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INTERNATIONAL

I LOVE PARQUET

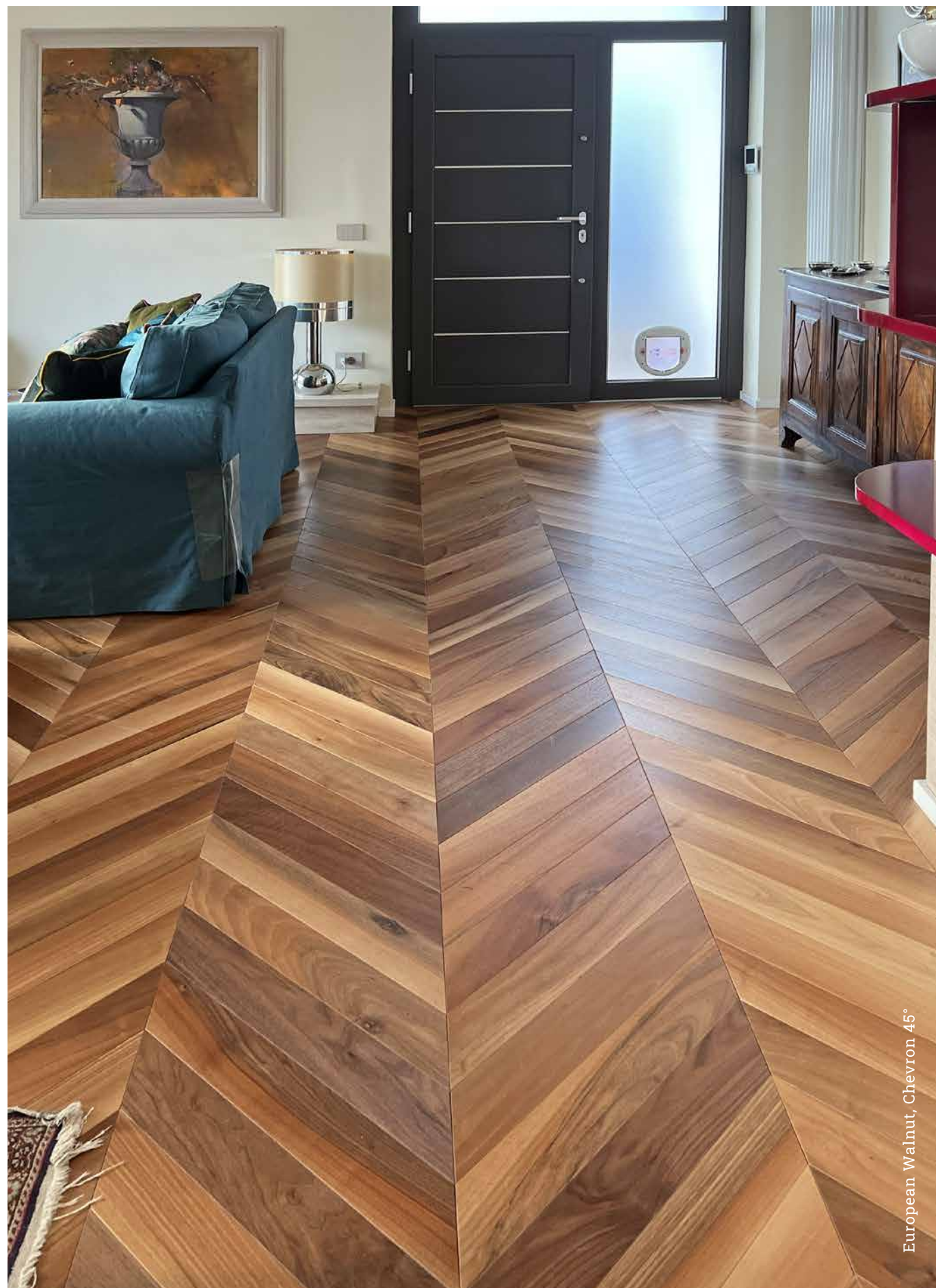
n. 35

December 2025



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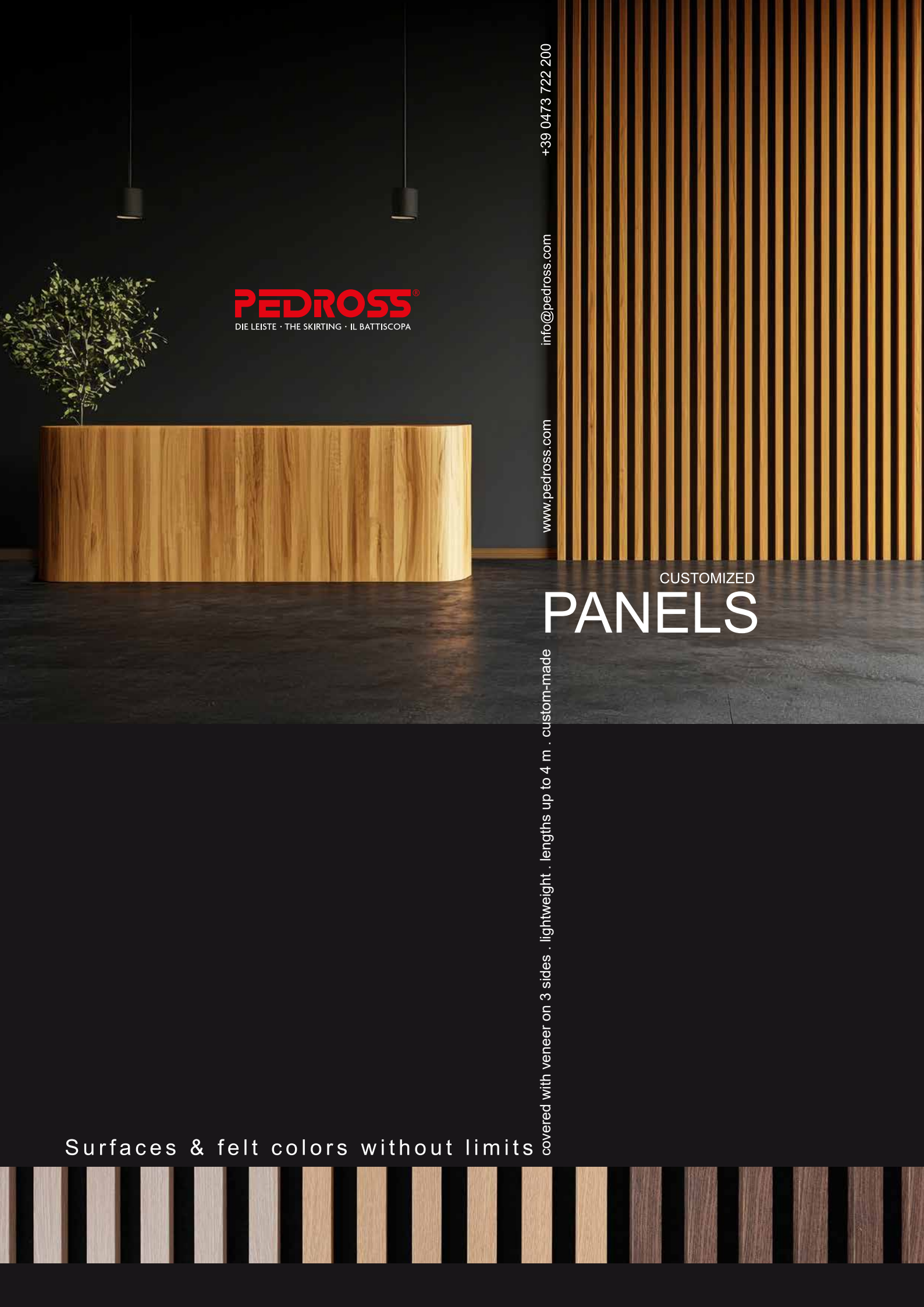
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I LOVE PARQUET

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Finding ourselves (to move forward again)

FEDERICA FIORELLINI



A few days ago, a friend shared something that really struck me. He was talking about perfumes, and about how the brands behind them choose to communicate:

"They don't tell you what's inside. They talk about an emotion, a season, a kind of light. About wind on the skin, salt in the air, a feeling that comes even before thought. They make you want that essence before you know it, before you smell it." Then he looked at me and added: *"You do the same with parquet."*

I smiled. At first, the comparison didn't seem quite right. Then I thought about it: maybe he was right.

I'm sure I've written this before, but today telling the story of a material—really telling it—no longer means listing technical features. It means creating meaning, evoking worlds, awakening desire, and

choosing the right words to make it appreciated and selected. And in this particular moment, as the parquet market goes through a delicate transition, this is far from a minor detail.

Lorenzo Onofri, President of FEP, recently reminded me of this with clarity and determination, when he spoke about the need for European producers to find themselves again: as an identity, as a community, as a system.

It is a simple expression, to find ourselves again, yet full of meaning. It is not just about coming back together; it is about recognising shared values, rediscovering a common purpose, and feeling part of something that matters.

Today is the time for vision, Onofri reminded me: a time to return to the European and international markets with a strong, shared voice, and to communicate together the core values of a sector that, despite challenges and competitive pressure, continues to endure and reinvent itself.

A new beginning will only be possible if we move forward together. With shared strategies. With common tools. But above all, with words that can open paths—and minds. Because perhaps European consumers, too, need to find themselves again: in words, in values, and in the choices they make every day.

GARBELOTTO

STUDIO MILANO: VIA UGO BASSI 7 - MILANO



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Domotex
Messegelände 30521, Hannover
19 - 22 January 2026
domotex.de



DOMOTEX 2026: THE INDUSTRY MEETS AGAIN IN HANNOVER, BETWEEN MAJOR RETURNS AND NEW VISIONS

From 19 to 22 January 2026, Domotex returns to Hannover with an expanded format that places trends, materials and technologies for flooring and interior finishes firmly in the spotlight. The Retailers Park, already sold out, once again confirms its role as a strategic hub for the specialised retail sector, while The Work Shop will host technical content, live demonstrations

and round tables dedicated to craftsmen and companies. In the parquet segment, the highly anticipated return of Kährs stands out, alongside Weitzer Parkett, ter Hürne, mafi, Stile, Design Parquet and Flo.it. There will also be ample space for new product categories - including coatings, wallpapers and acoustic solutions - with leading brands such as AkzoNobel, Saint-Gobain, Meffert, Erfurt Tapeten and Ecophon. Looking ahead, the Innovation Parcours and the new Digital Shop will showcase AI-driven solutions, compact software and tools for project management and process optimisation, designed to make the day-to-day work of installers, painters and interior professionals more efficient.

Salone del Mobile.Milano
Fieramilano Rho
21 - 26 April 2026
salonemilano.it



SALONE DEL MOBILE 2026: THE GLOBAL STAGE FOR DESIGN INNOVATION

The 2026 Salone del Mobile is back as the star of the design calendar: the leading international event for the design industry will be held from 21st to 26th April, at Milan's Rho Fiera fairgrounds. Set up in 1961, the trade fair boasts a wide range of furnishing products, distinguished by their expressive power and their functional, technological and material innovation, devised to enhance the domestic scene. Ingenuity, vision, innovation, sustainable excellence and emotion make up the familiar lexicon of the companies

and brands that exhibit at the Salone Internazionale del Mobile, which has now been proved to be increasingly more global, inclusive and in dialogue with the entire creative and productive furnishing system. Each year, the trade fair gives shape to its mission as a laboratory of experimentation and cross-pollination, a place to meet, to interface and create new business opportunities. It is here that prototypes and innovations in terms of furnishings, domestic spaces and lifestyles are presented: bedrooms, living and dining areas, entrance corridors and service areas, outdoor spaces with their furniture and cupboards, upholstereds, tables and chairs set the scene for a narrative that starts with this room, exploring how the way we live is changing and, consequently, home living and furnishing.

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Madrid Design Festival

Madrid

4 - 8 March 2026

madriddesignfestival.lafabrica.com



MADRID DESIGN FESTIVAL: REDESIGNING THE WORLD

Every year in March, this international festival turns Madrid into the European capital of design. The Madrid Design Festival brings together more than 50 exhibitions and installations spread across the city - including CaixaForum Madrid, Museo

Cerralbo and the National Museum of Decorative Arts, among others - and welcomes the participation of nearly 700

leading professionals. With the slogan "Redesigning the World", the event aims to foster dialogue between design and other disciplines such as science, fashion, music, art and craftsmanship, while also addressing the key challenges facing contemporary society from a global perspective. One of the festival's highlights is Madrid DesignPRO, the professional programme hosted at the Institución Libre de Enseñanza in Madrid. Renowned national and international designers take centre stage in round tables, conferences and masterclasses, making this event a major meeting point for the international design community.

Coverings 2026

Las Vegas Convention Center, Las

Vegas, Nevada

30 March - 2 April 2026

coverings.com

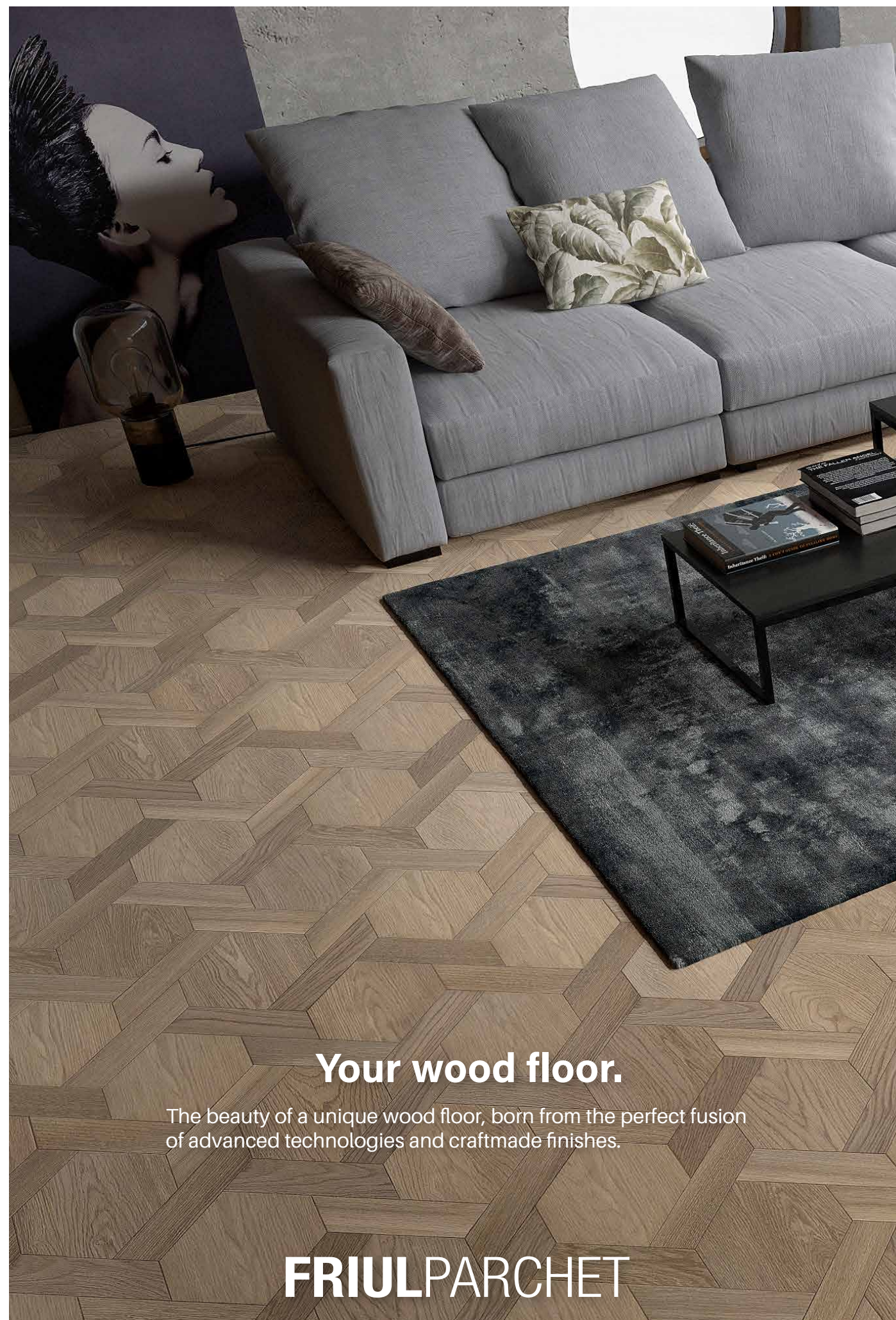


COVERINGS 2026: A NEW LAS VEGAS VENUE FOR NORTH AMERICA'S LEADING TILE AND STONE SHOW

Coverings 2026, North America's leading trade fair for ceramic tiles and natural stone, will take place from 30 March to 2 April 2026 at its new venue, the Las Vegas Convention Center, marking a new chapter for one of the industry's most

important events. Following the success of Coverings 2025 in Orlando - which welcomed nearly 25,000 trade professionals and more than 1,000 exhibitors from 40

countries - the show is set to grow even further, with over 1,100 international exhibitors and more than 26,000 visitors expected. The new location will offer expanded exhibition spaces and first-class facilities, providing the ideal setting for a comprehensive programme of exhibitions, networking and education, including conferences, live demonstrations and technical content focused on installation, materials, trends and business development. With its strong international profile and its role as a key platform for manufacturers, distributors, architects, designers and contractors, Coverings 2026 confirms its position as a strategic event for exploring innovation and future directions in the world of surfaces.



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Lisbon Design Week
Lisbon
27 - 31 May 2026
lisbondesignweek.com



LISBON DESIGN WEEK 2026: CONTEMPORARY DESIGN, CRAFT AND THE VALUE OF THE HANDMADE

The fourth edition of Lisbon Design Week will take place from 27 to 31 May 2026, confirming the Portuguese capital as a vibrant hub for artistic and collectible contemporary design, where creativity meets high-level craftsmanship and a strong focus on the value of handmade production in Portugal. The event celebrates design as a cultural and creative practice, highlighting the

dialogue between tradition and experimentation, materials and processes, and between local know-how and international perspectives. Exhibitions, installations and open studios will animate the city, offering a wide-ranging programme that reflects the diversity of contemporary design languages. The previous edition brought together more than 250 makers across over 95 venues throughout Lisbon, expanding into new neighbourhoods such as Ajuda and Marvila. This widespread format reinforces Lisbon Design Week's role as a city-wide platform, capable of connecting designers, artisans, galleries, institutions and the public, while fostering new networks and collaborations within the international design scene.

3 Days of Design
Copenhagen, Denmark
10 - 12 June 2026
3daysofdesign.dk



3 DAYS OF DESIGN 2026: A CITY-WIDE DESIGN EXPERIENCE IN COPENHAGEN

From 10 to 12 June 2026, Copenhagen will host the 13th edition of 3 Days of Design, one of the key events on the international design calendar, expected to welcome around 400 global brands. The festival features a rich programme of exhibitions, installations, talks, workshops and open studios, offering a broad overview of contemporary

design. The focus ranges from indoor and outdoor furniture to lighting, textiles, surfaces and materials, as well as solutions for office, kitchen and bathroom spaces. While the 2026 theme has yet to be announced, previous editions have explored concepts such as Keep It Real, Dare to Dream and Where Would We Be Without You?, highlighting the event's strong cultural identity. In recent years, 3 Days of Design has unfolded across multiple districts of the city, reinforcing its city-wide format and its close connection with Copenhagen's urban and creative landscape.

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CHIMIVER AWARDED THE SUSTAINABILITY AWARD 2025

Chimiver Panseri S.p.A. has been named among the Top 75 Innovation for Sustainability companies in Italy as part of the Sustainability Award 2025, a prestigious recognition celebrating Italian excellence capable of combining innovation, responsibility and a long-term sustainable vision. The award was presented in October 2025

during the official ceremony held at Palazzo Mezzanotte in Milan, symbolically located in the heart of Italy's financial district. For Chimiver, this achievement represents an important milestone within a broader ESG-driven strategy, confirming the consistency and credibility of a path built over time. The selection highlights the company's ongoing commitment to integrating environmental, social and governance principles across all areas of its activities: from product development to production processes, with constant attention to reducing environmental impact, improving efficiency and promoting a corporate culture based on ethics, transparency and social responsibility. This recognition belongs to the entire Chimiver team and reinforces the company's determination to continue innovating responsibly, strengthening its role as a benchmark in the wood flooring chemicals sector.



PANTONE COLOR OF THE YEAR 2026: CLOUD DANCER

Pantone has announced Cloud Dancer (PANTONE 11-4201) as the Color of the Year 2026. A soft, airy white chosen to express today's desire for calm, essentiality and new beginnings. Following the warm, grounding tone of Mocha Mousse 2025, Cloud Dancer introduces a sense of lightness: not a sterile white, but a gentle, luminous

presence that allows spaces and objects to breathe. For the first time ever, Pantone has selected a white as Color of the Year. A decision that carries the weight of a cultural statement. According to the Pantone Color Institute, Cloud Dancer is a high, ethereal neutral that invites us to slow down, refocus and start again. Not an absence of colour, but a space for design.

Balanced between warm and cool tones, more human than classic optical whites, it recalls natural light filtered through clouds, with a subtle creaminess that makes it both livable and contemporary. In interior design, Cloud Dancer works as a luminous base, a project background for material-driven palettes, and a bridging colour capable of harmonising different textures, materials and design languages.



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MAPEI INAUGURATES A NEW RESEARCH CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE CONCRETE IN NORWAY

The Mapei Group, a global leader in construction chemicals, has inaugurated a new research centre dedicated to sustainable concrete technologies in Sagstua (Nord-Odal, Norway), in the presence of institutional representatives and the Italian Embassy.

The project involves a total investment of 127 million Norwegian kroner (approx. €11 million), supported by Innovation Norway, and focuses on developing innovative solutions to reduce the environmental impact of cement, concrete and mortars. Launched at the end of 2024, the expansion of Mapei's Norwegian facility is expected to contribute to a reduction of 450,000 tonnes of CO₂, equal to 7.5% of Norway's national emissions reduction target by 2030. Mapei has been present in Norway

since 1999, following the acquisition of local company Rescon. Today, the subsidiary operates a commercial and production site in Sagstua, generating revenues of 1.3 billion Norwegian kroner (approx. €112 million) and employing around 220 people, supplying durable, high-quality products designed to perform even in Arctic climate conditions.



HOUZZ REVEALS US HOME DESIGN TRENDS FOR 2026

Houzz has released its forecast for US home design trends in 2026, based on search insights from more than 70 million homeowners and activity from over 3 million residential construction and design professionals on the platform. Among the key trends is the strong return of checkerboard flooring. Searches for "checkerboard floor" increased by 38%, while interest in "checkerboard bathroom" more than doubled. Alongside the classic

black-and-white pattern, designers are increasingly specifying richer colour combinations such as sage and cream, emerald, deep red and burgundy, paired with premium materials like honed marble and handcrafted terracotta for a more refined, artisanal look.

Warm, earthy colour palettes are also shaping flooring selections throughout the home, with designers favouring shades of olive green, taupe, dark brown, burgundy and warm yellow. These tones influence wood stains, tile colours and textured finishes, reinforcing a more grounded and timeless aesthetic. Finally, visualisation tools are becoming standard in the pre-construction phase. With 22% of homeowners reporting difficulty imagining the final result, builders and remodelers increasingly rely on 3D floor plans and augmented reality walkthroughs to support decision-making and reduce design changes.

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Patent Pending

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PRODUCT**



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The decorative strip with Push Clip System








Elegance, practicality and minimalism.

This is how the new Unydeco product **CLIPLIST™** is summed up, an innovative patented fixing system of skirting boards to the floor using the "push clip system" technology.

The minimal skirting boards are fixed without the use of nails, adhesives or silicones; they are elegant in their shape and are offered in the main anodic finishes, such as silver and bronze, or white or black lacquered; moreover, through digital printing, they can be customized making the strip become one with the laid floor: a skirting board which, despite being installed, becomes invisible!

CLIPLIST™ strips can be laid on any floor: parquet, laminate, SPC, tile or marble; the only caution when laying the floor is to leave a minimum expansion of 3 mm around the perimeter, and a maximum of 15 mm. Profiles can be used with floors that have the thickness not less than 5 mm.

Strengths:

-  **Practical assembly without nails or glues.**
-  **Possibility of disassembly and reinstallation.**
-  **Pleasant aesthetic result.**
-  **Color customization with digital technology.**
-  **Cable trunking.**
-  **Possibility of LED installation.**
-  **Noise transmission attenuation.**

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THE EUDR CHRONICLE: FALL 2025

An updated timeline of the EUDR's turbulent implementation in autumn 2025, from technical setbacks and regulatory uncertainty to political negotiations, postponements and simplification measures aimed at safeguarding both effectiveness and proportionality



For an association as the European Parquet Federation (FEP), the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) is an essential topic to follow and influence at EU level. With almost 30 other European associations, from all the sectors concerned by the Regulation, we reaffirm our full commitment to the objective of halting global deforestation and to the effective implementation of the EUDR. As last year, at the same period, we are asking for a postponement of the implementation but the situation is significantly different. The Regulation's effectiveness and credibility have been severely undermined by the EU Commission (EC) through disruptions of the Information System (IS), unclear provisions and disproportionate administrative burden on EU primary producers and downstream businesses, including SMEs. Even Members who felt ready for the

implementation are now lost. Here is a summary of the situation from early September to the time of writing these lines.

23 SEPTEMBER 2025

EU Commissioner Roswall announced a new postponement of the EUDR. The decision still required adoption by the EU Parliament and Council, but no major obstacles were expected. The official reason was the need to upgrade the Information System (IS) to meet users' requirements, as current capacity risks slowdowns and disruptions. The EU Commission also signalled openness to further legislative changes, including simplifications to reduce administrative burden. Under this plan, EUDR implementation would have started on 30 December 2026 for all companies, except SMEs, which would comply from 30 June 2027.

20 OCTOBER 2025

Rumours and announcements suggested that EUDR would still enter into force on 31 December 2025 for large businesses, as originally planned. A one-year postponement would have applied only to small and micro operators, pushing their compliance to June 2027. Penalties for all operators would have been delayed by six months (the so-called "grace period"), and small producers would have benefited from simplified Due Diligence declarations. This unexpected development caused confusion and prompted industry associations to seek for clarification.

21 OCTOBER 2025

The EU Commission issued a draft proposal confirming that:

- For large and medium enterprises, EUDR would apply – again - from 31 December 2025, with a six-month grace period (meaning no penalties until 30 June 2026).
- For micro and small enterprises, EUDR would apply from 30 June 2026, extendable by six months to 31 December 2026.
- Due diligence statements (DDS) would be required only for the first placement on the market.
- Downstream operators would have to register in the IS and collect DDS reference numbers from suppliers.
- Micro and small enterprises from low-risk countries would benefit from simplified DDS.

The proposal still needed EU Council

and Parliament approval. Concerns were raised about supply chain disruptions and confidentiality, as downstream operators would depend on suppliers' DDS timing.

19 NOVEMBER 2025

The EU Council adopted its position on the EU Commission's *roll-back* proposal of 21 October. In a nutshell, it recommends to:

- Replace the six-month grace period with a full one-year postponement, EUDR applies from 30 December 2026 for medium and large operators, and from 30 June 2027 for micro and small operators.
- Keep EU Commission's changes for downstream operators and micro & small primary operators, but add further simplifications:
 - Only the first downstream operator must collect and keep previous DDS reference numbers.
 - Micro and small primary operators may choose between geolocation or postal address for land plots and update simplified declarations only after major changes.
- Insert an obligation for the EU Commission to review EUDR by 30 April 2026, focusing on administrative burden and proposing further simplifications if needed. The file was marked as urgent.

26 NOVEMBER 2025

The EU Parliament adopted its position, largely aligning with the Council, meaning a postponement of implementation and a review for further simplification.

- Agreement points:
 - 12-month postponement for all companies (large and medium: 30 December 2026).
 - 18-month postponement for small and micro-enterprises (30 June 2027).
 - Review clause by 30 April 2026 for possible legislative proposal and simplifications.
 - Substantial relief for small & micro enterprises and downstream operators.
- Simplifications include:
 - DDS obligation limited to businesses first placing products

on the EU market.

- One-off simplified declaration for micro & small primary operators in low-risk countries, with optional updates.
- Postal address as an alternative to geolocation.
- Traceability of DDS reference numbers limited to the first downstream operator.
- EUTR will be repealed from December 2026.

4 DECEMBER 2025

The EU Parliament's and the EU Council's negotiators, in Trilogue with the EC, reached a provisional political agreement on a one-year postponement of the EUDR for all businesses, plus targeted solutions to make it easier for companies, global stakeholders and Member States to implement.

- Postponement for companies - All businesses will have one more year to comply with new EU rules to prevent deforestation. Large operators and traders will now have to apply the regulation from 30 December 2026, and small operators – private individuals and micro- or small enterprises - from 30 June 2027. This additional time is intended to guarantee a smooth transition and to allow time to improve the IS that operators, traders and their representatives use to make electronic DDSs. The co-legislators removed the 'grace period' initially proposed by the EC for large and medium companies, opting instead for a clear extension of the application date.

To make sure the system works well, the EU Parliament introduced a requirement for the Competent Authorities to share information about significant technical errors or disruptions arising in the IS.

- Simplification of Due Diligence requirements - The co-legislators agreed that responsibility for submitting a DDS should fall to the businesses that are first to place a relevant product on the EU market, and not the operators and traders that subsequently commercialise

it. The first downstream operator in the supply chain will be responsible for collecting and retaining the reference number of the initial DDS, rather than passing it down the chain.

The agreement reduces the obligations on micro and small primary operators, which will now only have to submit a one-off simplified declaration, making it easier for businesses to comply with the law without compromising on its objectives. These operators will only submit a one-time simplified declaration and will receive a declaration identifier, which will be sufficient for traceability purposes. Furthermore, both co-legislators underlined the importance of ensuring continued exchange with experts, stakeholders and all relevant operators on the implementation of the EUDR. This should take place within the existing framework of the EC expert group multi-stakeholder platform on protecting and restoring the world's forests (FEP is member of this platform).

It was also agreed that by 30 April 2026, the EC must present a report to assess the law's impact and administrative burden, in particular for micro and small operators.

We welcome the EU Council and the EU Parliament's understanding of the severity of the problems and of the urgency to find a compromise that ensures workability and proportionality, while maintaining the core objective of the Regulation intact.

NEXT STEPS

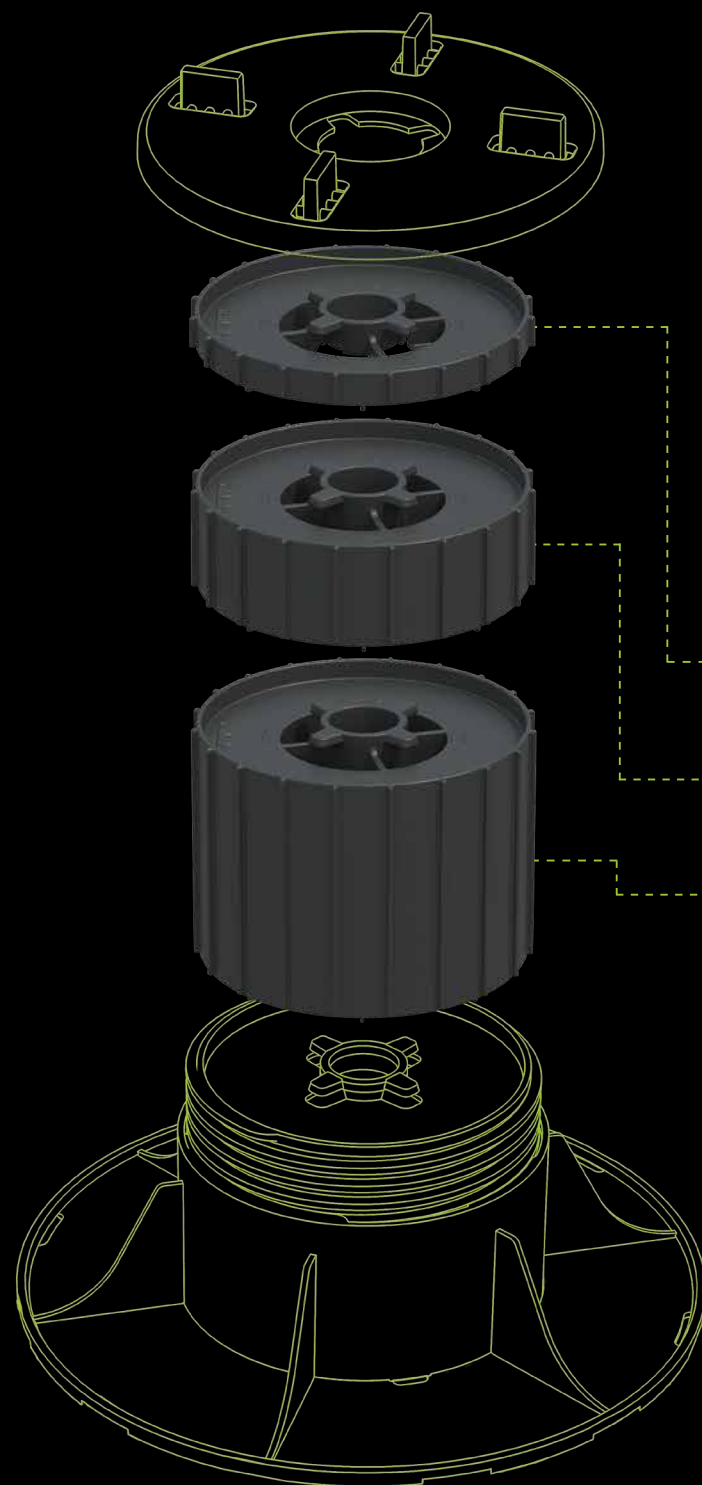
At the time of writing these lines, the EU Parliament is expected to vote on the deal during its 15-18 December 2025 plenary session. The text agreed must be endorsed by both the EU Parliament and the EU Council and be published in the EU Official Journal (OJEU) before the end of 2025 for the changes to enter into force. Otherwise, the current deadlines will apply.

To be continued...

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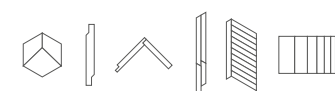

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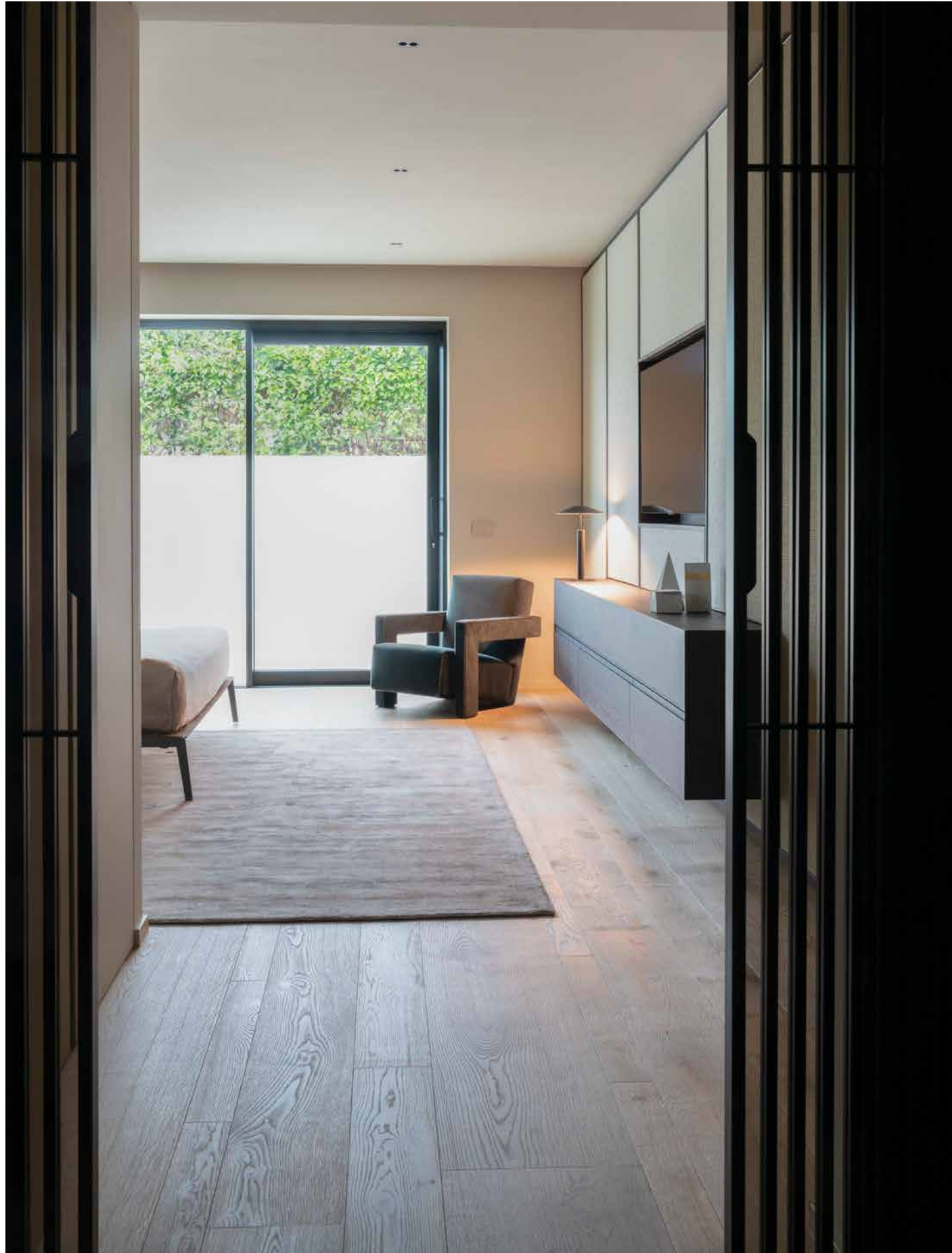
Stile
feeling wood

A NEW MEDITERRANEAN WAY OF LIVING

An interior design project that blends Sicilian roots with a forward-looking vision, combining iconic furnishings, integrated smart solutions and a widespread sense of architectural tailoring. Thanks to parquet flooring, Villa Arà transforms the concept of comfort into an experience defined by essentiality, technology and authenticity

TITO FRANCESCHINI





In Modica, Sicily, interior designer Giovanni Aquila signs the interiors of Villa Arà, a private residence that deliberately moves away from local architectural stereotypes to propose a fresher, more contemporary interpretation of Mediterranean living. The intervention regenerates the structure of an existing building, transforming it into a fluid, light-filled volume where architecture, technology and design engage in a carefully balanced dialogue. Large, full-height glazed openings-true interfaces with the surrounding landscape-modulate natural light and contribute to a distinctive domestic narrative made of transparency, natural materials and bespoke furnishings.

A HOME SHAPED BY FUNCTIONALITY AND TECHNOLOGY

Villa Arà unfolds over two levels, with a total surface area of 220 square metres. The ground floor hosts an open-plan living area, where the lounge, dining space and kitchen form a continuous environment dominated by daylight. This level also includes a study, the master suite-complete with private bathroom, walk-in wardrobe and direct access to the garden-and service areas. The first floor accommodates two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, a study area and a walk-in wardrobe, striking a balance between comfort and privacy. A guest annex and a taverna set within the greenery complete the property, extending the home's convivial and social vocation.

AESTHETICS AND TECHNOLOGY

Carefully curated down to the smallest detail, the interiors combine Italian and international design icons with custom-made solutions tailored precisely to functional requirements. Aesthetics and technology coexist within a sophisticated yet discreet

system: an integrated home automation setup, powered by photovoltaic panels to maximise efficiency and sustainability, controls lighting, shading, irrigation, access and climate systems. Indoor temperature is automatically regulated according to external conditions and the occupants' habits, ensuring optimal comfort at all times.

PARQUET FLOORING, THE MATERIAL HEART OF THE PROJECT

A key element of the entire renovation is the wood flooring, conceived as a continuous, enveloping surface that enhances the fluidity of the layout while adding warmth. Chosen in the Canapa Oak shade from Woodco's Dream collection, the parquet was developed in a fully customised version, featuring exceptionally generous multi-format boards (350 × 1500-2500 mm, 220 × 1500-2500 mm, 160 × 1000-2500 mm, 90 × 1000-1500 mm), all counterbalanced in wood to ensure superior stability and durability. The Canapa tone-soft and luminous-integrates seamlessly into the neutral language of the interiors, supporting the

narrative of light and creating a chromatic balance that connects furnishings, surfaces and architectural elements. The oak texture and the varied board dimensions lend rhythm to the spaces, enhancing the fluid transition between the living area, kitchen, study and master suite. The material continuity of the parquet turns it into a true aesthetic infrastructure of the project, acting as a visual link between integrated technology, design furnishings and interior architecture.

PROJECT DATA

- **Project type:**
Private residence
- **Location:**
Modica (Ragusa, Sicily)
- **Year:** 2025
- **Surface area:** 220 sqm
- **Interior design:**
Giovanni Aquila
- **Parquet flooring:**
Woodco, Dream collection – Canapa Oak, customised multi-format
- **Photography:**
Paolo Riolzi





The living and dining area of Villa Arà unfolds as a bright, fluid space, where Canapa Oak parquet enhances continuity and warmth, in constant dialogue with natural light and the outdoors.

OH MY

WOOD!

Ro sofa: colour & oak ▶

The Ro sofa comes fully upholstered in a selection of unique Designer Selection colours in the fabric Fiord: One colour for the shell and one for the cushions. The base consists of 4 legs in solid oak with a clear lacquer finish.

fritzhenzen.com



◀ Japanese style

Japanese bathing culture is celebrated in this new bathtub. The movingui and the larch wood of the comfortable tub was dried, formed and brought together in an elaborate technique.

Design Matteo Thun and Antonio Rodriguez.

rapnel.it



Vintage ▶

This indoor table is made from vintage exterior doors. These doors are authentic Italian pieces from the end of 19th century. Each one is made of solid Chestnut wood and weighs 40 kg.

manoteca.com



Prada style ▶

Minimal baroque style with Canaletto walnut wood frame front. Très chic.

prada.com



◀ Nano

Inspired by a deep friendship, Nano represents the transformation of the iconic symbol of the House of Fiorucci into scented cedar wood. Maurizio Riva pays homage to the stylist Elio Fiorucci by giving a wooden body to this object, which takes on a new and unusual form, both striking and immediately recognisable.

riva1920.it



POH! ▶

Bench or low service table created from a patchwork of raw pieces of wood - both old and new - assembled on the basis of a computer-generated design that is then sent to a digitally-controlled machine that cuts the forms in three dimensions. Each item is unique but can be reproduced.

cappellini.it



◀ Saya

A mark, a gesture, a graphic sign, rendered in wood to finish a space like a signature. Design by Lievore Altherr Molina, 2012.

arper.com

TIMELESS ELEGANCE IN THE HEART OF CORTINA

After an extensive restoration, the historic Hotel Ancora in Cortina d'Ampezzo reopens with a renewed identity, blending Alpine memory with contemporary sensibility. An interior design project that works on materials, atmosphere and spatial continuity, bringing new life to an icon of Dolomite hospitality

FRANCESCA FERRARI





A symbol of hospitality and refinement since 1826, Hotel Ancora in Cortina d'Ampezzo returns to shine in the heart of the Veneto Dolomites after two years of careful restoration. The intervention reaffirms the central role of this iconic place, reinterpreting its historic character through a contemporary language capable of engaging with the mountain context without resorting to nostalgia. The interior design project by Charles & Co. establishes a measured balance between retro references and modern solutions, shaping welcoming, layered spaces rich in personality. Each environment is conceived to convey warmth and continuity, enhancing a domestic sense of comfort within a complex hospitality structure.

SPACES, ATMOSPHERE, CONTINUITY

The 35 guestrooms and suites, together with the common areas—from the bar to the Tea Room, from the restaurant spaces to the SPA & Wellness area and entertainment venues—are united by a coherent narrative built on authentic materials, natural textures and carefully calibrated colour palettes.

The design approach favours restraint, embracing a discreet notion of comfort in which perceived quality emerges from the balance between details, proportions and materials. Circulation areas also become an integral part of the experience: corridors are not merely transitional spaces, but carefully designed environments where the dialogue between surfaces reinforces the hotel's overall identity.

WOOD AS A DESIGN ELEMENT

A unifying element throughout the project is the wooden flooring, chosen as a material capable of connecting spaces and functions while enhancing a sense of warmth. Around 2,200 square metres of parquet run through the entire hotel, helping to define an enveloping atmosphere in tune with the Alpine setting.

The natural oak parquet, with a hand-planed finish and laid in boards of varying sizes, recalls the character of historic mountain





residences while maintaining a contemporary interpretation. The surface irregularities become part of the material narrative-intentional marks that add authenticity and visual depth.

In the corridors, the parquet frames the central carpet in a refined play of contrasts, demonstrating how the project pays attention even to less visible details in order to build a coherent perception of quality.

HOSPITALITY, MATERIALITY, LONGEVITY

Beyond its aesthetic value, the flooring meets the technical requirements of a high-traffic hospitality environment, offering durability, safety and long-term performance. This confirms the role of flooring not merely as a finish, but as a true infrastructure of the interior design project.

The restoration of Hotel Ancora thus interprets hospitality as a sensory and cultural experience, where every choice—from materials to lighting, from furnishings to surfaces—contributes to a recognisable yet understated identity. A timeless elegance, capable of telling the story of Cortina through a contemporary lens that respects its history.

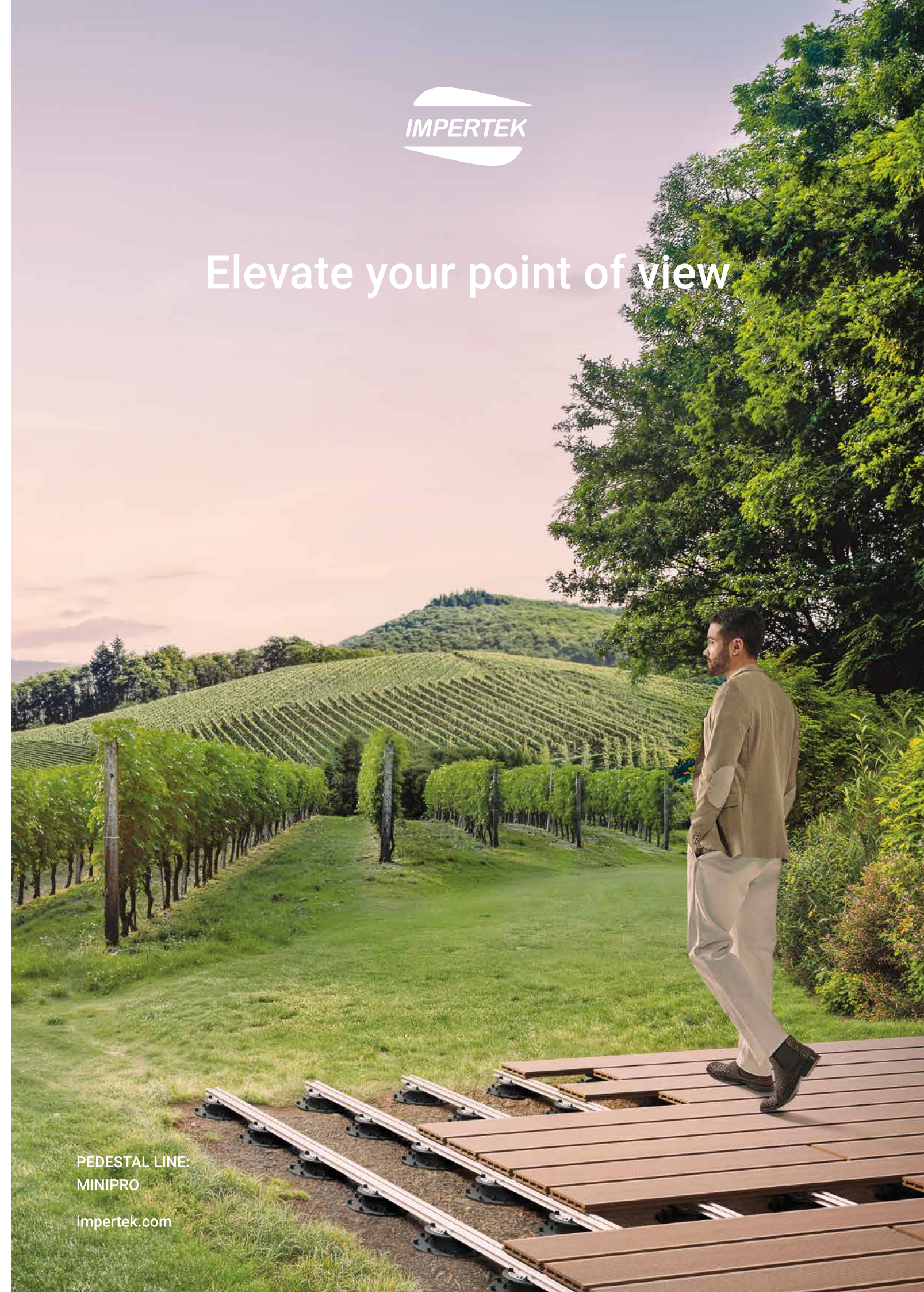
BESPOKE PARQUET FLOORING

For the restoration of the historic Hotel Ancora in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Berti Pavimenti Legno supplied all the parquet flooring, developing a bespoke solution covering approximately 2,200 square metres across guestrooms, suites and common areas.

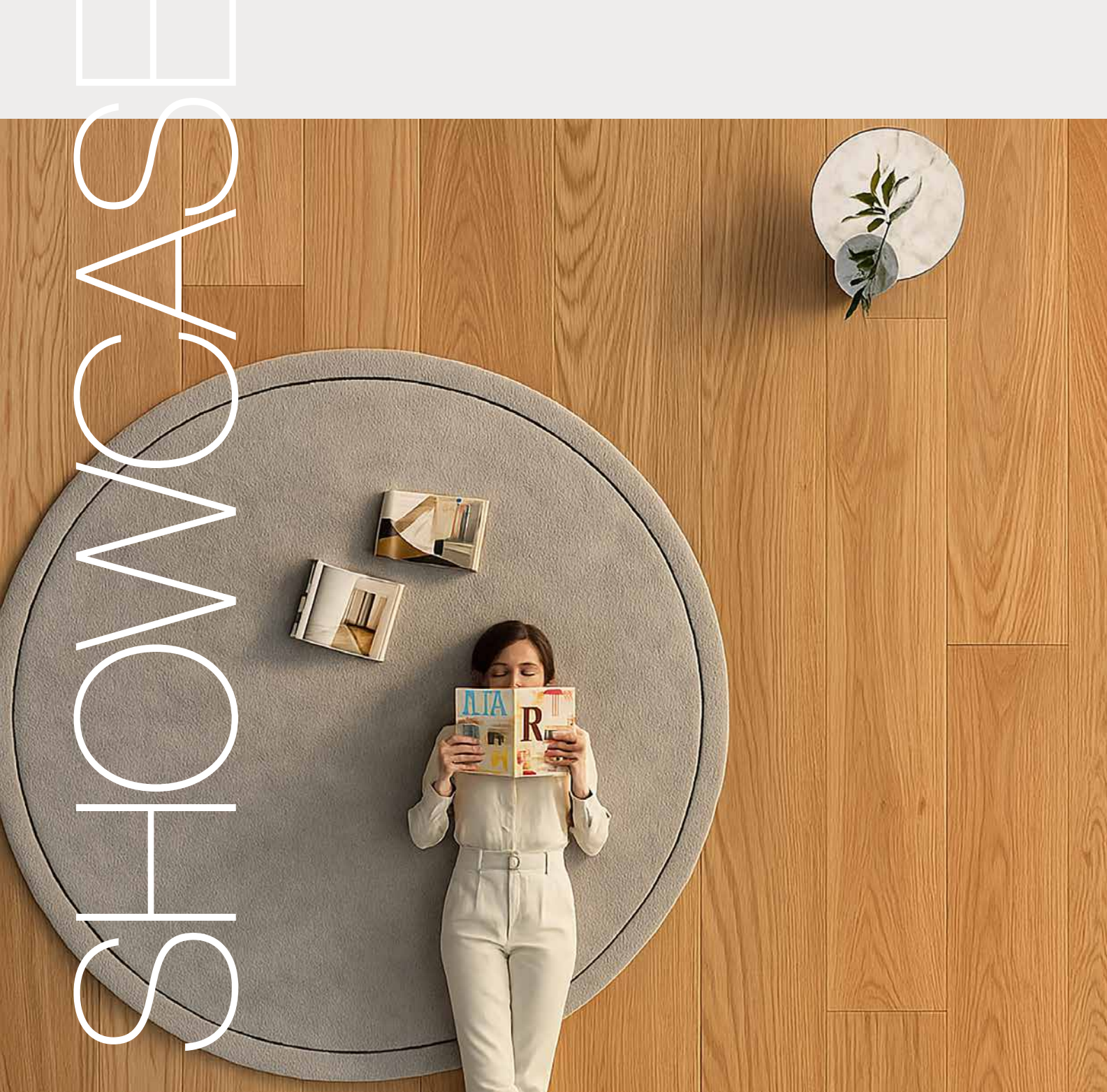
The natural oak, with a hand-planed finish and boards in different sizes, evokes the character of historic Alpine residences while combining material quality with technical performance. Fire-retardant, antibacterial and wear-resistant properties make the flooring suitable for a high-end hospitality setting, where aesthetics and functionality must coexist.



Elevate your point of view



PEDESTAL LINE:
MINIPRO
impertek.com



THE ELEGANCE OF LARGE FORMATS, THE STRENGTH OF NATURAL WOOD ▲

The XXL European Oak parquet enhances the authentic beauty of wood through planks of extraordinary dimensions, capable of giving interiors a sense of continuity and spaciousness. The wide boards, available in various maxi-widths, highlight the natural grain patterns and the rich chromatic nuances of oak, lending the floor a strong and refined scenic presence.

To meet the most contemporary design requirements, the collection is offered in two different surface finishes: brushed, which emphasizes the material character of the wood fibres, and 3D, a three-dimensional texture that adds tactile depth and a modern, distinctive look to any space.

Thanks to the stability and robustness of oak, the maxi-format planks maintain their structural integrity even across large surfaces, ensuring long-lasting beauty and durability.

Perfect for those seeking contemporary and minimalist interiors, or for spaces that aim to convey elegance and warmth, the Maxi-Format Oak reinterprets the tradition of wood with a modern sensibility.

almafloor.it



◀ ADESIVER HARD ELASTIC: THE HIGH-PERFORMANCE UNIVERSAL PARQUET ADHESIVE

Adesiver Hard Elastic is Chimiver's one-component MS-technology silane adhesive, engineered to deliver fast setting and long-lasting performance. Ideal for all types of parquet - from solid wood to multilayer - it ensures perfect adhesion on any surface, whether absorbent or non-absorbent.

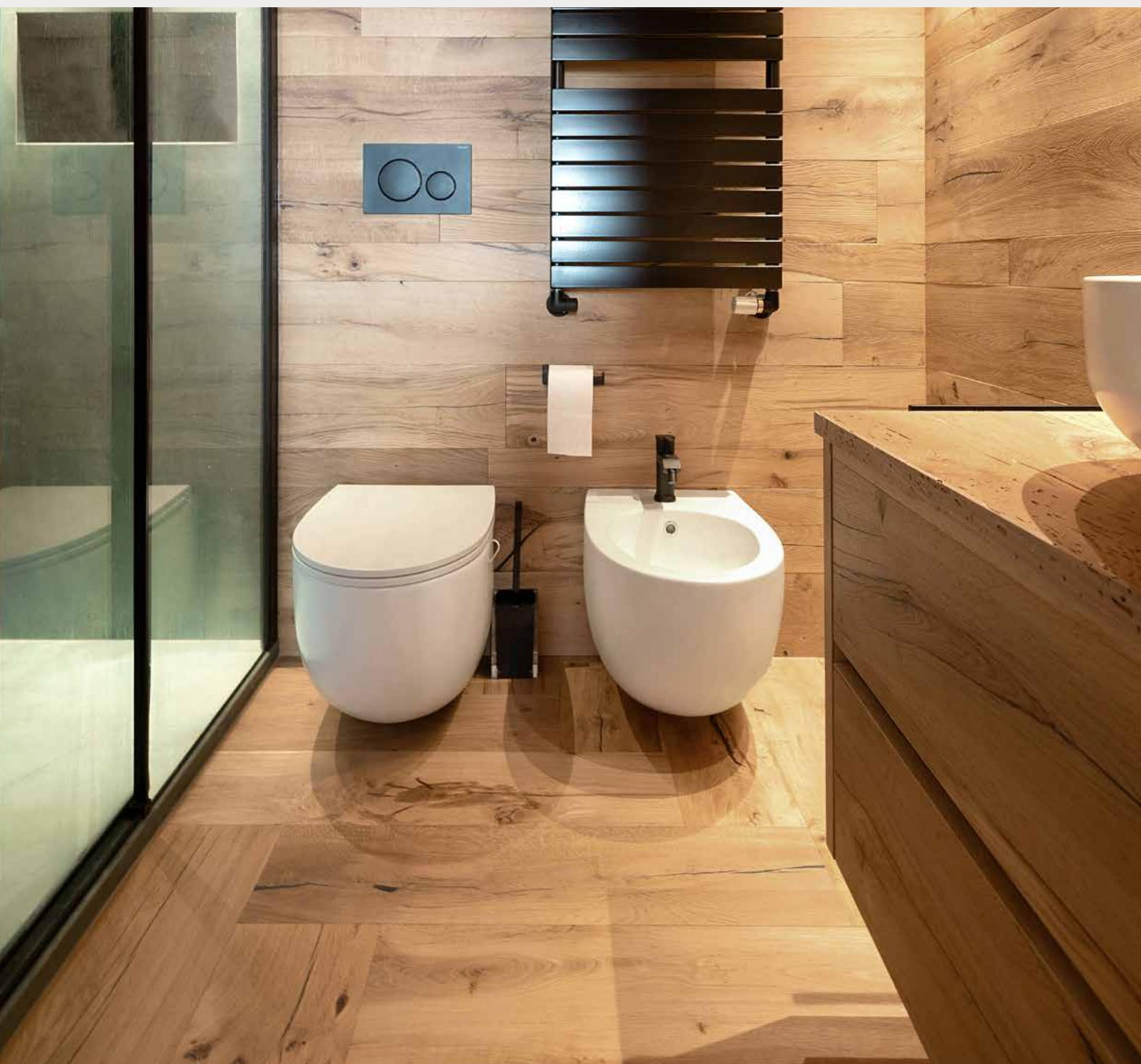
Classified as "Hard Elastic" in accordance with UNI EN ISO 17178, Chimiver's Adesiver Hard Elastic combines high mechanical strength with the right degree of elasticity, preventing stress in the wood and guaranteeing stability even on substrates with underfloor heating or cooling systems. This makes it the ideal solution for both residential and commercial applications. Certified EC1 PLUS and compliant with LEED QI 4.1, BREEAM, WELL and CAM protocols, it represents the perfect balance between application efficiency, technical performance, and environmental sustainability.

chimiver.com

YLES BY SKEMA

Yles by Skema is a three-layer oak parquet made in Italy that restores wood to its true narrative value. Its seven collections - Kytos, Tarsia, Hexagon, Kross, Folia, Stylo and Over - offer multiple laying geometries. Refined workmanship, sharp bevelling, brushed surfaces and six oil finishes enhance its material essence. The 2.5 – 4 mm top layer and Idro 24 water resistance ensure depth, value and stability.

skema.eu



THE SOUL OF ANCIENT WOOD ▲

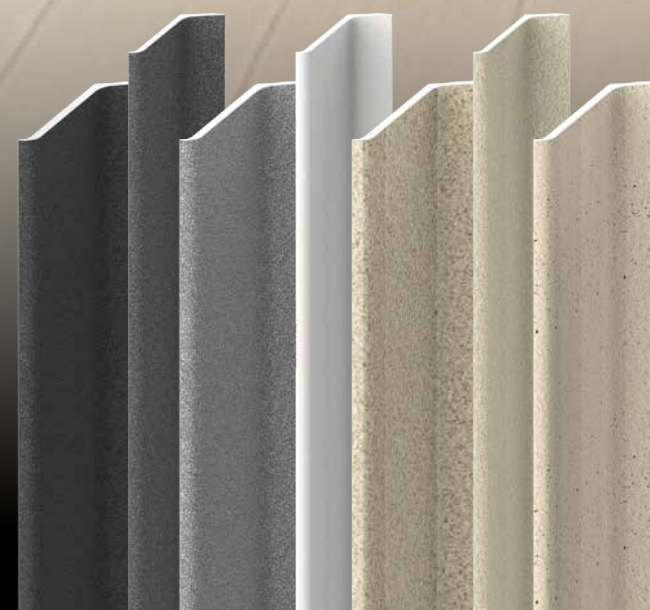
In the Gli Antichi® line, wood becomes a custodian of centuries-old stories: reclaimed, carefully selected, and masterfully restored boards reveal the emotions of time through cracks, subtle wormholes, nail marks, and natural color variations that speak of lives once lived. Each piece, unique and unrepeatable, is transformed into a technologically advanced and stable engineered plank, ready to infuse interiors with a past that breathes within the present.

In this project, created for a private Italian residence in the Dolomites, the Clip Up System®-Garbelotto's patented glue-free installation technology-brings to life a right/left herringbone pattern in maxi planks, embracing every space. The wood, hand-finished with natural waxes, embodies the full value of Italian craftsmanship, preserving an authentic and timeless beauty.

garbelotto1950.it

KALEIDOS®

Skirting Boards in line with the latest architecture and interior design trends.



PROGRESS®
PROFILES



KALEIDOS SHADES: COORDINATED SKIRTING BOARDS FOR CONTEMPORARY INTERIORS

Progress Profiles offers a wide range of skirting boards to complement any flooring. The extensive selection includes customisable PVC, aluminium and stainless steel models in a variety of heights and finishes. Standing out among these products are those available in the new Kaleidos shades, which are designed to blend harmoniously with the latest design and furnishing trends. For a coordinated look, they can be combined with matching fittings, such as internal and external corners, end caps and joints.

progressprofiles.com



ARJA AND NATURJA

The ash parquet, known for its strength and durability, offers a perfect surface for modern and traditional environments, adapting to every style and context. In addition, its texture, with light and flowing veins, gives a sophisticated and refined look. Within its wide range, GAIA Parquet offers the Arja and Naturja collections in ash, composed of different colours to meet the needs of each project. Arja and Naturja therefore represent a perfect balance between aesthetics and practicality, a timeless choice for those seeking the ultimate in quality and design.

gaiaparquet.it



TÉKNE ▲

The Téknē collection, named after the ancient Greek term meaning “knowing how to do”, embodies the concept of not setting limits, as ideas come to those who have knowledge, experience, and above all, curiosity. This is the starting point for all research and development, which then transforms into technology, an expression of experience and knowledge that is finally made available to everyone. The collection is born from geometry and lines inspired by new aesthetic tastes and the search for new decorative combinations. It seeks linearity, synonymous with consistency, cleanliness, and order, combined with creativity, experimentation, and imagination. Logic and irrationality merge to decorate residential or commercial spaces.

stile.com



◀ DECKOLIGHT

DeckoLight is Impertek's new support for raised outdoor flooring, designed for direct installation on natural ground, without the need for bases or foundations. Made of high-strength polypropylene, it ensures stability and precision when installing decking, ceramic and stone surfaces. DeckoLight is compatible with Lunar Decking and Tile/Rail heads. Ideal for gardens and outdoor walkways, this support is always inspectable and can reach heights from 60 mm to 330 mm with the addition of up to three extensions.

impertek.com



WITH CORÀ, OUTDOOR STYLE... NEVER ENDS ▲

Lounge 2.0 and Plissè in/out are the Corà collections that bring to outdoor spaces the same aesthetic care reserved for interiors. Lounge 2.0 is the bamboo and polymer composite decking that ensures durability and stability, featuring the Ghostfit concealed installation system for a striking visual effect.

Plissè in/out is the wall cladding that gives visual continuity to the decking even along vertical surfaces, transforming terraces, gardens, and outdoor areas into unique, welcoming environments-combining design, practicality, and an elegance that harmonizes with the nature of open spaces.

coraparquet.it

ANY DÉCOR IS POSSIBLE

For over 70 years Pedross has stood for quality in skirting boards and bespoke solutions. The company specializes in perfectly matching each profile to any floor décor, from real-wood veneer to digital printing. Panel and furniture manufacturers also benefit from exclusive, precisely coordinated décors that are increasingly essential in modern interiors. Any décor is possible.

pedross.com

Natural oak parquet runs throughout the hotel, creating visual continuity and a warm, enveloping atmosphere. Hand-planed boards in varying sizes enhance the material's authenticity, bridging Alpine tradition and contemporary interior design.

MICRORESINA PARQUET

Microresina Parquet, water-based ultra-thin film. Ideal to decorate and protect Legno+Color floors and to re-design hardwood floors. Microresina Parquet allows you to renew old parquet floors in a contemporary way and to modify the colour of the wood directly on site. Microresina Parquet is available in the 150 Color Collection colours. Color Collection is the Kerakoll's collection of colors and surfaces for interior decoration. The Color Collection features a comprehensive range of eco-friendly decorative paints and resins for floors and walls, coordinated in a unique palette of 150 contemporary colors and 15 sophisticated surface textures in line with the most refined style trends of today.

kerakoll.com

Ceiling and walls Decor KK 120 - Fixtures Microresina KK 11 - Skirting Invisible KK 120 - Floor Legno+Color Large KK 120



INTENSO: AUTHENTIC BEAUTY, WITHOUT COMPROMISE ▲

Why compromise on the timeless charm of hardwood during renovations? Quick-Step's Intenso collection offers the perfect solution: elegant herringbone flooring with a slim 13 mm profile, ideal for floating installation-even over existing floors. Preassembled planks make installation fast, precise, and virtually waste-free. Its HDF core, crafted from 100% reclaimed wood, and the use of regenerated strips in the herringbone pattern combine sustainable design with stunning aesthetics.

quick-step.it

MAGNETIK FLOOR: SMART MAGNETIC INSTALLATION

Legno Tecnika presents Magnetik Floor, the first, innovative magnetic dry-lay system, that allows for the installation of any kind of engineered wood flooring, either on traditional or raised floors, granting at the same time the advantageous possibility to quickly lift and reposition one or more staves whenever needed. Magnetik Floor guarantees ease of installation, total absence of glue to the sub-floor and of magnetic fields, it ensures speed and easy laying, thus making parquet suitable for any kind of context of use. Magnetik Floor is the first, authentic revolutionary magnetic engineered wood flooring.

legnotecnika.it

BIOLINEA BY FRIULPARCHET: NATURAL FINISHES, TIMELESS OAK

The BioLinea collection by Friulparchet was created to enhance the natural beauty of European Slavonian Oak, thanks to special oil and lacquer finishes made with natural-based products.

Among the available colour options is the Smoked effect, achieved through the application of specific natural reactive treatments that interact with the wood surface, creating a rich, textured appearance and enhancing the grain with warmer, hazelnut-toned nuances.

The finish shown in the image is Smoked Onice. BioLinea by Friulparchet stands out for its natural, zero-emission finishes, making it an environmentally friendly flooring solution that combines aesthetics, material authenticity and sustainability.

friulparchet.it

ELEGANCE: THE NATURAL EVOLUTION OF OUTDOOR DESIGN

Bamboo Elegance by Ravaioli is the perfect synthesis of aesthetics and technical innovation. Its surface, with a naturally greyed finish, is the result of an exclusive process that gives the material a sober, contemporary and timeless elegance.

Made from high-density heat-treated bamboo, it offers stability, durability and fire resistance (Bfl-s1). Also available in a refined Chevron pattern, it comes with a 25-year guarantee. Functionality, style and sustainability in a single solution for exclusive outdoor environments.

ravaiolilegnami.com

◀ ULTRACOAT RENEW FL

Restore quickly, hygienically and effectively. Because of their type of use, floors are the surfaces most exposed to contamination from external sources and today, more than ever before, environmental hygiene is of primary importance. Which is why Mapei is proposing a risk-free solution for restoring and hygienising wood floors in a short space of time and provide a high level of protection against the proliferation of bacteria. And now, with Ultracoat Renew FL, it is possible to restore the finish of wood floors without changing their original look and, more importantly, without disruption and lengthy work times, to give a new lease of life to their surface finish.

mapei.com

OIL OR LACQUER?

There is no such thing as an absolutely perfect finish-only the one that best suits specific needs. Some practical guidance to help architects, installers and retailers lead clients towards a more informed choice, based on lifestyle, context of use and aesthetic expectations

FABIO BRAGA

One of the most frequently asked questions is: "Is an oil finish or a lacquer finish better?"

When it comes to wood flooring, clearly explaining the differences between these two options helps end customers make an informed decision that aligns with their aesthetic preferences, functional requirements and everyday habits.

WHAT IS A FINISH?

First of all, it is useful to clarify what is meant by finish: a surface treatment applied to wood with a dual purpose. On the one hand, it protects and waterproofs the material against wear, scratches, stains and external agents; on the other, it enhances its aesthetic appearance, colour and texture. There is no universally "perfect" finish-only the most suitable one for each specific situation. This is the key message to convey to clients: the choice should take into account both the technical characteristics of the wood and the lifestyle of those who will live with the floor on a daily basis.

OIL OR LACQUER FINISH: TECHNICAL AND SENSORY DIFFERENCES

The two finishes differ not only in the type of product used (oil or lacquer), but also in performance, maintenance requirements and the sensory experience they offer. An oil (or wax) finish penetrates the pores of the wood, making it water-resistant without

forming a surface film. This allows the floor to retain an extremely natural, tactile and authentic feel-highly appreciated by those looking for a "living" material. However, compared to lacquered surfaces, oiled floors are generally more delicate and require a regular and attentive maintenance programme. The advantage is that any scratches or marks can usually be reduced or repaired easily through localised reapplication of the product. When should an oil finish be recommended? It is ideal for clients who want an authentic, natural floor and are aware that wood is a living material that evolves over time. A lacquer finish, on the other hand, creates a protective layer on the surface of the wood, making it particularly resistant to scratches, liquids and heavy foot traffic. It is a more practical solution that requires less demanding maintenance: proper cleaning with suitable products is often enough to preserve its appearance over time. Lacquers also offer a wide

range of aesthetic options-from matte to glossy or natural effects-allowing them to adapt to different interior styles and visual preferences. This finish is especially suitable for high-traffic areas or for clients looking for a "worry-free" floor that is durable and easy to manage.

WHICH ONE TO RECOMMEND?

In discussions with clients, the professional's role is essential in guiding the final choice. Oil finishes should be proposed to those who value the materiality of wood and accept the natural ageing of the surface over time. Lacquered finishes are better suited for clients who prioritise convenience and durability-particularly in spaces used by children, pets or in public and commercial environments. Finally, it is worth highlighting the growing availability of ecological and non-toxic products, both oil- and lacquer-based, which make it possible to combine aesthetics, performance and healthy indoor environments.

WOOD AS A LANGUAGE: WHY PARQUET IS A STRATEGIC CHOICE IN THE CONTRACT SECTOR

Not just a finish, not merely a line in the specifications. In contract projects, wood flooring becomes a sensory and identity-driven tool: it welcomes, communicates, shapes the experience and enhances the perceived value of a space

MICHELE MURGOLO, STIVEN TAMAI

In the contract world-hotels, retail, offices, restaurants and shared spaces-flooring is often reduced to a simple "specification item," seen as a cost to be controlled and optimised rather than as a true design element. And yet, often without realising it, the floor is the most extensive point of contact between people and their surroundings: we walk on it constantly, observe it as we move, and feel it underfoot at every step.

PARQUET AS A STRATEGIC, NOT DECORATIVE, CHOICE

For this reason, both in residential and contract projects, choosing parquet is not merely about defining an aesthetic.

It means activating a strategic lever capable of influencing the user experience, brand positioning, occupants' wellbeing and the overall value of the investment.

WHEN BRAND IDENTITY SPEAKS THROUGH MATERIALS

When someone enters a hotel lobby or a concept store, they do not perceive only furnishings and colours-they first and foremost sense an atmosphere. The materials used send an immediate message, helping to strengthen or weaken the identity of the space.

WOOD AS A SENSORY EXPERIENCE

In this context, wood has a unique power: even before being a material, it is a sensory experience that communicates warmth, care and authenticity.

A hotel room with parquet flooring conveys the feeling of a "home away from home"; a restaurant with wooden floors invites guests to linger, enhances conviviality and slows down the perceived passage of time; a retail

space that chooses wood is perceived as a boutique rather than a simple point of sale, with a direct impact on brand positioning.

PERCEPTION, DWELL TIME AND RETURN

The irregular grain, warm tones and material richness of parquet are processed by our brain as natural and familiar elements, making time spent in a space more pleasant. It is therefore no surprise that a customer who feels welcomed and comfortable is more likely to stay longer, make a purchase and want to return.

WELLBEING AND THE NEUROSCIENCE OF WOOD

Today, wellbeing has become a key priority in contract design-and wood proves to be a silent ally. It improves acoustic comfort, helps create thermally balanced environments and

offers a visually softer atmosphere, while also influencing our neurophysiological responses. Several studies on wood interiors show reductions in heart rate, blood pressure and perceived stress levels, alongside increases in concentration and productivity.

TECHNOLOGY, DURABILITY AND OUTDATED MYTHS

Added to all this are durability and

maintenance.

Today, hard wood species and advanced finishing and sanding technologies allow wood floors to withstand heavy foot traffic with ease, definitively overcoming the old prejudice that labelled wood as a "delicate" material.

THE FLOOR THAT CREATES ATMOSPHERE

And for those who may still have

doubts about choosing parquet, it is worth remembering that a floor is never just a surface: it is what builds atmosphere, improves the quality of time spent in a space and supports the long-term value of the environment. Parquet, ultimately, is like a stage on which experiences, emotions and stories unfold-made of choices, agreements and decisions. And in all of this, wood still has a great deal to tell.

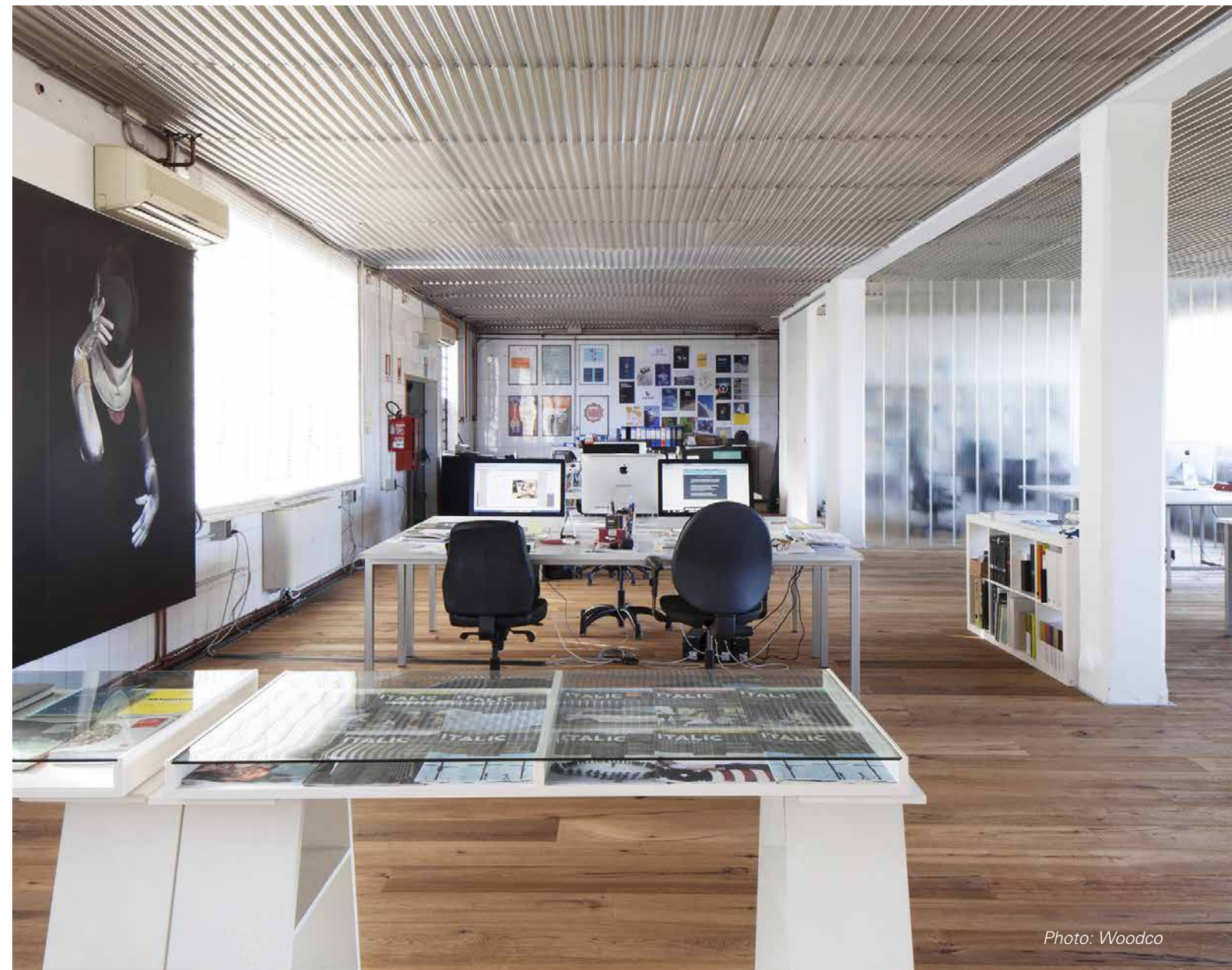


Photo: Woodco

IN THE FOREST

Spending time among trees not only enriches and “oxygenates” both body and mind, but also offers a complete sensory experience, leading to a deep sense of wellbeing. Here’s how

FABIO BRAGA



The forest is an ideal place to promote physical and mental wellbeing, offering a natural environment that encourages relaxation, regeneration and a deep connection with nature. Here’s how being in the forest can contribute to our overall psychophysical wellbeing:

1.

OXYGENATION AND IMMUNE SYSTEM

Trees and plants in the forest purify the air by producing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide. Breathing fresh, clean air can improve respiratory function, increase energy levels and enhance sleep quality. Walking in the forest also strengthens the immune system, thanks to the high concentration of terpenes released into the air.

2.

MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS

Contact with nature-also known as forest bathing (or shinrin-yoku in Japanese)-can reduce stress, anxiety and depression. Walking among trees helps calm the mind, improve mood and encourage a meditative state.

3.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Walking, hiking or practising yoga in the forest are excellent ways to keep the body active. Physical activity in a natural setting is often more enjoyable and motivating, contributing to overall wellbeing.

4.

CONNECTION WITH NATURE

Being in the forest offers the opportunity to reconnect with nature, awakening the senses through the sounds of wildlife, the scents of plants and the sight of greenery. This connection can foster a deep sense of inner peace and fulfilment.

5.

STRESS REDUCTION

The forest acts as a refuge from the chaos and fast pace of everyday life.

6.

BOOSTING CREATIVITY

The natural environment of the forest can stimulate creativity and problem-solving, thanks to its ability to clear the mind and encourage more open, inspired thinking.

7.

IMMERSION IN NATURAL RHYTHMS

The forest offers a unique opportunity to reconnect with nature’s rhythms, such as the day-night cycle and seasonal changes. This can help restore inner balance and promote a sense of harmony with the surrounding environment.



FABIO BRAGA - A wood technologist with 45 years of on-site experience, Fabio Braga approaches wood as a marvelous creation with endless stories to tell.

He is a partner, along with his brother John, in Braga Srl, a second-generation company specializing in the supply and restoration of wooden floors and antique flooring. For the past three years, he has also been involved in online and offline training for the architectural associations of Novara, Varese, Alessandria, and Bergamo. In 2020, he founded Braga Academy Online, the first academy dedicated to designers and flooring specialists interested in the world of wooden flooring and on-site problem-solving. Fabio is a member of the board of directors of ASP and FederlegnoArredo; he also participates in the UNI standards revision commission.