairs, upholstered furniture, storage units, bars, media units and mirrors.

We also have a very interesting line of products for the washroom area to

Sohel kept himself occupied with his craft, developing many hand-tools that he always wanted, and repairing the dosa pan handle.

include wooden washbasins, shower trays, vanities and bathtubs. High-quality outdoor furniture includes doors, façades, seating and tables.

Maintaining morale

In order to protect the welfare of our team, we decided to house our key staff members within the work premises, providing them with all necessary sleeping and cooking materials even before the lockdown began.

During the time the premises were not operating we made the some things a priority for our workforce. To ensure that

they stayed mentally fit, we encouraged them to start a new hobby, finished pending personal projects and set goals to keep them focused and motivated.

We also took the time to develop a lot of the hand-tools that we always wanted to make ourselves, but always took a backseat due to project pressures. A particular favourite was the rosewood smoothing/finishing plane in our own customised design that is really a treat to use. It leaves a glass-smooth finish on all our wooden surfaces!

We constantly spoke to all our team members, educating them about the right sort of news and updates. We tried to ensure that they were aware of "fake news" and forwarded digital messages that would normally disillusion them into making the wrong decisions.

Like most businesses, our work depends on so many other people up and down the chain. Initially we struggled because some of the vendors we relied on were not operational and clients needed urgent deliveries. Once the lockdown started to ease we were able to start work.

Fast forward

As things get back to some sort of new normal in Mumbai, we are now facing site

issues with some clients. Our furniture is ready to be dispatched, but client sites have been delayed so; we are stacking and stocking our furniture till they are ready.

I personally don't think the industry will change the way it does business on a permanent basis. But with the current issues the industry is facing, plus the importance of implementing new social distancing norms, I feel we will definitely see an interim change.

Marketing and soliciting of new business is changing. Events, exhibitions, conferences and other such public activities have either been put on hold or are being taken onto a digital platform. Digital is already taking the helm and I feel this is only the start.

As people spend more time at home, I feel they will look more closely at their furniture and surroundings. Requirements for better build, more functional and better thought-out furniture will be the order of the hour. Even in the office space, big companies like Twitter, Google and multinationals are making 'work from home' a permanent feature.

As this happens, I feel and hope that more and more designers and architects will look to collaborate with local furniture

manufacturing units, rather than outsourcing to bigger international manufacturers. They will have more control over the production and they will be able to support/keep it local.

Digital footprint

Solli Concepts is well placed for this for this interim period in two main respects. A lot of our business comes from our digital footprint. Clients call because they have liked something on our website or on our social media pages.

We then customise furniture based on personal requirements. Communication is through emails, calls and 3D drawings once orders are confirmed. This way of doing business will continue and most likely grow.

We work with select corporates and architects on developing their designs using our manufacturing expertise. A lot of this work happens through 3D drawings, samples and product viewings.

With the way our process is set up, plus our plans for a "viewing" ➤



We have looked at ourselves as craftsmen first and a business next. We feel we are very adept at dealing with change, reinventing ourselves and keeping it all moving in the right direction.

— Sohel Contractor, Owner, Solli Concepts.

gallery" we are confident that we can continue to produce excellent quality furniture while keeping the client and the new norms in mind.

In order to create this viewing gallery, within this time, we have actually managed to secure additional premises. With our products it is very important that clients get to touch and feel our furniture, be it a sample or a finished product.

Set within city limits, this space will allow us to continue working, with both more efficiency and transparency. The viewing gallery will allow clients to come and see their work while maintaining sufficient physical distancing.

New 'normal'

We have looked at ourselves as craftsmen first and a business next. As a result, we feel we are very adept at dealing with change, reinventing ourselves and keeping it all moving in the right direction.

While I am very confident that we will return to way we do business, I do believe we will see a restructuring of businesses to

streamline and reduce unnecessary expenses.

Efficient use of time and resources, as well as shortage of labour, needs to be managed with planned manufacturing methods and smart design. Since we know that a lot of international imports of raw material and machinery are either going to take longer and or will cost more, we are looking at local options and stocking up on local materials that will see us through this time.

While we deal with the temporary 'new normal', we are certain to walk away with changes that will stay with us because they will lead to a more efficient way of manufacturing and doing business.

Our work is all about using our hands and the skill that comes with it in order to keep the craft alive – and in times like this, the importance of these are only reinforced. Buying locally, buying sustainably and not living beyond your means are lessons that keep coming to my mind.

Home work!

The lockdown has reinforced something that I have been thinking of for a very long time. We have been living a life where the only aim has been to get to the next level/stage; usually to the detriment of enjoying

the 'here' and 'now'. We need this to stop and we need to unlearn the way we used to live.

I was forced to spend more time at home with the family than initially I appreciated. It was quite an adjustment for everybody, and not without its perils!

The kids and I spent time building and cooking together. I also took the time out to research how to do things – such as making toys for the kids, making a cajone for myself, and experimenting with fermented food.

When the handle of our dosa pan broke, I took some time and made a new handle for it rather than ordering a new pan. It was definitely the longer way to do things, but with a lot more satisfaction and, in my opinion, a better outcome!

After ecommerce opened up again there was a sense of relief and sadness. The relief is self-explanatory; the sadness because I knew that the throwaway spending cycle was about to restart.

This is the real lesson that we should all learn from the pandemic: respect for Mother Nature and all it gives us. We have been taking things for granted for so long, forgetting that we are merely guests.

During lockdown, it was teaching some basics to and making toys with the kids.



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Changeable Knives / TCT



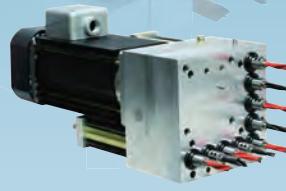
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Nitin Nalavade

Nitshaw was born out of a need to bring together top Indian furniture manufacturers and leading European technology suppliers and machinery companies looking for the right Indian customers.

Today, 10 years since its inception, Nitshaw is a leading player in providing highest technology woodworking machines and is considered a trusted technology partner by the woodworking industry in India.

Nitshaw has partnered with the world's best and represents technology leaders in their respective segments. Among them are Weinig, Holzher, Wemhoener, Venjakob, Heesemann, IMA, Schelling,

Baumer, Imos, Pade and Comec.

In order to act as a bridge of knowledge and service, Nitshaw has separate divisions for solid wood and panel processing technologies, surface and finishing technologies, as well as software and automation.

Unique operations

Nitshaw resumed business with the lifting of the lockdown following all norms of sanitisation and physical distancing. Majority of sales meetings are being conducted online, whereas technical teams are already travelling to customer sites by following all prescribed precautions.



During the course of this pandemic, due to reduced work force, there is now increased focus on higher manufacturing technologies as well as automation of processes in the business.

– Nitin Nalavade, Managing Director & CEO, Nitshaw.

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Email: info@zakdecormart.com

Website: www.zakdecormart.com



Before and during the lockdown many of our machines had already reached our customers. These were very huge investments by our customers and we were expected to respond positively. So, as soon as the factories reopened, our teams immediately reached the sites and commissioned these machines.

During this time, we have also achieved a feat which I believe was never done before in the history of woodworking anywhere. For one of our major customer, Merino Industries, we installed and commissioned a large, sophisticated short-cycle lamination line from our partner, Wemhoener, by providing complete remote support.

Normally this would entail on-site presence of all the experts. The customer had huge export commitments and requested an extraordinary solution. So the Nitshaw team coordinated the whole operation between Wemhoener experts outside India and the customer's technicians in India – entirely online!

Similarly, soon after lockdown was lifted, Nitshaw commissioned a big project in Kota (Rajasthan) for Hermosa Design Studio, and another big project for finger-jointed boards, Colonial Hardwoods, in Kerala.

Immediate priorities

The initial 2 months of lockdown were very discouraging. Like all other businesses, we were worried about the future; about new orders, cash flow and deliveries. Our immediate priority was our staff and their safety. Early on, we decided that we will not remove any staff and continue to pay their salaries.

We are happy that our staff has shown the same faith in the company and continued working

hard during these difficult times.

Nitshaw has not faced any big challenges in terms of order cancellations or delays, because we were able to resolve it by speaking to our customers. In these extraordinary times, we have found that our customers realised that we both have to sail in the same boat with each other's assistance.

So far as managing cash flow is concerned, Nitshaw is a very well managed and profitable company. Our reserves have helped us swim through these troubled times. We also took care not to spend on unnecessary things and curtailed all expenses that don't add immediate value.

One of the first things we did along with our partners during the lockdown was training of our people on latest and new technologies. We also invested in productivity software and its training and implementation, to keep our staff busy, even though they were working from home. Once the office reopened, we already have many of the processes standardised to help us grow faster in the future.

Biggest challenge

The biggest challenge is the limited face-to-face interactions with our customers. This is giving rise to the use of technology, both from the customer side as well as supplier side. Video calls, online presentations and real-time demonstration of machines from the supplier's factory are a normal feature now and will remain so in future.

Many of our suppliers have installed sophisticated cameras and equipment in their laboratories and demonstration centres to enable better online presentation of machines and trials to customers!

Customers, on the other hand, now expect more information, validation of that information, guarantees of machines performance, etc. because there is no visit to supplier factories to see the machines.

Involvement of machinery manufacturers directly is becoming important for

demonstration of expertise and technology. This means that the machinery business will become more information based, specifications based and expertise based. Travel restrictions will also force customers to buy machinery from proven sources, reliable and trustworthy suppliers.

The major challenge the industry is facing is in terms of demand creation. When the end consumer starts buying furniture, there will be demand in the factories, which will push the machinery industry back on its feet.

Regarding re-examination of the sourcing chain, companies are definitely looking at alternatives, but drastic changes in sourcing patterns are not expected. Buyer-seller relations and mutual trust, developed over a period of time, will still play an important role.

New imperatives

The woodworking industry in India has always been very labour-intensive. During the course of this pandemic, due to reduced work force, there is now increased focus on higher manufacturing technologies as well as automation of processes in the business.

Manufacturers are looking to reduce dependence on skills, reduce excess manpower, eliminate unnecessary handling, optimise processes, automate material movements and increase real time control.

Our customers are now asking for better technology, automatic machines to meet international quality standards and better return on investment. Investments are also increasing in software to automate processes – from sales and design to manufacturing, sourcing, supply and installation.

Nitshaw's automation division is a pioneer in introducing world class software and automation systems to customers for complete digitisation of business processes. The benefits of these software programs are seen in reduced costs, increased productivity and better control over operations.



Looking for the better door ?



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www.sauerland-spanplatte.de

Cheats quit, only honest businesses survive!

Amit Jindal

A.K. Lumbers has been serving the timber requirements of domestic and international market with imported woods species from across the world for more than 60 years. We have been consistently winning awards for our excellence in the field of exports from the Chemical & Allied Product Export Promotion Council.

We supply forest and plantation teak from Myanmar and India; tropical and European hardwoods; European softwoods and film-face plywood; solid wood for garden furniture, decking and flooring; solid wood and moulded doors; as well as all marine-grade commercial plywood.

After lifting of the Covid-19 lockdown, we are seeing a hefty increase in orders as our clients need raw material and quality products to complete projects

that are already delayed.

So far as looking after our workers and staff is concerned, we see that spreading awareness about the contagion is the best way. Of course, we follow all safety protocols at work and elsewhere; permit work from home if an employee reports sick; and insist on medical insurance cover to all our employees.

One unexpected outcome of this pandemic is that many cheaters in this industry have shut shop in the lockdown and have been exposed as frauds. Only good and honest businesses have stayed back to service our customers!

As a responsible member of the All-India Timber Merchants' and Importers' Association, we have already started a Covid fund, are helping our industry peers with stock management, and have opened a debtor centre to help our member in release of old payments.

Post-lockdown, demand for raw material has increased drastically; but we need to

be alert to issues of product quality. The India market always needs good quality material, competitive price, with best finish. So we have to work continuously towards achieving these goals.

Our clients are already back in action and our order lists are full! Yes, capital is a big challenge. Banks don't sanction long-term loans if all is mortgaged already, so there are no extra funds. Here, goodwill may work.

Machinery can be obtained on credit and one must pay the suppliers regularly. In our line of business I can see increased use of technology and eco-friendly practices. Labour welfare and training are the need of the hour.

Industry associations should work with the government to secure low-cost financing and low rate of electricity to compete on pricing with Chinese suppliers. We have to be vocal for local – this is a good opportunity to achieve 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'!



Yes, capital is a big challenge. But our clients are already back in action and our order lists are full!

– Amit Jindal, Director, A.K. Lumbers Ltd.

Genie offers 'shop-by-appointment' platform

Appointment booking platform for your business

An IT products and services company specialising in artificial intelligence-driven chatbot solutions has turned its talents and experience to address the business continuity challenges faced by the retail business establishments and help them re-open their business.

Mumbai-based Gray Matrix has launched Genie, a cross-platform 'Shop-by-Appointment' service to help retail businesses regulate traffic to their stores and branches while adhering to social distancing norms.

Through Genie, supermarkets, retail showrooms, banks and restaurants can set up appointments in a minute by signing up for this service. Customers don't have to install any new application on their phone. Instead, they can use WhatsApp to book preferred shopping slots.

This means the current WhatsApp user base of 2 billion globally and 400+ million users in India can instantly start using this service by saying "Hi" to Genie on +91-7045010000.

Genie's powerful artificial intelligence-driven natural language chat interface coupled with geo location search makes it effortless for customers to discover nearby businesses and book an appointment.

They also get instant booking confirmation with a QR code on their WhatsApp and a reminder an hour before their scheduled appointment. Genie is also available on Telegram, Facebook, Android, iOS and

Web URL.

Front-desk or security executives at the business outlets can scan the QR to validate the booking and allow their customers to check in and manage the inflow of customers efficiently and effectively to protect their own staff as well.

Through a web panel and dashboard, businesses can get to see daily footfalls at each outlet. Genie is already processing more than 20,000 bookings every day.

For details visit www.graymatrix.com.

Turning 'dust' into safe income



CK Airtech has collaborated with various technology partners to bring in state-of-the-art technology to offer cost-effective and energy-efficient system to the Indian woodworking industry.

Its ducting system, called 'Transflow Duct', offers higher flexibility in connecting machines with inter-changeability. This technology also results in huge saving in electricity bills by consuming power based on machine utilisation.

The biggest challenge the industry faces is the disposal of saw dust. CK Airtech offers solution to this with a value addition to the dust. The dust can be conveyed pneumatically to a storage silo with a holding capacity, as desired, for weeks.

Simultaneously this dust from the silo can be fed directly to the briquetting machine by a screw feeder to get briquettes. Briquettes fetch Rs.7 per kg, whereas saw dust is sold at Rs.2 per kg only.

The 'Transflow Duct' system also results in huge saving in electricity bills by consuming power based on machine utilisation.

For an average size factory producing 3 tonnes of saw dust per day, the return on investment works out to be less than a year; and yielding significant income thereafter.

Dust extraction systems have become mainstream equipment in the woodworking industry for simple reasons:

- better health, hygiene and safety of operators, managers and other staff;
- working environment that results in high productivity and quality;
- extending life of high-precision machinery and tools.

A centralised dust extraction system comes with a significant capital cost; but it is optimised to cater to a continuously running plant, machine utilisation/diversity, plant layout, and includes features for future expansions.

CK Airtech India Pvt. Ltd. is in the field of dust extraction system across various industrial applications for more than two decades. It has pioneered solutions to handle saw dust generated during wood processing with its expertise and a wide range of products.

Saw dust storage silos. While saw dust sells for only Rs 2/kg, briquettes can fetch Rs 7/kg.



Dieffenbacher makes its plants fit for future

Plant modernization is becoming more important for wood-based panel producers worldwide. Eppingen-based machine and plant manufacturer, Dieffenbacher, is collaborating with its customers on innovative modernisation solutions that can help them keep their plants competitive far into the future.

One recent example is the retrofitting of a steam pre-heater at Pfleiderer's MDF plant in Baruth (Brandenburg, Germany). The companies' collaboration led to Dieffenbacher's EVOSTeam technology.

Installed directly at the press in-feed, the EVOSTeam pre-heats the mat by injecting steam. This reduces the time needed to heat the mat inside the press, accelerating production.

EVOSTeam can also be used in particleboard plants. To boost its particleboard production in the province

of Long An, Vina Eco Board Co. Ltd. of Vietnam is also equipping its line with the new Dieffenbacher steam pre-heater.

Vina Eco Board also commissioned Dieffenbacher to convert the forming station of the same line. By installing roller screens in both wind formers, spreading accuracy is improved, leading to better surface quality of the produced boards.

Installation and commissioning of both modernisation projects are scheduled for the fall of 2021.

Another forming station conversion is underway for Pfleiderer at its Grajewo site in north-eastern Poland, where it produces MDF and particleboard. To meet increased demands for particleboard surface quality, Pfleiderer worked with Dieffenbacher to develop a surface layer forming process that satisfies the highest

quality requirements.

The special feature is the new forming station accommodating shorter, space-saving wind formers. The project is scheduled to go into operation as early as next spring.

In addition to offering custom conversion packages, retrofits, component exchanges and plant extensions, Dieffenbacher develops custom solutions for performance optimisation, the integration of modernisation solutions into existing processes, and the automation of existing plants.

Dieffenbacher also relocates plant components or complete plants for its customers and partners.



Sharp painting technology from Dürr



Picture-perfect (L-R): The EcoPaintJet applicator increases painting efficiency and offers companies more options when it comes to product design. It applies parallel paint jets using a nozzle plate. The precise painting paths enable surface painting and coating with high edge definition.

In almost every industry sector, including woodworking, the number and diversity of work pieces being coated are growing. To be able to paint these diverse components with greater efficiency, Dürr has developed a new technique that applies paints over large areas or in simple patterns with high edge definition – and absolutely no overspray.

Surface coating previously involved a great deal of effort if the coating had to be applied with high-edge definition as the surfaces either need to be manually masked or film-wrapped. There was also a significant amount of waste, both in terms of adhesive tape and paint loss due to overspray.

With the new overspray-free application, both of these challenges are a thing of the past. The EcoPaintJet applicator delivers precise coating and offers companies more options when it comes to product design and the transportation of goods.

Instead of adhesive film, decorative surfaces can be protected for transport through

the targeted application of a spray film. This can then be simply pulled off again at the destination.

The technology also enables new options for the function and design of products. The precise coating method means that window frames can have a weather-proof coating applied to the outside and a decorative or differently coloured application on the inside.

Decorative effects can be easily realised on furniture fronts. The most important component in the overspray-free application set is the paint supply combined with the cleaning and pre-painting process.

This is controlled by the EcoPaintJet using three valves. The beating heart of the applicator itself is a nozzle plate that produces several dozen parallel paint jets depending on the design.

They can be activated or deactivated at any given moment to start or interrupt the coating process.

Unlike painting processes involving spray guns or high-speed rotary atomizers, this process does not require any atomized air. The overspray that must be filtered from the booth air in a complex process when using conventional methods therefore does not occur.

Another big difference compared with classic atomizers is that the width of the painting path can be adjusted by means of the applicator's angle of application. This enables a painting path from 30 to 50 mm in width.

Narrower path widths can also be produced by adapting the nozzle plate. The desired coating thickness is controlled via the applicator speed and solid content of the paint.

The new technology eliminates all the disadvantages of the individual methods and makes painting faster, more cost-efficient, and environmentally friendly in all industry sectors and makes it attractive even in scenarios where an automated painting method was not previously conceivable.

Together with Dürr, the Austrian paint manufacturer Adler is promoting the new application technology by developing colourless and pigmented coating solutions that, in addition to the usual paint requirements, are precisely tailored to the special features of this technology.

(Dürr Group has a direct representation in Chennai, since 1997, and Schenck RoTec (Noida), since 1986.)

Freud's Black ICE is a cool cutter

Freud, a manufacturer and marketer of superior carbide cutting tools for the woodworking industry and the only manufacturer of woodworking tools that produces its own micro-grain Carbide with Titanium, continues to revolutionise the cutting tool industry with the introduction of the first functional coated solid carbide router bits.

The Black ICE (industrial cooling element) bits deliver double the cutting life, flawless finishes and increased productivity, providing ultimate value without sacrificing production efficiency.

Combined with Freud's exclusive TiCo (Titanium Cobalt) hi-density carbide and Black ICE coating, these radical new bits offer a sharper edge with precise cuts for less wear, resulting in twice the increased life and performance compared to standard uncoated router bits.

Optimised for fast feed rates and high heat applications, the revolutionary coating shields the solid carbide cutting edge by creating a slick, lubricant like action for friction, heat and pitch build-up.

The multi-axis grind reduces burning and provides two times the finish quality with an advanced open flute geometry that increases the overall working life by allowing two-times more re-sharpening.

Freud spent years testing and developing the premier solution in solid carbide router bits and protective coatings. The slick-as-ice design extends cutting life and quality while keeping the tool cooler.

Freud's Black ICE solid Carbide router bits are designed for CNC



machines utilizing nested base manufacturing or pod-and-rail for high-speed applications in materials such as high-pressure laminates, melamine and other abrasive materials laminated on wood composites, MDF, particleboard,

hardwood, softwood and plywood.

The combination of up-and-down shear flutes further eliminates chipping on both sides of double-sided veneers or laminated materials, resulting in a flawless finish. (www.freudtools.com).

Enhanced security with Häfele's digital locks

Häfele, the leading specialist for furniture fittings and architectural hardware, has introduced a new perspective to home security with its integrated range of digital home security solutions, which allow the control of the multi-dimensional aspects of home access through a single locking device.

The RE-Veal digital lock carefully scrutinises every home security requirement and presents itself as the ideal answer for all those needs.

This fully-loaded face-recognition lock comes with the highest standards of technology that reads over 170 points on the user's face and will only allow access if you exactly emulate the expression that was pre-set as your access recognition.

With five direct access modes – face recognition, fingerprint, keypad, RFID and mechanical key – this digital lock can be said to be the final word in home security and access planning.

True to its name, this lock allows you to manage your home access and monitor security remotely, anytime anywhere and works on an offline system with no integration to the web; thereby securing all your data and passwords from getting hacked.

It works on the Bluetooth technology and can be managed with the user-friendly 'Häfele Access' mobile application that allows setting multiple access possibilities through different password configurations.

The new RE-Design digital rim lock comes in a handy, sleek and elegant design that fits perfectly onto a wooden main door, adding an aesthetic edge to its overall look.

This new digital rim lock combines three access modes – keypad, RFID and fingerprint access – making it a fool-proof security choice for homes. Its contemporary design and slim cuts make it an ideal match for any modern-looking door handle.

Häfele has also launched the RE-Tro digital lock that is the ideal digital security solution for managing offices. It comes in a unique and elegant design ideally suited for glass door applications.

It is an easy plug-and-play lock that demands absolutely no pre-work on the glass door – such as like creating tedious cut-outs or fixing grooves – and can be simply mounted onto an existing glass door through a retro fixing mechanism.

It combines two access modes – keypad and RFID – making it a secure option for office cabins or other such areas that need limited or exclusive access.



The RE-Veal digital lock comes with the highest standards of face-recognition technology for access control. The new locks can be managed with the user-friendly 'Häfele Access' mobile application over Bluetooth.



(L-R) The RE-Design, RE-Mote and RE-Tro digital locks incorporate fingerprint, keypad, RFID and mechanical key access.



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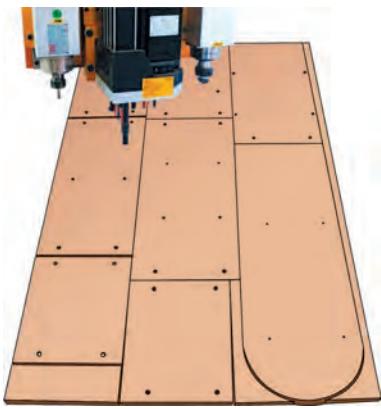
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Reference stops for proper alignment of panel.



The Optimus range of solid wood machinery has high-end features that are specially developed for units engaged in solid wood-craft business.

OptiRout 6.9V

The OptiRout 6.9V is a Nesting CNC Router suitable for efficient cutting, routing and boring in one operation with panel optimization.

Salient Features

- Nesting technology with heavy-duty gantry structure ensures efficient cutting, routing, grooving & routing in one operation with panel optimization.
- High-performance machine with high-feeding speed gives more production.

- Heavy-duty two separate air-cooled 6 kw spindle & precision 9 spindle vertical(9V) boring head.
- Equipped with high quality and accurate Weihong control system with servo motor & Shimpo reducer.
- Double-layer Nesting table for an efficient and secure hold of work piece.
- Stronger and large helical rack/pinion and high-precision linear rails for high-cutting speed & accuracy.
- Save tooling and labour cost as customer requires manpower & tools only for one machine.



Bigger safety spindle covers for effective dust collecting and safety.



Effective dust cleaning system while automatic unloading of workpiece.



Optional: LnU - Loading & Unloading system.

Automatic loading / unloading system enables significant increases in productivity.



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OptiCut 2.8 (auto)

OptiCut 2.8 (auto) is a powerful, precise & efficient high-speed beam saw.

Salient Features

- Robust, balanced structure ensuring maximum stability. Specially designed technologies to guarantee precision & rigidity.
- Constant high performance for continuous industrial production.
- High-performance machine with high-feeding speed that gives more production.
- Easy and accessible, user-friendly Smart Touch HD screen with cutting optimized software programmed that is simple to use & gives precision operation with maximum productivity & reduce wastage of material.
- Steel ball air floating table, which avoids scratches on board and assures smooth board movement.
- Side aligner, integrated with the saw carriage, that can perfectly align given thin or flexible panel, reducing cycle cutting time.
- Saw carriage speed can be adjusted from 0-100 m/min Maximum cutting thickness up to 100 mm.



Clamping and Feeding: Feeding gripper pulls the board into the specified position in the machine.



Automatic side aligning: Side aligner integrated with the saw carriage, can perfectly align the board from the side tightly to ensure precise cutting, reducing cycle cutting time.



Heavy duty Pneumatic Suspension Grippers, avoiding scratch board surface. It can grip the panel perfectly, highly reduce labor intensity, and greatly improve production efficiency.



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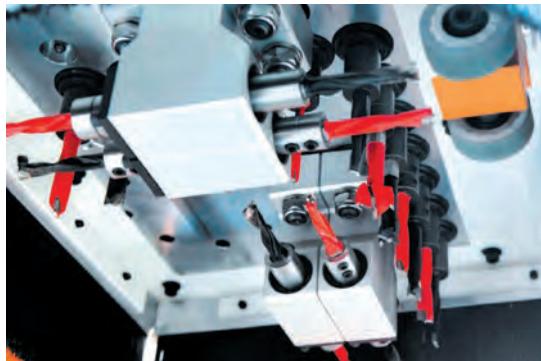


OptiBore 6.12

OptiBore 6.12 is a six-side CNC boring & routing machine for multi-sided boring, routing & grooving with high-efficiency CNC processing.

Salient Features

- Completes six-side boring and top/bottom routing or grooving operation in one-time full automatically.
- Sturdy heavy-duty machine for precise boring and routing application built to suit Indian working conditions.
- High-performance machine with high-feeding speed that results in more production.
- Equipped with Syntec Control System with Barcode Reader and integrated CAM software that can edit image of the work piece and generate NC program directly for processing.



Precision top drilling unit :

Vertical : 7 (X axis) + 5 (Y axis).

Top vertical drilling bits process top side vertical holes on panel.

Horizontal : 2 (Left) + 2 (Right) and 2 (Front) + 2 (Back).

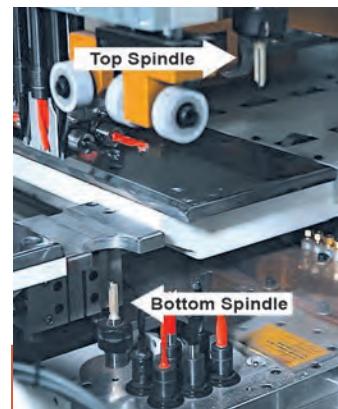
Horizontal drilling bits process four side holes.



Precision bottom drilling unit :

Vertical : 9

Bottom vertical drilling bits process bottom side vertical holes on panel.



Top & Bottom Router Spindle :

2 x 3.5kw (5hp), 18000 rpm

Cutting, routing and top – bottom grooving process on panel.

Technical Specifications

Control System	21" PC with Syntec Control System	
Work Piece Processing Size	Panel Width Max./Minimum	1200 mm / 50 mm
	Panel Length Max./Minimum	5000 mm / 250 mm
	Panel Thickness Max./Minimum	48 mm / 12 mm
Boring Unit	Vertical Drilling Bit - Top	12 = 7 (X Axis) + 5 (Y Axis)
	Vertical Drilling Bit Bottom	9
	Horizontal Drilling Bit	2 (Left) + 2 (Right) and 2 (Front) + 2 (Back)
	Motor Power	2.2 kw (3 hp)
Routing Unit Spindle x 2	Router Spindle Power/Speed	3.5 kw (5 hp) x 2/18000 rpm

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Jyoti has thin-kerf saws for finished cuts



Jyoti Industries' AutoCut450 (L) is an advanced, innovative circular saw. It can even detect crayon marks (R) and cut defects out.

Jyoti Industries' JHR28 is a machine designed to efficiently re-saw cants and boards, to recover valuable lumbers from slabs. Using thin kerfs (1.5 mm) the band saw blade helps accurate and highly finished cuts on the re-saw.

The machine comes with pneumatic pressure roller for accurate sawing each time; a digital thickness display meter for easy size set-up; and has hydraulic blade tension in-built, for constant

tension all through its operation.

Jyoti Industries' AutoCut450 is the most advanced and innovative circular saw available in the Indian market. It has various modes for your every cutting need.

It can be used for fixed or variable sizes of cutting work pieces; and has data logging capability to generate various reports. The machine can be tailor-made as per your cutting requirements.

All Jyoti woodworking machines – sawing technologies, cross-cutting and

optimising saws- are studied, designed and manufactured for operator safety and facilitation of production.

Ahmedabad-based Jyoti Industries is known for its robust sawmill machinery since 1981. With the emerging demand of more safe and productive environment for timber and furniture industries, the company has decided to develop advanced sawing technologies with three goals: to provide a safe environment, to optimise material, and to be more productive.

Surinder Timber unveils new products

Tongue-and-groove spruce panels (L) and strength-graded timber for framing applications.



Surinder Timber Store recently launched a large portfolio of products, ranging from acrylic and PVC sheets, 710 and 303 grade plywood and translucent sheets, among others, under the brand name 'Havenly'.

Established in 1985 in Punjab, Surinder Timber has a countrywide marketing network for its timber, plywood, flush doors and birch ply products, which it imports from trusted vendors in more than 19 countries.

Ludiana-based Surinder Timber Store is also the sole franchise of

Rait Supreme's tongue-and-groove spruce panelling in South Asia, India and the UAE.

Lithuania-based Rait Supreme delivers

timber for external and internal use, as well as strength-graded timber. These profiled boards are used in floors, ceilings, walls, terraces and garden fences.

For more information visit www.surindertimber.com.



Songwon expands range of flame retardants

South Korean speciality chemicals manufacturer, Songwon, has launched the Songflame flame-retardant synergist, adding to its proprietary halogen-free technology for woodworking.

Songflame WB201 is a solvent-free,

aqueous, flame-retardant dispersion designed especially for the coatings, adhesives, sealants and elastomers market. It is also highly suitable for textile applications requiring flame-retardant properties.

The benefits of the new product include easy handling for customers working with waterborne systems, low viscosity and a high active content.

Developed to meet the increased demand for environmentally acceptable additives, the new range combines the efficiency of conventional products with the benefits of water miscibility, low-to-zero VOC generation, and easy dosing and handling.

Songflame products provide a powerful building block for formulators of halogen-free materials. They allow its customers to achieve an ideal balance between increasingly stringent market requirements and overall cost efficiency.

The launch of a second generation of Songflame products, currently in development, is expected in 2021. For more information visit www.songwon.com.

Teijin addresses 'burning' issues



A series of high-profile fires over the last year, which included the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, has brought the focus

back on the issue of greater safety for people evacuating burning buildings, and for the use of more flame-retardant wood

materials in building interiors.

Teijin, a technology-driven global group, has responded by developing several breakthrough solutions, including Landex Coat Flame Retardant Clear, an aqueous, transparent, acrylic flame-retardant coating, in cooperation with Dainichi Giken Kogyo Co., a Japanese pioneer of aqueous inorganic polymers, and Daimaru Kogyo Ltd., a leading Japanese chemical trading company.

As the world's first halogen-free coating of its kind, Landex coat

flame retardant improves the flame retardancy of a diverse range of combustible materials, including timber, paper, fibre, rubber and plastic.

The coating is simply applied to surfaces and its protective transparent finish maintains the material's original colour and texture. The flame retardant, in addition to indoor applications, can be used outdoors to strengthen resistance to weather and mould.

It is also useable on a wider range of materials than is possible with conventional flame retardants.

Teijin has also developed high-performance materials which, it says, have the potential to dramatically alter the construction industry. These include architectural wood products that offer excellent rigidity for the creation of wide interior spaces without pillars.

Reinforced wood

Advanced fibre-reinforced wood (AFRW) is a structural timber product comprising several layers of dimensional (pre-cut) timber and high-performance fibres bonded together with structural adhesives. Applications include medium and low-rise wooden buildings.

Carbon-fibre-reinforced wood (CFRW), a

version of AFRW produced by laminating timber with layers of strong, thin-walled carbon fibre, achieves twice the flexural stiffness of laminated timber, for structural beams that offer enhanced durability and diverse design applications.

From high-performance wood to a vast range of other advanced materials, Teijin is helping to make society more sustainable with safety, security and disaster mitigation solutions that protect lives and livelihoods from various risks such as disasters and accidents.

It aims to be an enterprise that supports the society of the future by utilising its technologies to enhance people's quality of life. (www.teijin.com).

Performance doors, by Sauerland Spanplatte

The last 6 months of mandatory work from home has highlighted the poor performances from a majority of doors, with heavy distractions noticed by each and every one, causing low concentration levels and inefficiencies.

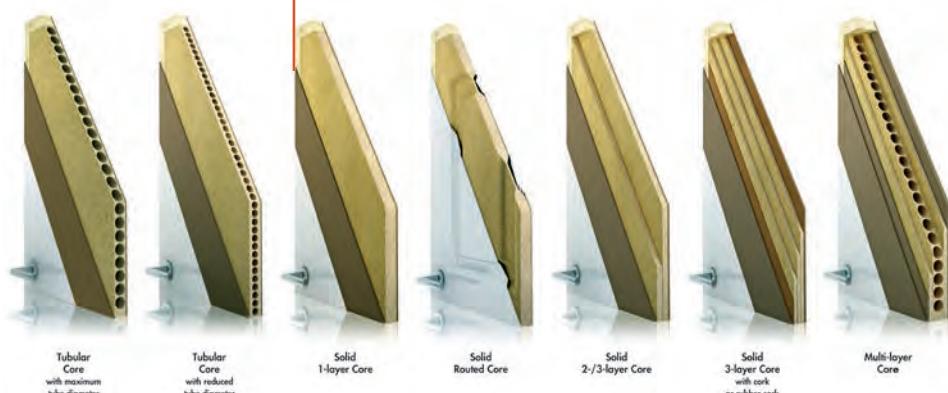
The day-to-day household noises from TV sets, music systems, pressure cookers, mixers, blenders, children playing at home, etc. cause noise pollution can be heard on official video conferences, even if one closes the door to keep such noises out.

Doors installed as a panel to close a hole in the wall showcase poor performance with terms of reducing sound transmission.

Indians have accepted defects observed in a door such as swelling, warping, bending, high sound transfer as natural characteristics of doors, similar to how potholes have been accepted to be integral part of our roads!

Sauerland Spanplatte from

Sauerland Spanplatte offers a diverse choice of door infill materials, which it exports to more than 90 countries.



Germany, the world's largest door component supplier, has brought to India global performance driven solutions for doors. It believes that true privacy function of a door is fulfilled only when the door provides privacy of sight and sound. Apart from performance it helps design aesthetically superior doors for their Indian partners.

Its modern doors worldwide offer some basic performance characteristics:

- Impact resistance of 20 kg/square cm
- Low burning rate of 20 minutes
- Thickness precision of +/-0.1 mm.

- No bending or warping
- Acoustic performance 27 dB and above
- Screw holding of 50 kg per threaded screw
- Environment friendly, low formaldehyde emission

Sauerland Spanplatte exports to more than 90 countries, with more than 1,00,000 doors produced daily using the Sauerland technology. To know more about high performance doors, contact Sleek Boards Marketing Services LLP (sleekboards@gmail.com).

Acoustic & Fire Rating for Home & Office

LOCATION	ACOUSTICS (ISO 140-3)	FIRE RATING (IS 3614/ BS 476 Part 22)
Main Doors	34 dB	60 minutes
Bedroom Doors	27-38 dB	30 minutes
Toilet Doors	22-26 dB	N.A.
Conference Room Doors	34-39 dB	20 minutes
Office Cabin Doors	34-36 dB	30 minutes
Banquet Halls	42 dB	30 minutes



Dr HardoLass gives virus protection

As India still reels under the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, it seeks scientific technology to keep everyone around safe. Sanitising frequently-touched surfaces every day can be a hard task and is practically not feasible.

Nohara India, the Indian arm of Nohara Japan, has introduced Dr HardoLass

coating, a patented technology, which stays on hard surfaces for up to 5 years. The coating has been tested against influenza Type-A virus and proven to be effective in suppressing the virus and bacteria, on contact. The company claims it is being used by multi-national companies such as Docomo, Sharp,

Mitsubishi Electric, Asahi and Coca-Cola.

It can be used on a wide range of hard surfaces like steel, wood, plastic, and all painted surfaces. It can also be applied on frequently-touched surfaces like door handles, electrical switches, elevator surfaces and its buttons, glass, furniture, cars, office furniture, lobbies in hotels, hospitals, furniture in schools, playing equipment, restaurant furniture, and more.

Dr HardoLass is a nano-coating that comes in liquid form and is fairly easy to apply by simply coating a surface using a cloth. The coating has both anti-viral and anti-bacterial properties that allow regularly used items to be sanitised after a one-time coating.

It also has anti-dirt, water-repellent and scratch-resistant properties that help elongate the life of the surface itself.

Dr HardoLass has been tested and approved by SIAA of Japan. The mechanism involves the application, cross-linking and integration, where the moisture in the air reacts with the nano-glass component, creating a chemical bond.

The bond allows the Nano-glass components to connect and form into a Nano-glass layer. (www.nohara.in)

Govt. looks to 'disengage' from IPIRTI

In a proposal, the Union Finance Ministry has recently recommended that the government disengage from certain institutions currently under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

The Finance Ministry committee has recommended that MoEFCC disengage from five autonomous bodies: Indian Institute of Management (IIM-Bhopal), Wildlife Institute of India (WII-Dehradun), Indian Council of Forest Research and Education (ICFRE-Dehradun), Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training

Institute (IPIRTI-Bengaluru), the CPR Environmental Education Centre (Chennai), and the Centre for Environment Education (CEE-Ahmedabad).

The Finance Ministry's Department of Expenditure, which conducted the review, recommended that the government phase out its budget support by 25% per year for these institutes and convert them to autonomous institutions or deemed universities.

Under the plan, IPIRTI would ultimately be largely funded by the plywood and panels industry.

AHEC to collaborate with Indian furniture designers

The American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) has announced the launch of 'Remake', its first design collaboration with five Indian furniture designers. The collaboration aims to give a hands-on experience with American hardwood in India's furniture manufacturing sector.

The project challenges the leading furniture designer-makers to each select three pieces from their existing furniture range and to remake them using American hardwoods. The Indian designers include Studio Wood, Bram Woodcrafting Studio, Kam Ce Kam, Esvee Atelier and Studio SFDW.

The designers have been asked to remake



their pieces using American red oak, white oak, cherry, hard maple, tulipwood or hickory. AHEC is supplying all the lumber from a stock of American hardwood species held in India.

IKEA opens second-hand store

IKEA takes a step forward in its journey to become a circular business by 2030, with the opening of its first world's first second-hand store in Eskilstuna, Sweden. The store is located in the ReTuna Shopping Centre, where all products sold are reused or recycled.

The new store that will be open initially for 6 months is run by the existing IKEA Västerås store that will provide furniture and home-furnishing accessories that for different reasons have been damaged. At ReTuna they will be repaired and given a second chance in a new home.

The store is part of IKEA's aim to develop a circular and profitable business model for the future. The second-hand store helps IKEA test this approach and inspire more people to live a more sustainable life within the boundaries of the planet, paving the way to transition from a linear to a circular business model.



Transforming into a circular business impacts every aspect of the IKEA business and will enable the prolongation of product and material life, by enabling the four circular loops of reuse, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and recycling.

Wemhoener opens roller-coating line in China

Wemhoener's first super matt/high gloss roller coating line has successfully put into operation in Guangdong Gehua factory, in September this year.

The surface of the finished panel can achieve three effects: super matt, mirror high gloss and ordinary gloss. The super matt products use excimer laser

physics ultra matt technology to make the surface gloss less than 5 GU. Further, the super matt products also have the characteristics of anti-fingerprint, anti-scratch and anti-stain and give the sense of high quality in terms of vision and touch.

The gloss of mirror high-gloss products is greater than 95 GU, and the surface of the product is also resistant to scratches and

stains, which accurately appeals to the current concept of simple European or light luxury styles and has become the hottest material in the current household furniture industry.

Wemhoener already has a very good reputation in the Indian market for their membrane presses as well as short-cycle lines and is now looking at introducing these roller coating lines to the country.

Norway prepares longest timber bridge



The representatives of the Norwegian road authority, Nye Veier, and the joint venture BERINOR ANS, associating BESIX and Rizzani de Eccher, signed the contract for the design, permitting and further development of the E6 Moelv-Roterud infrastructure project, in September this year.

The project includes the main bridge over Lake Mjøsa spanning more than one kilometre and an 11-kilometre section of four-lane motorway.

The bridge concept will make it the longest in the world to use structural timber and will set a new benchmark for the use of sustainable materials in major infrastructure projects.

Sustainability aspects, including limited greenhouse gas emissions and quality landscape integration, are amongst the primary objectives of Nye Veier and BERINOR. The bridge crossed an EU Natura 2000 area, and the works are therefore subject to strict environmental requirements.

Livspace invests in Neo platform

Bengaluru-based home design and decor service provider, Livspace, has decided to invest US\$ 30 million in its latest modular solutions platform Neo, which is its proprietary design-to-manufacturing-to-installation platform.

The investment will be used for further development of the technology and launching multiple private labels in the modular solutions space across 30 markets in India and Southeast Asia. The company claimed that each of these labels will be designed to meet a different functional, aesthetic or price point needs

of customers.

A part of the fund will also be used to onboard over 2500 ecosystem partners including franchisees, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), modular furniture, kitchen and wardrobe brands, and more in the next nine months.

New tool for wood identification

With three trillion trees and four billion hectares of forest, identifying wood is hard. So with the help of technology computer scientists of the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science (LIACS) in collaboration with wood anatomists from Naturalis Biodiversity Center and internationally-renowned specialists hope to develop a computer-aided tool for wood identification.

Forests cover 30% of the earth's land area, representing about four billion hectares and three trillion trees. Over the past 15 years, forested regions comparable to the combined area of France, Spain and the United Kingdom have been lost worldwide. This loss both reduces the carbon storage of forests, one of our main buffers of CO₂ extracted from the atmosphere and leads to declines in biodiversity.

Recent evaluations of global logging show that deforestation in the tropics is

currently occurring at an even faster pace, due to unsustainable agriculture, mining and illegal felling but tracking is poor as few efficient forensic tools are available for timber identification.

With the Deep Learning approach, the recognition percentage of the species has increased to as much as 96.4%. This new reference database will allow the development of a tool that enables customs officials and other stakeholders to identify a block of wood more accurately than wood anatomy experts.

New CEO at MTC

Muhtar Suhaili, 39, has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) effective 1 November 2020.

Mr.Suhaili, who has a Master's degree in Petroleum Technology from Curtin University of Technology, Australia, and a Bachelor's degree in Mechatronics Engineering from the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM), is currently pursuing his

Doctoral Degree (PhD) in Business Administration.

Prior to joining MTC, Mr.Suhaili was the Lead Project Engineer in Shell Malaysia where he worked for 15 years and with Perodua Auto Corporation Sdn Bhd before that. He is also the Chairman of Malaysian Palm Oil Certification Council (MPOCC).

Mr.Suhaili has extensive knowledge in managing megaprojects, business planning, business improvement initiatives, manpower planning and human resource development. Having



work exposure in The Netherlands and Germany, he also has experience in managing engineering design offices.

Dieffenbacher wins Egypt CPS order

Egypt Kuwait Holding (EKH) subsidiary Nile Wood has ordered from Dieffenbacher a complete MDF plant with CPS+ continuous press for its greenfield site in Sadat City, Egypt.

EKH was established in 1997 by a consortium of Kuwaiti and

Egyptian businesspeople and has since become one of the fastest-growing companies in the Middle East and Africa with investments in 19 companies. Nile Wood is EKH's first venture into the wood-based panels industry.

The complete MDF plant for Nile Wood includes a CPS+ continuous press, a

chipping line, dryer, air grader and gluing system, forming station and forming line, raw board handling and storage, and a sanding and sawing line. MDF production is scheduled to start by the end of 2021. Operating under full load, the line will reach an annual production capacity of 200,000 m³.

Egger's new plant opens in US

The EGGER Group has started production at the new wood-based materials plant in Lexington, North Carolina, USA. This is the 20th plant of the company and the first EGGER plant in North America. The investment amounts to around 440 million euros and creates 400 new jobs.

With an annual capacity of up to 650,000 m³ of particleboard in the Lexington, NC plant, EGGER is responding to the growing demand for wood-based



materials in the North American market. The new plant enables the company to ensure continuous product availability and increase delivery speed.

Indonesian named PEFC's 'Photographer of the year 2020'

The title of 'PEFC Photographer of the Year 2020' has gone to Mr Keril Chairil of Indonesia, for his beautiful image, 'Morning Activities', taken at Situ Gunung Lake in West Java. The image captures the magical atmosphere at the forest lake in the early morning.

The winner was chosen from nearly 8,000 photos from 12 countries entered into the 'Experience Forests, Experience PEFC' photo contest. The top 12 images were presented on Facebook Live and will star in PEFC's 2020 photo calendar.



Homag acquires System TM

The Homag Group has intensified its activities in the new market segment of construction elements solutions by acquiring 80% of the shares of the Danish engineering and manufacturing company System TM A/S, a leading supplier of optimization and systems solutions for the timber processing industry.

In addition to the company's focus on the furniture sector, a new business segment is being created within the Group. The new segment, construction elements solutions, will combine timber production and processing technology along with the existing activities.

Earlier this year, Homag has already increased its stake in Weinmann to 100%.

Hybrid timber tower for Sydney

Software giant Atlassian has announced plans to build its new global HQ that will be an ultra-sustainable "hybrid timber" tower spread across roughly 40 stories and spacious enough to accommodate 4,000 workers.

Employing Mass Timber Construction (MTC) technology, the wood tower will be wrapped in a distinctive glass and steel façade, to become the world's tallest commercial tower of its kind at 590 feet.

Solar panels, built directly into the façade, will enable the building to run on 100% renewable energy. "Self-shade capabilities" integrated into the energy-generating facade will help counter internal heat gain on hot and sunny days.



By using mass-timber building methods, the completed tower will boast 50% less embodied carbon in its construction compared to conventional concrete and steel builds. When up and running, the building is also expected to consume 50% less energy than newly-built conventional buildings.

Pidilite to buy Huntsman India

Pidilite Industries, the manufacturers of the popular Fevicol brand of adhesives, proposes to acquire the US-based Huntsman Group's Indian subsidiary for Rs. 2,100 crores.

Huntsman operates a 100% subsidiary in the country (Huntsman Advanced Materials Solutions) which directly competes with Fevicol, who manufactures and sells adhesives, sealants and other

products under brands such as Araldite, Araldite Karpernter and Araseal.

The deal also includes the company's Indian subcontinent business, apart from a trademark licence for the Middle East, Africa and ASEAN countries, a statement added.

CEMAC moving towards an export ban on logs

The CEMAC (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa) is moving towards an export ban on logs. The Cameroon's Forestry and Wildlife Ministry validated the decision by all countries of the Congo Basin from January 2022.

The ministers validated the decision establishing the Regional Committee for the Sustainable Industrialization of the Timber Sector in the Congo Basin (Crib) as well as the regulation on the development of forest plantations.

Ultimately, the sub-region would achieve harmonised forestry taxation. To this end, the ministers recommended to the CEMAC Commission (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Chad) to draw up guidelines on forestry taxation that countries should incorporate into their national legislation.



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COMPANIES IN THIS ISSUE

Company Name	Page Nos.	Page Nos.	Company Name	Page Nos.	Page Nos.
Machines & Tools			IKEA	68,98	
Anderson		9	Maxon Doors		89
Axcent Air Flow Technologies		57	Nimmi Hardware		49
Barberan SA		2	Nohara India	97	
CK Airtech India Pvt Ltd.	82	55	Pidilite Industries	102	
Carve Tech		91	Pine House		53
Dieffenbacher GmbH	83,100		Pyramid Timbers		104
Dürr	84		Regal Castors		67
EuroTech Vertriebs GmbH	12		Royal DSM	48	
Ferro Foundaries(Ferro Tiger)		45	Richwood		93
Felder India	52	1,31	Samling Global	44	
Freud	85	22,23	SleekBoard (Sauerland Spanplatte)	96	79
Glades Technologies		65	Solli Concepts	72	
HOLYTEK		3	Songwon	95	
Homag India	101	17	Surinder Timber	94	
Jai Industries	88	19,43	Talin Modular		69
Jyoti Industries	94	63	Teijin	95	
Kalyan Industries		61	Tennessee Wood Flooring	44	
Nitshaw	76		Unilin BV	42	
Spray Technics		87	Zak Decora Mart		77
Weinig	16		Industry Services		
Wemhoener	99		American Hardwood Export Council	10,98	IFC
WoodTech Consultants		34,35	Berinor ANS	99	
Wood Master		47	China International Furniture Fair	14	
Wen Chin/ Tong Fong		75	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa	102	
YOW CHERNG		11	Forestry Innovation Consulting- Canadian Wood		BC
Materials & Products			Gabon Special Economic Zone		5
A.K. Lumber	80		Gray Matrix	81	
Anuradha Timbers		37	Indian Council of Forest Research and Education	98	
Aristo	58	71	Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute	98	
Aryan Group (Box Plank)		39	Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science	100	
Atlassian	102		Ligna 2021	18	
BerryAlloc	46		Livspace	99	
Binderholz Bausysteme GmbH	60		Malaysian Timber Council	30,100	21
Bison Panels (NCL Group)		27	Naturalis Biodiversity Center	100	
Cabinet Vision		BIC	Nye Veier	99	
Decora Kitchen (Ornare)		7	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification	46,60,101	
Duro Doors (NCL Group)		15	University of Helsinki	66	
Dainichi Giken Kogyo Co	95		University of Tokyo	62	
Daimaru Kogyo Ltd	95		Wood Taiwan 2021	20	
EBCO		13,29			
Egger Holzwerkstoffe	40,101	33	Editorial		Advertisement
Fibonacci LLC	44		Printed by V. Krishnamoorthy, published by Pradeep Devaiah on behalf of PDA Trade Media, printed at Repromen Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd.		
Häfele	86		No 46 & 47, Krishna Reddy Layout, Domlur, Bangalore - 560 071 and published at 32/2 Spencer Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore, 560 005		
Havwoods International	24		Editor: Dhananjay Sardeshpande.		
Heinrich Krüger + Sohn GmbH	36				
Huntsman India	102				

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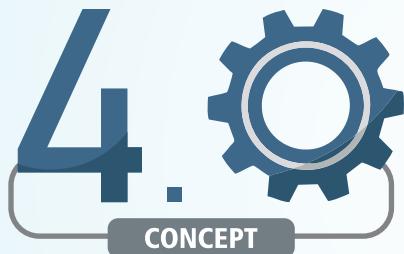
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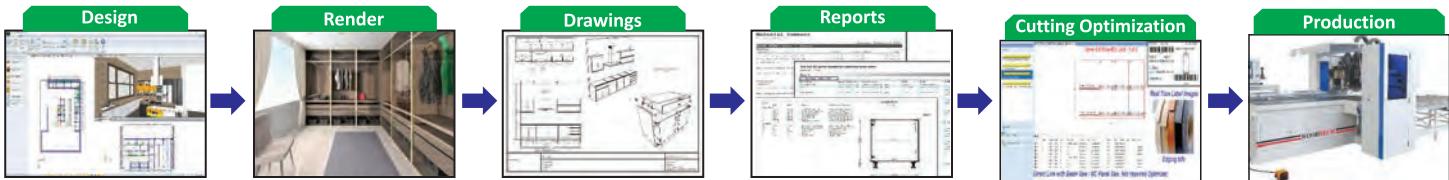
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