

WOODNEWS

MAR - APR 2021
Vol. 30 • No. 6



30
YEARS

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PASSION PERSONIFIED

Architect-owned building firm,
Total Environment, brings 'home'
the wonder of wood P.34

FEATURE

For Bengaluru-based woodworker
there's nothing quite like a "Matt" finish! P.40

INTERVIEW

Sayeed Ahmed, CEO of Biesse India,
on completing 15 years of 'Make in India' P.44

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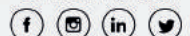
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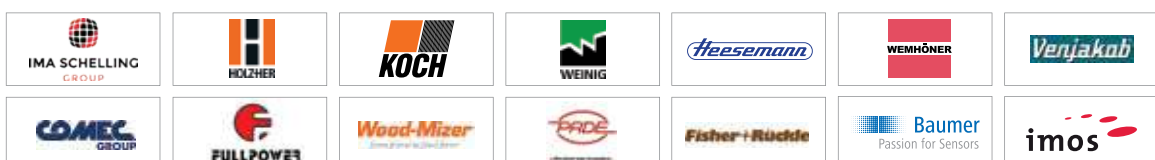
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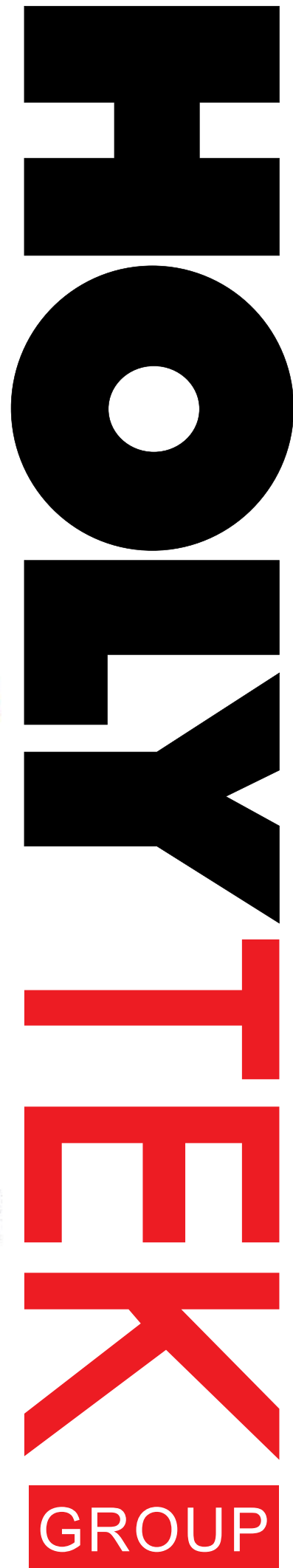
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Contents

MARCH - APRIL 2021

10

EVENT UPDATE

Ligna 2021 cancelled, plans show in May 2023

This year, it's Interzum @home!

Felder renews woodworking challenge

Wood Taiwan pushed to April 2022

18

EVENT REVIEW

Canadian Wood shows how to walk the talk

47th CIFF Guangzhou counts its success

India Toy Fair a 'booster dose'

Unravelling the potential of timber use

26

CASE STUDY

Thai furniture mall benefits from Homag's solutions

34

COVER STORY

Passion Personified: Total Environment brings home the wonder of wood

40

FEATURE

There's nothing quite like a "Matt" finish!

44

INTERVIEW

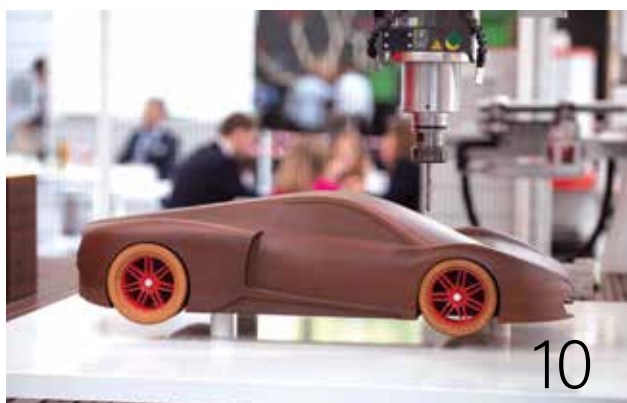
At 15, Biesse India is fit for the future

Simalfa is a game-changer for upholstery

54

EDUCATION

What are 'hard' and 'soft' woods?



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Contents

MARCH - APRIL 2021

56

DESIGN & FINISHING

Unlocking the uses of veneer

JLR gets iconic product creation centre

60

ENVIRONMENT

Construction sector aims at net-zero emissions

62

TECH UPDATE

World's first 3D, design-to-delivery platform is here

64

PRODUCTS & PROCESSES

CenturyPly, IAC Acoustics, Jai Industries, JK Cement, Koch, Samhwa Paint, SCM, Kronospan, etc.

80

NOTES & NEWS

Airific Systems, Amazon, Salice, Berry Alloc, Sherwin-Williams, Flexible Abrasives, Häfele, Hexa Kitchens, IKEA, and more...



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Technology Category



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EDITOR

DHANANJAY SARDEHPANDE

'Total' passion: is there such a thing?

Dear Readers,

Have you ever wondered how buildings, especially residential spaces, can keep us healthy and happy? What is the value of good design and landscaping? How do natural materials affect our well-being? "Bringing nature inside" has been a hugely popular idea, but only a few architects and designers have managed to include "oxygen rooms" (gardens and indoor plants) into residential planning.

As one who has incorporated these basic tenets into the design and construction of "experiential homes" for over two decades, Total Environment Building Systems, a Bengaluru-based real estate developer, has many more lessons to take home. In the cover story, we are given to understand that, as with houses, even furniture and interiors have to have an emotional connection, not just functionality. Therefore, well-

being needs to be incorporated in the design process at the outset, not as an afterthought. Sounds interesting? Read on.

The 'Make-in-India' concept was put into practice by the Italian machinery manufacturer, Biesse, far ahead of its becoming popular rhetoric in recent years. In the 15 years that Biesse India has been around, it has made strides in knowledge outreach and technology advancement, and set standards in customer service. Its CEO, Mr Sayeed Ahmed, gracefully consented to an interview despite his very busy schedule, to reach out to the Indian furniture manufacturing industry.

Is traditional, hand-crafted furniture making a dying art? Do standalone artisans and craftsmen stand any chance of survival? In the midst of unimaginable levels of digital design tools, sophisticated technology its and breath-taking scalability, there are people who always treasure manually created works and the uniqueness it stands for. In Bengaluru,

Thomas Mathew, known to friends as 'Matt', is one such person who exemplifies the obsession that hand-tool makers possess – he is among the rare craftsmen who will swim against the tide to bring out intricate and outstanding works that can never be replicated by a machine.

In a rather unusual experiment, a veneer supplier in Mumbai recently organised an 'Art of Veneer' campaign. A dozen (not the baker's count!) well-known interior designers were involved to let their imaginations flow, turning in their unique thoughts and interpretations expressed through an unconventional medium. In our continued focus on modern wood technology we also have for you a glimpse of an award-winning example of the uses of cross laminated timber panels. This time it is Jaguar Land Rover's Advanced Product Creation Centre in the UK. It has the largest engineered timber roof, reflecting the design quality and company values associated with one of Britain's most iconic automotive businesses. More in the next!

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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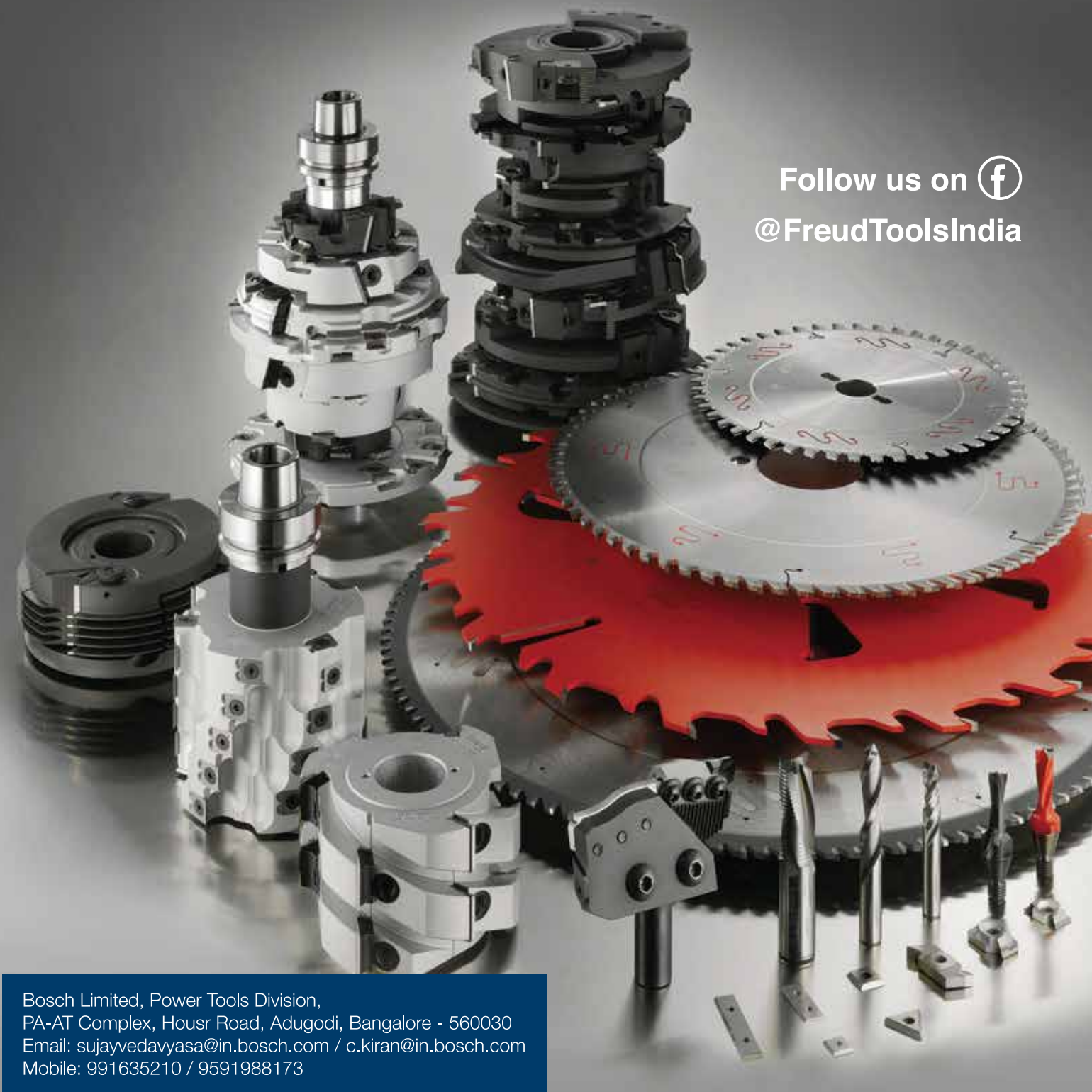
If you prefer to communicate by snail-mail, you are welcome to write to us at: WoodNews Magazine, No. 32/2, PDA House, Spencer Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005. (+91-80-42505000).

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

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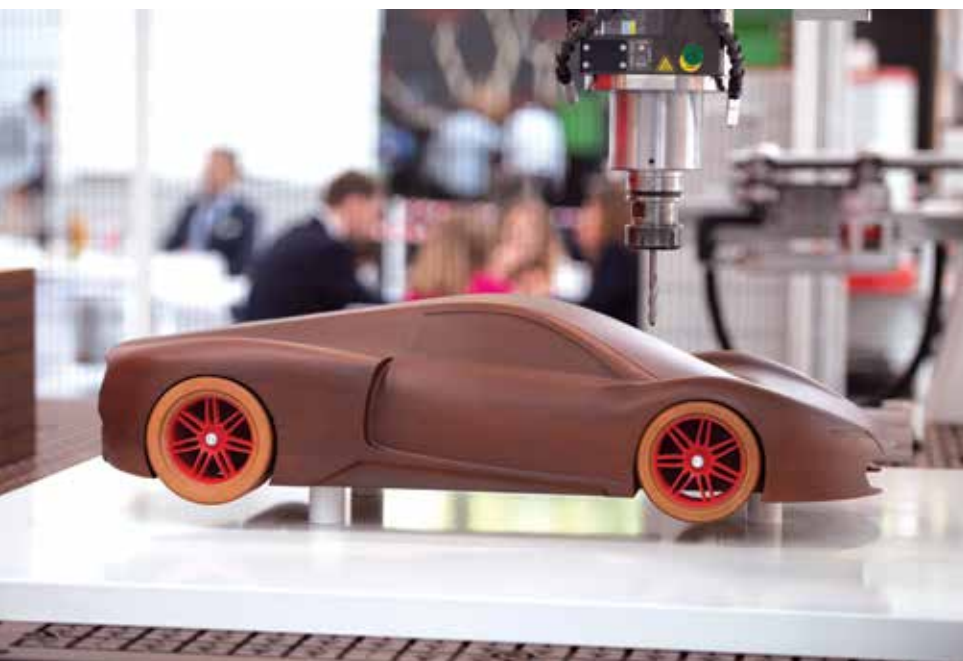
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Ligna 2021 cancelled, plans show in May 2023



Ligna-2021, which was re-scheduled to be held in Hanover (Germany) from 27 September to 1 October this year, will not take place. Instead, a digital networking and content platform will be launched in the fall of 2021.

Due to the continuing high level of infection worldwide in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the slow national and international progress on vaccination and thus the continuing existence of travel restrictions, Deutsche Messe decided to cancel the world's leading trade show for woodworking and wood

processing plant, machinery and tools.

The next regular Ligna will be held from May 15-19, 2023.

"Uncertainties in the wake of the pandemic still remain very high worldwide. In close consultation with the VDMA, we have decided to cancel Ligna as a physical event in 2021," said Dr. Jochen Köckler, Chairman of the Managing Board of Deutsche Messe AG.

However, in order to offer the industry a platform for innovations, knowledge exchange and networking, "alternatively we will set up a digital networking and content platform that will be launched at the end of September. We are

incorporating the many new insights and positive experiences from the recently hosted Hannover Messe Digital Edition," he added.

According to Dr. Bernhard Dirr, Managing Director of VDMA Woodworking Machinery, "Ligna's unique selling point is live demonstrations of tools, machinery and equipment, up to complete production lines. This is what makes the brand essence of the event."

"Another postponement makes no sense in view of the innovation cycles of the companies and in view of the next Ligna, which will take place again in May 2023. Unfortunately, there is no alternative to the cancellation this year," he added.

Ligna showcases the full range of products and services for the primary and secondary industries: tools, machinery and plant for individual and series production, surface technology, wood-based materials production, sawmill technology, energy from wood, machine components and automation technology, as well as machinery and plant for forestry, log and sawn timber production.

For the 2023 edition there will also be special formats such as the Ligna Forum, the Wood Industry Summit for the forestry and primary industries, and the theme-oriented guided tours. Further information on the event can be found at www.ligna.de/en.

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This year, it's Interzum @home!



The world's most important platform for the furniture production and interior design industry will once again open to participants from May 4-7, 2021, but this time in a digital avatar: Interzum @home.

The digital event platform will be open to all users 24 hours a day from the beginning of May until 3 months after the event.

On its virtual stages will feature the most exciting current trends and product innovations, highlighted by leading experts, and virtual exchange views on future topics in live talks. The topics range from printed furniture to the long-term impact of Covid-19 on the industry.

The digital trade fair offers participants all the advantages they have always been able to expect from Interzum: exchange and networking, tangible business opportunities, diverse inspiration from the industry's future makers and trendsetters.

Companies such as Hettich, Häfele, Blum, Vauth-Sagel, Grass,

Kesseböhmer, Schüco Alu Competence, Titus, Samet, Rehau, Hawa Sliding Solutions, Hailo, Agoform, Sugatsune, Mesan, Elektra, Halemeier, Schattdecor, Impress, Surteco, Continental, Unilin, Fantoni, Sonae Arauco, Senosan, 3B, Europlac, Leggett & Platt, Global Systems Group, Spühl, Masias, Fecken-Kirfel, Albrecht Bäumer, Vita Group and Boyteks have already confirmed their participation.

Navigation leads

To familiarise visitors with the many possibilities of the digital platform, the show has the virtual Lobby, after logging in it acts as both the navigation centre to all other areas and gives visitors an overview of news in their personal dashboards.

It provides access to personal profiles with contacts and to the Communication Centre (chats, video calls, etc.), because networking is an important part of digital Interzum. Here visitors can see the digital exhibition stands; or expand their network; find an overview of the programme of the main stage, the product stage, the Round Table; and can communicate in the various lounges and cafés.

In the Communication Centre visitors are expected to create their profiles in order to be found optimally by others.

Here visitors can find new and known contacts; enter interests and thus establish relevant, new contacts; create meaningful profiles to be found by exhibitors; conduct private audio/video chats and arrange meetings; and exchange, download or share contact information as a referral.

The Showfloor is the counterpart to the exhibition hall. From here visitors can access various exhibitors' stands, choose products, brands or programme content.

The Showroom is the digital exhibition stand of exhibitors. Here, novelties and products are presented interactively and visitors can exchange information directly with the exhibitor team via the so-called 'talk-to-me' function.

Visitors will also find additional supporting material posted by the exhibitor, such as videos, images, product brochures, PDFs, links to view or download. The sections of exhibits this year are:

Materials & Nature: wood, veneers, parquet flooring, interior works,

decorative surfaces, decor papers, laminates, wood-based panels, laminated plastic, mineral materials, surface treatments, embossing cylinders, press plates and edges.

Function & Components: lamps and lighting systems, semi-finished products for cabinet, kitchen, locks, office and modular furniture fittings, built-in parts.

Textile & Machinery: machinery for upholstery and bedding, upholstery materials, upholstery accessories, cover fabrics, leather and adhesives.

Food for thought

At Interzum @home, it is not business alone that takes absolute priority – the “food for thought” offered to stimulate the future entrepreneurial success of the industry is also important when it comes to the success of the digital edition of Interzum.

What are the hot topics in the furniture industry? What surprising innovations do the supplier companies have in store?

And above all, what lies ahead – what business deals, what needs and what environment should the industry anticipate in the future?

The digital event programme at the virtual Interzum @home seeks to answer these questions on its various stages. Experience trends digitally and live – that’s what the on-demand content in the 30 specialist talks and workshops from 11 countries is all about.

Top international speakers like Javier G. Fernandez (Singapore University of Design & Engineering), Steffen Salinger (CEO of Artemide) and Prof. Harald Kloft (Institute for Structural Design, TU Braunschweig) will provide inspiration across disciplines.

On the ‘Green Smart Materials’ digital stage, the future-oriented agency Haute Innovation will present sustainable materials innovations and smart technologies with great potential for the industry – from textured paints for wooden surfaces, 3D-printed wooden

windows, or street furniture that can remove fine particulates from the air.

Many aspects of the transformation of the consumerist culture into a circular economy will also be examined. A total of 32 lectures are planned, and 30 speakers from ten countries – including Finland, Israel, Mexico, Singapore and Vietnam – will provide the latest insights.

There is also a focus of the ‘Mattress Recycling’ stage curated by publishers Ferdinand Holzmann Verlag. The sobering fact is that around 35 million mattresses are currently disposed of every year in Europe alone, whether sent to landfill or incinerated.

An initial overview of the exciting event programme is available online at <https://www.interzum.com/events-home/program/>

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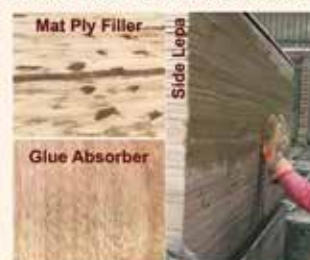
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Felder renews woodworking challenge



The Felder Group rewards all ambitious craftspeople for their unique and inspiring woodworking projects. After its great success last year, the Austrian mechanical engineering company has launched the next round of its #felderchallenge!

A challenge for industrious do-it-yourselfers who want to create individual work pieces based on their original ideas and be rewarded with a brand new woodworking machine.

With this challenge, the Felder Group wants to encourage ambitious woodworkers worldwide to inspire others with their own project. The most creative entries will again win great prizes.

Whether simple or complex, small or large, woodworking projects of any kind are welcome. A jury of experts and the feldergroup.com community will select the best 10 projects from all the entries, which will be published on all online platforms.

The prizes include a Hammer portal milling machine HNC 47.82, a Felder bandsaw FB 510 or a manual edgebander ForKa 200 Eco-Plus, as well as tool cases, a Japanese handsaw sets and a goodie bag for every participant of the #felderchallenge 2021.

In addition, this year the company will introduce the Felder Golden Choice Award for the first time. This is a unique award for unique achievements. Each jury member may award one 'Golden Choice'. Those projects receiving a Felder Golden Choice Award will also directly advance

to the finals.

The following is necessary for participation:

- Photos/videos of your own woodworking project
- Construction plan or drawing
- Short description of your project
- Publishing project on Facebook/Instagram with the hashtags #felderchallenge or the tag @feldergroup

The submission deadline is June 9, 2021. Woodworkers can also participate even if they don't have ideas of their own. The Youtube channel, Felder Group TV, offers a variety of DIY video tutorials, which can be copied and published on social media.

For full conditions of participation visit: <https://www.felder-group.com/en-gb/felderchallenge>

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Wood Taiwan pushed to April 2022



The Taiwan International Woodworking Machinery Show (Wood Taiwan), which was originally scheduled to take place in April this year, has been postponed to April 28 to May 1, 2022, at Taipei Nangang Exhibition Centre.

However, to help exhibitors grab business opportunities derived from economic recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic, the organisers, TAITRA and TWMA, organized 'Wood Taiwan Digital Days' April 22-25, with a series of online and offline activities.

'Wood Taiwan Digital Days' covered three major events, including emerging market webinar, the WooDiscover factory tour, and the online procurement meetings. The emerging market webinar was targeted at Vietnam, Russia and Brazil, in cooperation with local associations to deepen the promotion.

The WooDiscover Factory Tour was an in-depth understanding of new products and actual operating conditions in the factories of some leading Taiwanese manufacturers such as Leadermac Machinery, Kuang Yung Machinery, Jun Shiao Machinery, Kaindl, Innovator Machinery, Lih Woei Carpentry Machine,

OVA Equipment & Tool, and Goodtek Machinery.

All videos for those programs are available at <https://www.youtube.com/taiwantradeshows>.

TAITRA has already mobilized its 64 overseas offices to promote matching of sellers and buyers. So far, buyers from 17 countries have signed up to take part with their specific procurement items, including veneer and plywood processing machines, sanding machines, secondary wood processing and material preparation equipment.

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Canadian Wood shows how to walk the talk



Thomas Markose (Kelachandra) showcasing pre-hung door systems, a highly trending product made with Canadian Wood.

Forestry Innovation Consulting India (FII), also known as Canadian Wood, recently concluded the latest in a series of webinars, 'Born in Canada Made in India: Manufacturing with Wood'. It demonstrated widespread suitability of its species through first-hand experiences of leading woodworking companies along with specific reference to reman category.

Canadian Wood has been actively promoting in India building with wood sourced from British Columbia (B.C.), Canada. Catering to the demands of both domestic and international markets, India is amongst the largest producers of wood products in the world.

British Columbia, a global leader in sustainable forest management, is a significant source of certified, seasoned, graded and sized ready-to-use lumber to fibre deficit countries such as India.

To date, Canadian Wood has been opted for by several reputed architects, interior designers, builders and developers across the country as a viable alternative for a range of applications.

Construction & furniture

Ms Bhawna Sharma from Artius Interior Products presented examples of efficiently designed solutions focusing on finer details like dust-, sound- and weather-proofing and use of yellow cedar to deliver high-quality solutions. The yellow cedar from B.C., Canada, is known to be one of the world's most durable

wood with exceptional longevity due to its natural resistance to decay.

Artius is a well-known, Gurugram-based technology driven, wood engineering company offering highly sophisticated glulam door and window systems in about 14 variants. Bhawna concluded with references to Artius' pioneering effort in the wooden homes category through a club house made using multiple Canadian wood species.



Soma Singh Roy (Bramola) sharing her enriching experience of working with western hemlock.

Ms Soma Singh Roy made a presentation on Bramola, a brand of exquisite, hand-crafted furniture made in Faridabad. Guided by the principle of treating wood as a living object, Bramola consciously chooses western hemlock, sourced from the sustainably managed forests of B.C., Canada.

Her presentation unveiled eye-catching ethnic and contemporary furniture using this species and elaborated on its workability and staining advantages. These are the primary requisite for reman applications.

Besides sharing masterpiece creations suited for both individual homes and hospitality projects, she topped her session with a unique western hemlock set embellished with hand painted motifs by local artisans.

Coating & finishing

Next was an extensive presentation by Mr Thomas Markose from Kelachandra Veneers (Bengaluru) on doors and window systems. A name to reckon with,

Kelachandra is one of the leading woodworking companies in southern India.

Thomas' presentation included an impressive display of pre-hung, flush and solid wood doors amongst others made with yellow cedar – highly suitable for these uses.

He also emphasised the scope for wood in manufacturing and the onset of biophilic architecture, an approach that seeks to connect building occupants more closely to nature through its design and planning.

All speakers emphasised on the need for adoption of greener alternatives when it came to manufacturing with wood. This was also reflective of the shift in consumer mind set, rising levels of eco-consciousness that subsequently puts a backward pressure on woodworking professionals to make this responsible choice.

Wood products rely heavily on coatings for protection. While coating helps in

enhancing the overall appeal of the product, they impact finish and longevity – very critical considerations in exterior wood applications.

The webinar also included information-packed sessions by Mr Pankaj Bassi from ICA Pidilite and Mr Marco Mancini from Renner Italia SPA. Both presenters introduced the audience to a host of coating options, including recent revolutionary options that further optimise the use of wood in manufacturing.

The webinar ended with a very insightful Q&A session where the presenters were joined by Mr Peter Bradfield, Technical Advisor at FII-India, and Mr Pranesh Chhibber, Country Director, FII-India.

You may watch the proceedings of the webinar on Canadian Woods' YouTube channel.

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47th CIFF Guangzhou counts its success

Innovative solutions presented by the exhibitors and trends proposed by the designers to improve the quality of all living and work environments, design events and conferences organised by the China International Furniture Fair (CIFF) marked its 47th successful edition in Guangzhou recently.

The show organiser reported a 20.17% rise in visitors compared to CIFF Guangzhou 2019, the last edition held over two phases before the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It was truly difficult to imagine an increase of this size in times as difficult as these, which have, among other things, resulted in the limited presence of foreign visitors at the exhibition," the organiser said.

on the online CIFF cloud platform and registered 2.36 million logins on the CIFF mini-App.

These platforms were created to make collaboration between exhibitors and visitors more profitable, while also giving special consideration to foreign buyers who are currently unable to participate in CIFF.

During the first phase (18-21 March 2021) the spotlight shone on the world of home living, including furniture and decor for both indoors and outdoors. Home Furniture offered original solutions for the customisation of domestic environments, conceived as increasingly multi-functional, and fluid spaces characterised by accessible design and quality, sustainability concepts involving the use of natural materials, and a captivating fusion of styles.

extend the quality and comfort of interior environments outside the home.

Headlining in the second phase (28-31 March 2021) were work places and public spaces, in addition to the essential technologies for the furniture industry.

Much space was also dedicated to public commercial spaces and healthcare facilities, including those dedicated to the elderly, in addition to schools.

The 2030+ International Future Office, the exhibit organised by CIFF Guangzhou and China National Furniture Association, proposed the latest trends in the workplace, combining multimedia aspects and new technologies to create an environment capable of engaging all five senses.

Prestigious brands like Steelcase, Knoll, Lamex, K+N, Sitland, Cassina, Magis, Gan, Avarte, as well as Hettich, Nreal and



Having concluded on 31 March after a total of 8 days (4 for the first phase and 4 for the second), the 47th CIFF occupied 7,50,000 square metres of exhibition space, divided among almost 4,000 exhibitors, and attracted 3,57,809 qualified trade visitors.

The event, aimed at creating strong synergy between the Chinese internal market and the international markets, and integrating both events and business matching at the exhibition, saw 7.6 million views

The 'Design Spring' (contemporary Chinese furniture design fair) gathered more than 80 of China's most influential furniture brands as well as hundreds of Chinese artists and designers, thus creating a well-respected platform capable of stimulating creativity and exchange of ideas.

Homedécor & Hometextile presented the latest trends in interior decor: furnishings, lighting, decorative paintings and artificial flowers for adding value to every environment.

Outdoor & Leisure focused on offering increasingly sophisticated solutions to

Dyson, all collaborated on the project.

At CIFM/Interzum Guangzhou 2021, major Chinese and international brands in machinery, materials, surfaces and hardware provided convincing responses to the needs of an industry in constant growth and pursuit of the most innovative solutions to produce quality while optimising production.

The 48th CIFF Shanghai will take place 3-6 September, 2021, at the National Exhibition & Convention Centre in Shanghai Hongqiao.

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India Toy Fair a 'booster dose'

The global market size (revenue) for toys is estimated to reach US\$ 131 billion in 2025 with a CAGR of 4% (2020-2025). However, in India, the sector has been neglected over the years with successive governments not realising the immense potential the industry has.

As a result the country has missed the bus and currently has only a 0.5% share of the global market, with an estimated production of US\$1.5 billion.

In a belated push to the Indian toy industry, as part of the 'Make in India' thrust, the Government of India organised the India Toy Fair 2021 in New Delhi from February 27 to March 2, 2021.

Inaugurating the first India Toy Fair, the Prime Minister noted that

85% of the toys sold in the India were from abroad. Seeking to give a thrust to the industry he said India has now graded the toy industry in 24 major sectors and a National Toy Action Plan has also been prepared to encourage domestic manufacturing.

He confirmed 15 ministries and departments have been roped in the action plan that aims to make the industry competitive and self-reliant.

India has a long tradition of toy making and there are at least five wooden toy clusters protected with GIs (geographical indicators). These clusters include Channapatna and Kinhal (Karnataka), Nirmal (Telangana), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Etikoppaka (Andhra Pradesh).

Toy manufacturing industries are currently located mostly in the National Capital Region of Delhi, Maharashtra,

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and clusters across central Indian states.

The government also launched 'Toycathon', an online toy hackathon for innovative toys/games concepts. Toycathon-2021 is conceived to challenge India's innovative minds to conceptualise novel toys and games based on its civilization, history, culture, mythology and ethos.

Meanwhile, a contract manufacturer, Aequus Pvt. Ltd., is investing US\$500 million to build India's first toy manufacturing cluster across a 400-acre plot in Koppal (Karnataka), the Economic Times has reported.

India's toy imports are worth US\$1.2 billion annually and most of them are sourced from China. The domestic toy cluster is being developed to counter that and stimulate the country's growth in this sector.

Aequus Chairman, Mr Aravind Melligeri, was quoted as saying that the company already has two functioning production units in the special economic zone (SEZ) in Belagavi. It caters to some of the largest North American and European toy brands.

Out of the 400 acres land for the cluster, 300 acres will be an SEZ focusing solely on exports. The rest of the 100 acres will cater to demands within the country.



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Mr Pablo van der Lugt, an architectural engineer, is senior sustainability consultant in the wood and bamboo industry, as well as lecturer for Bio-based Building at Delft University of Technology.

Slaying myths about timber use

An architectural engineer, Mr Pablo van der Lugt took the audience on a journey through the centuries and into the future, showcasing the potential of timber construction and rectifying prevailing myths.

Over 200 attendees logged in to the recent 'Tomorrow's Timber Talk', seeing a presentation of the newest, highest and most impressive timber construction projects around the world.

It was organised by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Pablo showcased the huge potential of mass timber construction and rectifying prevailing myths. "Over 30% of the global green-house gas emissions are caused by the built environment. This means a great responsibility for architects and others working in the sector," he explained. "The global use of concrete causes more CO2

emissions than a country like India."

While the production of concrete and steel emits large amounts of CO2, timber does the opposite: it stores carbon. When trees grow, they sequester carbon in their biomass, where it stays, even after a tree has been felled.

"Timber can lock in one tonne of CO2 per cubic metre," Pablo explained. "Additionally, replacing 1 tonne of concrete or steel with 1 tonne of timber avoids 1.5 tonnes of CO2."

Another burning question discussed in the webinar was the supply of wood. But while deforestation continues to be a problem in the Southern hemisphere, in the Northern hemisphere the forest area is growing.

"A big wooden family house requires about 60 cubic metres of timber – the amount that grows in Europe's forests in only 20 seconds," Pablo noted.

In addition, timber elements can be re-used at the end of their lifetime, giving them a second and third life in the built environment, before being used to

produce bio energy.

"By the end of the timber's lifetime, the forest has already grown back three to four times," he pointed out.

Pablo also highlighted the benefits and unique properties of timber. Thanks to its lightness and easy workability, building elements can be pre-fabricated in a factory and assembled on site.

This significantly reduces construction time, and makes the construction process safer and quieter, with fewer on-site deliveries and up to 70% less on-site staff.

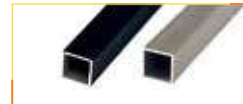
"The nearly 200 units for the Hotel Jakarta in Amsterdam were completely pre-fabricated off-site. Mounting them on site took only two weeks," Pablo explained.

"Similarly, for the world's highest wooden building, Mjøstårnet in Norway, using pre-fabricated mass timber elements reduced the construction time by about a year, compared to traditional building."

What is more, living and working in timber buildings benefit our health and wellbeing. Timber can have a calming effect, lower the heart rate and blood pressure, and help concentration, he said.

The challenge to accelerate building with timber lies with residential construction projects, he concluded.

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Thai furniture mall benefits from Homag's solutions



Index Living Mall, Thailand's leading furniture and furnishings retailer, offers a variety of furnishings, ranging from decorative items to furniture and complete fittings. Its customers include both retail trade and project business.

Index Living Mall rounds off its business model with its own shopping malls for direct customer business. The Bangkok-based

company currently employs around 5,000 people, from production through to sales.

Its production capacity is currently around 12,00,000 units per month, and solutions from Homag help to make this possible. The new production line has been in operation since 2019 and, in conjunction with Configurator3D and ControllerMES, has paved the way for what is known as "batch size 1" production.

This is an approach that prioritises flexibility and customisation in

Index Living Mall, Thailand's leading furniture and furnishings retailer, has a production capacity of around 12,00,000 units per month.

manufacturing through smaller batches and is highly favoured by Index Living Mall. Production that used to be predominantly manual and time-consuming is now carried out with automatic precision.

Right at the start of a new production line, a StoreTeq S-500 storage system takes over the organisation of panels. This is ▶

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Homag's Configurator3D and ControllerMES have paved the way for "batch size 1" production.

where the material is stored, sorted and placed in order on the two SawTeq B-300 panel dividing saws that are integrated into the storage with an attached panel labelling system.

Once they have been cut, the part stacks are transported for edging, where two EdgeTeq S-500 edge banding machines that have been set up as a tandem line are ready for processing. Once the edges are attached, the parts are transported for CNC processing.

The parts are drilled, trimmed and grooved at high speed on three parallel DrillTeq L-200s and a DrillTeq H-600. After this processing is complete, they can be sorted into transport carriages.

The spokesman for Index Living Mall, Ekalak Patamasatayasonthi, is very satisfied: "In the past, we focused on series production, but with Homag technology, we are increasingly switching to 'batch size 1' production. We are able to work faster, more precisely and

save costs."

The StoreTeq S-500 offers a lot of leeway in combining operating machines and in panel variety, making it the icon of storage systems. The system offers high efficient logistics for industry and handicraft.

Among its benefits are: handling of high material variety (plastic, plexiglass, laminates, coated or uncoated panels); high flexibility of the extension in length and width; standard interfaces for integration of different operating machines; low resource consumption by means of automatic offcut management; and is also for panels that do not fit into the storage.

Features

- Span width up to 16 metres
- Travel length up to 50 metres
- Panel weight up to 350 kg
- Panel length up to 5,600 mm
- Low vibration travel movements in extension
- Failure-free transport also on structured surfaces

- High stability of double scissors for exact panel handling
- Capability to handle plastic panels.

The ControllerMES manufacturing execution system is specially made for the wood and furniture industry. Due to the digitalisation and connected machines within production processes, manufacturing execution system are getting even more important.

ControllerMES is a modular, scalable and flexible software platform, which supports you in every production process, from configuring production data to the final completeness control.

It is the right solution for both craftsmen and industrial enterprises; has flexible standard software; supports optimisation of production processes; is 100% update-ready and scalable; and offers increased transparency, efficiency and control.

Features

- Based on the established powerTouch technology
- Production planning with optimal batches
- Flexible solution for sorting and order picking
- Production data for machines (cutting, edging, CNC, etc.)
- Information terminals for paperless production
- Monitoring production progress

The StoreTeq S-500 storage system (L) organises the panels before placing them on the SawTeq B-300 panel dividing saw (R) integrated with an attached panel labelling system.





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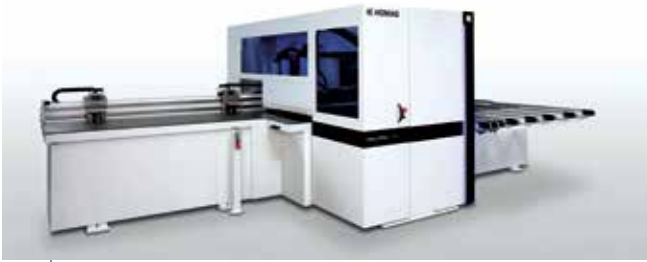
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The DrillTeq H-600 CNC processing centre (L) impresses with its speed and precision drilling, routing and grooving. The EdgeTeq S-500 edge banding machine (R) offers precise gluing and perfect post-processing of edges.

The panel dividing saw, SawTeq B-300, is an individually equipped single saw for trade and industry – for a wide range of cutting applications and ready for networked production.

High performance in a compact space is the strong point of the SawTeq B-300. This panel dividing saw is suitable for producing in 'batch size 1', as well as in smaller series and is ready for connection to automatic horizontal storage systems.

It is designed for smooth material flow and precise logistics process; is suitable for networked production processes; has a compact design and is extremely rugged; and the saw can be expanded to meet increasing requirements. It can be retrofitted with customised configuration.

Features

- Dimensionally accurate program fence
- Rugged pressure beam for first-class cut quality
- Central side pressure device integrated directly in saw carriage
- Control software CADmatic 5
- Full HD widescreen multi-touch monitor
- Harmonised user interface powerTouch
- 3D assistance graphic supports

operator

- Ready for connection to Tapio
- Ergonomic table height of 920 mm.

The single-sided EdgeTeq S-500 Optimat and profilLine edge banding machines offer precise gluing and perfect post-processing of edges. The selectable feed rate of 16-20, 25 (30) metres/minute enables demand-based productivity for woodworking shops and for businesses with higher performance requirements.

Automation and further functionality can be added on an individual basis for these edge banding machines. They offer high levels of flexibility for processing high-gloss, melamine, PVC, nesting work pieces with, for example, hinge holes, solid strips or veneer.

The four-motor profile trimming unit (FF32) helps in rounding of veneer edges without tearing; the precise work piece guide is a belt-type top pressure unit made from steel. The controlled chip removal comes from trimming tools with I system and innovative powerTouch2 control system.

Profile changes can be completed in seconds with the FK11 patented solution for profile trimming. The profile trimming unit with a linear servo drive, FK30, offers trimming quality of the highest standard.

Features

- Processing of rolls of material up to 3 mm
- Processing strips up to 12 mm
- Finishing unit at out-feed removes any glue residue

- Zero-joint technology with Homag's airTec
- Automatic setup for different profiles
- Integration of Homag's LoopTeq O-600 control system.

The DrillTeq H-600 CNC processing centre has impressed by speed and precision in work piece handling as well as in processing. Every drill is executed with an extreme repeat accuracy. The same applies to routing and grooving operations.

The work piece surfaces are perfectly protected despite extremely high processing speeds. The possibility to process two work pieces simultaneously leads to extreme efficiency and the varied connection possibilities of the machine provide extreme flexibility.

The result is the CNC Xtreme, which is flexible in connection possibilities; executes tasks by a travel speed of up to 130 metres/minute with safe process cycles by thickness control and length measuring.

It offers permanent and exact drilling depth for all drilling operations by the patented spindle clamping. The closed straight guiding system is protected against dust and dirt and thus very durable.

Permanently firm and precise positioning of the work pieces is achieved by two CNC-controlled clamping devices. The Smooth-Pressure System provides a protecting air cushion below the work piece and thus makes for high-quality work piece handling.

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- Partial corner rounding.
- Scraping.



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Edge bander

- 11 m/min panel feed speed.
- "AUTOSET" pneumatic positions of units.
- Pre-milling, corner rounding, scraping units.



stefani kd

Edge bander

- 10-20 m/min panel feed speed.
- Solid wood up to 12 mm thickness.
- "SGP" glue pot for EVA or PU glue.



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Edge bander

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- Zero glue line possible with "AirFusion" technology.



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Total Environment employs natural materials such as wood, stone, bricks and cane, supported by glass and metal.

PASSION PERSONIFIED

When you start out with the motto, 'Design Without Compromise', it sets a very high bar for residential properties. Bengaluru-based Total Environment Building Systems, founded in 1996, is living up to its own exacting standards. The design, construction and real estate developer has so far delivered more than 46 lakh square feet of residential projects – both apartments and villas – to more than 2,000 satisfied buyers in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune. In 2020, Total Environment launched a residential project in Texas (USA).

*The promoters of this ambitious private venture, **Mr Kamal Sagar & Ms Shibanee Sagar**, are trained architects: Kamal from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; and Shibanee from Sir JJ College of Architecture, Mumbai, with a Master's degree from Georgia (US). What also sets the award-winning couple apart from other builders are their other precepts: incorporating design as a solution to each clients' requirements, invoking the devil in the details, and employing natural construction material. You guessed right, that includes wood!*

*Dhananjay Sardeshpande spoke with **Mr Abraar Ahmed**, Vice-President and head of Machine-Craft, to find out what makes the company tick.*



Every element of design exists for a reason: to make living more comfortable, joyous and fulfilling.

– Kamal Sagar,
Chairman & Founder, Total Environment



Good design is not about how a house looks, it is about how it makes you feel.

– Shibanee Sagar,
Director, Total Environment

No gimmicks, no fads or trends; just authentic good design that is optimal, functional and timeless. That is what Kamal and Shibanee Sagar, co-promoters of Total Environment, believe in.

“Good design is about making a connection,” says Kamal. “We work closely with buyers of our homes to understand their requirements, and then design each space so that it fulfills those needs.”

For him, every element of design exists for a reason: to make the experience of living more comfortable, joyous and fulfilling. “Above all, good design should inspire you to make a difference,” he feels.

More than two decades into designing, constructing, furnishing and servicing several hundred homes, Total Environment today stands out for some unique features in real estate for living:

- A garden in every home, water bodies wherever possible;
- Using natural material (stone, hand-crafted bricks, cane & wood);
- Fully furnished homes, where furniture is integral to spaces;
- Interior design to suit each buyer's needs & aesthetics;

Cepla's finishing line is the jewel in Machine-Craft's crown.

- Attention to detail in design, construction and finishing;
- High level of home automation (lighting & appliances);
- In-house verticals for furniture, metal work, masonry & landscaping;
- Property management for life.

Natural material

Shibanee has a knack of stepping into customers' shoes to understand their needs, aspirations and expectations from a home. Her inputs have helped build the proprietary 'eDesign' software tool to design each Total Environment home – no two of which are alike!

“Our homes are a combination of design, craftsmanship and technology, all born and nurtured in-house,” says Shibanee. “Good design is not just about how a house looks; it is about how it makes you feel.”

The architects strive for harmony with nature through the use of natural materials that blend into the landscape. “Natural materials, especially wood, have character and personality and age gracefully over time. We design each of our homes around the concept of embracing nature,” Shibanee adds.

Wood is the most widely used building material at Total Environment because of its efficiency, durability and usefulness. The architect-promoters are well aware of

its low carbon impact, low embodied energy, and positive impact on human health and the environment.

“As with any other input, we want to ensure that our raw materials are durable, renewable and sourced from sustainable operations,” Shibanee says, adding that, when treated correctly, hardwood doors and floors (for instance) can last a lifetime, and more.

Enter 'Machine-Craft'

Just as Kamal decided to go the whole hog – buy land parcels to design and construct homes, sell and service them independently – he also realised the uncertainties and risks of depending on outsourcing of his project work to contractors and vendors.

Keeping in mind the unique character of each project, and customisation in each dwelling unit, Kamal found that there were far too many inconsistencies in delivery timelines from vendors. Additionally, manual production meant that inaccuracy and quality issues were in-built in such a system.

With Kamal's design focus already making waves, and with his





An automatic finger jointing line (L) and hydraulic composer or gluing press (R) in operation.

adherence to natural and good quality materials widely acknowledged in the market, it was time for the next step. And so, in 1998, Machine-Craft was born as a separate vertical to design, fabricate and manufacture construction products to Total Environment's exacting standards.

According to Mr Abraar Ahmed, Vice-President and head of Machine-Craft since its inception, this vertical is a blend of tradition and craftsmanship with state-of-the-art technology in solid and engineered wood, metal and glass.

As a project engineer for Total Environment Abraar (a civil engineer by education) had seen the unsatisfactory results of on-site work by carpenters and their contractors. It was natural for him to slip into the new role with ease.

"Most of our vendors were not able to cope with our customisation," he recalls. "They were not amenable to change to modern systems of working; not adaptable to new manufacturing technology."

His new responsibilities made him go through a regimen of studying materials (wood, metal and glass); acquire first-hand knowledge of fabrication technology and machinery (for which he travelled extensively, mainly in Europe); pre-production requirements and manufacturing systems; as well as finishing technology, installation and after-sales service.

Apart from having adequate grasp

of the nitty-gritty of mechanisation and automation; Abraar is tasked with accurately projecting the current and future material and production requirements of Total Environment.

Systems & processes

Machine-Craft began with a 35,000-square-foot factory off Bannerghatta Road, where door and door-frames were manufactured on machines for the first time for Total Environment. It has since moved to a 1.5-lakh-square-foot facility in Tamil Nadu (30 km from Bengaluru).

Today Machine-Craft turns out all the doors and windows, vanity and wardrobes, chairs and tables, decking and cladding, beds – even kitchens and hand-crafted handles – for all projects at Total Environment. This includes product fabrication in glass and metal.

Systems and processes are very important at Total Environment. Machine-Craft has a separate team to look after wood sourcing, of which Machine-Craft consumes more than 1 lakh cubic feet. Teak comes from Malaysia and African nations; softwoods and engineered boards from North America, Europe and Russia. Natural veneer comes from a variety of certified sources.

Timber used to be mainly in the form of logs; but that is being replaced by the import of mature, kiln-dried and certified consignments of slabs and cut sections. While some of the logs are processed by trusted saw millers in Bengaluru and near seaports, the initial treatment of logs is done by Machine-Craft's conventional and vacuum kilns, along with a pressure kiln for chemical treatment of wood.

Abraar says Machine-Craft works with a team of furniture designers; 160 machine

operators, engineers and managers in the factory; and deputed 50-odd trained carpenters for installation and life-time maintenance across all Total Environment projects.

The manufacturing arm also depends on a huge, scientifically-organised library of designs, plus an equally huge inventory of timber, furniture hardware, consumables and finishing products. Every product designed and manufactured at Machine-Craft is specific to customer requirements.

Wood products

The type of wood species required for Total Environment homes is determined mainly on the basis of external and interior applications; but they all are chosen for their termite-resistance, strength and aesthetic appeal.

Machine-Craft uses hardwoods such as varieties of teak (*Tectona grandis*), white Oak, Walnut, white Ash, red Cherry, Brazilian Ipe, red Meranti, Beech, Wenge, Maple and thermo Ash.

Among the most commonly used softwoods are yellow Cedar, Western Hemlock, Western red Cedar, Douglas Fir and Pine.

The veneers mainly come from teak, white Ash, Walnut, Wenge and Cherry, but are subject to buyer's choice. Besides, Machine-Craft also buys medium- and high-density, raw and pre-laminated boards; marine grade, boiling-water-proof and boiling-water-resistant plywood; block boards, honeycomb boards and wood composite boards in its products.

These species are used for external and internal fenestration, furniture, glazing, wall cladding, railings, external decking, staircases, pergolas, benches, murals, ledges and kitchens.

Total Environment replaced imported kitchens with their own in 2019. The kitchens are offered in standard and thematic versions; but are mostly custom-made. Machine-Craft has also been processing wood for external decking since 2020, with its own system of assembly mechanisms, designed in-house.

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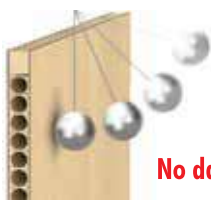
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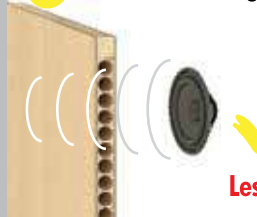
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Total Environment's kitchens are manufactured to standard specifications, or according to a theme, or even customised.

Nuts & bolts

Abraar's study of woodworking technologies and exploration of various options led him to adopt a simple way to choose: get the suppliers to customise the machines, hardware, consumables and finishing material!

Almost all the machinery is tailored to the requirements of Machine-Craft with a high degree of automation and "smart" operations. "Smart machines don't need smart operators," he notes, adding that learning and discipline at work is all that is required of them.

'Smart' machines, he says, are designed to accommodate work orders to production plans, thereby increasing productivity and cutting down on wastage of material and time. They also have in-built mechanisms for pre-emptive maintenance and off-site (such as working from home!) management of the entire production process.

Most architectural hardware (sliding systems, hinges, etc.) and furniture fittings (locks, drawer

channels, handles, etc.) and accessories are sourced from renowned suppliers such as Hettich, Grass, Seigenia, Knapp, Scilm, Dorset, Mepa, Kessebohmer, Kinlong, Giesse and Venus.

However, a lot of specialised hardware and fittings have been designed and manufactured by Machine-Craft, especially for French sliding doors and windows (seals and gaskets for acoustic needs).

So far as adhesives go, Machine-Craft uses PVAC-based dispersion glues from AkzoNobel and Henkel for solid wood lamination, edge-glued panels and veneer application.

PUR adhesives from AkzoNobel and Kleiberit are used mainly for edge-glued panels and carcasses. The PUR edge banding glue comes from AkzoNobel, while edge banding tape (PVC & ABS) is from Dolken and Rehau.

For sealing, sanding, coating, glazing, painting, staining and finishing, Machine-Craft has avoided commercially available solutions to have custom-made formulations from Italian suppliers such as ICA and Renner. Abraar says his experts test these formulations for 2 years before industrial-scale procurement and implementation take place.

What Is In The factory

Conventional kilns: WoodTech Consultants (Bengaluru)

Pressure kiln: Hilderbrand-Brunner (Germany)

Horizontal band saw: Wood-Mizer (USA)

Automatic cross-cut saw: Weinig (Germany)

Automatic planer-moulder: Weinig

Sliding table panel saw: Altendorf (Germany)

Hydraulic composer: FullPower (Taiwan)

Double-side planer: FullPower

Beam saw: Biesse (Italy)

Tenoner & mortiser: FullPower & Umisons Industries (Ahmedabad)

Spindle moulders: Casadei-Busellato (Italy)

Multiple boring machine: Homag (Germany)

CNC router: Biesse

6-axes CNC router: Paulino Bacci (Italy)

Edge banding machines: Biesse & Holz-Her (Germany)

Hot press: Italtresse (Italy)

Pneumatic pin router: SCM (Italy)

Automatic finger jointing line: Weinig

Calibration sanding machine: Costa Levigatrici (Italy)

Profile sanding machines: Quickwood (Italy)

Surface lacquer sander: Karl Heesemann (Germany)

Auto spray line (vertical oven & UV curing): Cefla (Italy)

Automatic packaging machines: Edda Makine (Turkey)

“



Machine-Craft is a blend of tradition and craftsmanship with state-of-the-art technology.

– Abraar Ahmed, Head of Machine-Craft, Total Environment

”

"However," he notes, "preparing the surface correctly is even more important than the application of the best of coating solutions." So what really does his varied experience amount to? "Success comes from knowledge and passion, combined with discipline and hard work," Abraar signs off.



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There's nothing quite like a "Matt" finish!



Handcrafted woodworking evangelist Mathew Thomas is confident that as long as there are people who appreciate and want good furniture, there will always be a niche for a stand-alone woodworking specialist who creates artisanal work pieces.

ROY THOMAS

The Industrial Revolution in 1760 transformed economies, which had been based on agriculture and handicrafts, into economies based on large-scale industry, mechanised manufacturing, and the factory system.

New machines, new power sources, and new ways of organising work made existing industries more productive and efficient. The downside, however, was that it spelt the death knell

for artisans and craftsmen, threatening their livelihood and very existence.

But it was not as if a tectonic change happened immediately. The two forms of manufacture continued to co-exist uneasily with each other, with artisanal craft retaining a niche for itself in a world that was still 'genteel' and placed value on the finer things of life.

Till then, in Europe, learning a trade was a very structured process that revolves around the Guild, an organisation that dates back to the 12th Century. The

system was a unique way of conveying knowledge and know-how linked to the trades that worked with stone, wood, metal, leather, textiles and food.

Its originality lay in its synthesis of varied methods and processes of transmitting knowledge and was popularly perceived as the last movement to practice and teach certain ancient craft techniques and to deliver true excellence in craft training.

Magnificent obsession

The world is on the cusp of the fifth industrial revolution, which introduces the use of connected machinery popularly



'Matt' aims to create works of art and heirlooms that can be passed down generations.

known as the 'Internet of Things' (IoT) and could include robotics, machine learning, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and, more importantly, 3D technology.

These take production to new, unimaginable levels of design and sophistication and breathtaking scalability, with very little human interface.

In the face of such a visceral and frontal onslaught, do standalone artisans and craftsmen stand any chance of survival? Is it the beginning of the end for them? Will they be just a faded memory of a time and era gone by?

Fortunately for people who always

treasure works of art that embody beauty and soul and the uniqueness it stands for, there will always be craftsmen who will swim against the tide to bring out intricate and outstanding works that can never be replicated by a machine.

In the world of music, for instance, a Stradivarius violin can only be painstakingly made by hand, never by a machine!

Mathew Thomas, known to friends as 'Matt', is one such person who exemplifies the obsession that hand-tool makers and restorers possess. A UK-educated automobile engineer by profession who has even designed and developed custom-built cars, woodworking was a

craft he had always been interested in.

For most of his life it has been a part-time hobby. But, since 2015, it became something he decided to dedicate more time to. "I think that's when I realised it was something I could spend time on without needing much assistance from anyone, especially as I got older. Wood has a soul and an inherent beauty and many different personalities and dimensions that I appreciate," he says.

All his skills are self-taught. Not having formal training in woodworking can be a handicap; but it can also be a blessing as you get into the field with an uncluttered and open mind and a willingness to do the hard miles.

The internet is a huge resource when it comes to learning from other woodworkers and Mathew readily admits that his greatest inspiration has been the work of Japanese woodworkers, whose level of skill and precision is "unparalleled".

Path less trodden

Mathew usually works with rubber wood, Merbau, Padauk and beech; but also with Burma teak and other teakwood. He says he doesn't really have a preference, but the density of wood is important because this makes the wood more pliable to work with.

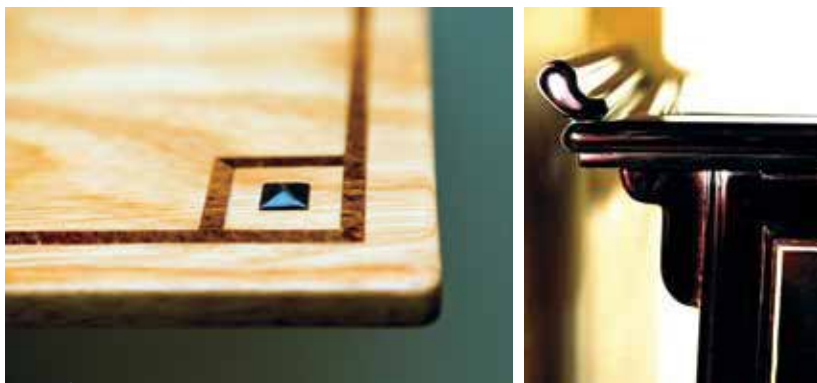
He emphasizes that the quality of wood matters. "Many people will choose a cheaper wood simply because of the cost. But, like any investment, I ask them to think about how well it's going to last you in the long term," he remarks.

Working out of his studio above his apartment in a quiet but fast-growing residential area of Bengaluru, Mathew creates bespoke pieces that are one of a kind. Once he does a piece for someone, he does not replicate the design because he feels it



A craftsman can hear, feel and sense subtle changes in a work piece that can never be felt in mass manufacturing.

– Mathew Thomas



Mathew does not use nails or screws; only wood joinery.

takes away from the original piece.

Every aspect of his woodwork is meant to last a lifetime. His approach is not just to produce a piece of furniture but to create an artwork and heirloom piece that can be passed down generations.

"I am very clear that I would like to make stand-out pieces that are going to be treasured by its owner or his family. So, if I'm making a piece for you, no one else will have the same thing," he stresses.

Design & finishing

Does he design his own furniture? Mathew says that most times ideas and concepts pop up in his head. Sometimes they are variations of what he has seen or read about, and often customers tell him what they have in mind.

However, he is conscious of the fact that he is trying to create something unique and different, and this is what is always at the back of his mind when finally settling on a design. Occasionally, if the design is complicated, he does a mock-up or a prototype before going into production.

On average, it takes him a few months to complete a single project. He doesn't use nails or screws in his work – only wood joinery!

"Planning ahead is also critical in woodworking to keep wastage to

a minimum. This is important when it comes to sustainability," says Mathew, who is a very environment-conscious person and walks the talk when it comes to recycling and up-cycling of wood.

The studio is equipped with his machinery and hand tools. Mathew proudly notes that, from what he has seen so far, no other woodworker around Bengaluru has the kind of machinery he has collected over the years.

For most pieces, he typically uses a bench-top planer, band saw, table saw, routers, jig saw and a compound saw.

"Using a hand tool is such a tactile experience," feels Mathew, "A craftsman can hear, feel and sense subtle changes in a work piece that can never be felt in mass manufacturing. The result is that no two things made by hand will ever be exactly the same."

Shop talk

Asked about his opinion about the large scale manufacture of furniture, Mathew feels good quality work is greatly lacking

even with large, well-established brands. Even the word 'quality', is very subjective, he points out.

Most brands describe themselves as high quality but are disappointing in reality. To him, quality means attention to the minutest detail and having intention behind every aspect of design. "This is a perspective that I hope to see more of in India, but don't see enough of as yet," he opines.

An evangelist for handcrafted woodwork, Mathew has no plans to scale up or increase production and is very categorical that he has no interest in mass-producing his furniture.

He prefers his furniture do the talking for him and orders come to him only by word of mouth. He remains confident that as long as there are people who appreciate and want good furniture, there will always be a niche for a stand-alone carpentry specialist who creates artisanal furniture. "There is certainly no existential crisis for them," he says.

Even as the Covid-19 contagion rages around him, Mathew carries on with his work regardless. When he is not ensconced in his studio, he can be found cooking up a storm in his kitchen: a gourmet cook in his own right!

Here's hoping that his tribe has the resilience to not only hold out, but prosper and increase. More power to his trade!

Once he makes furniture for someone, Mathew does not replicate the design because he feels it takes away from the originality of each piece.



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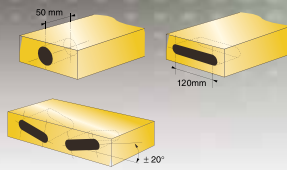


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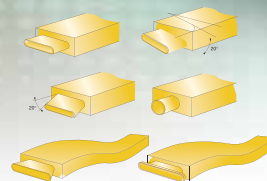
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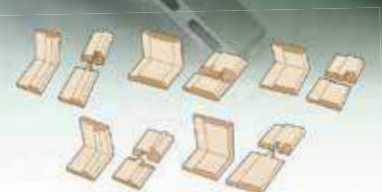
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Biesse's Bengaluru campuses comprise of manufacturing plants at Nelamangala and Makali, totalling 35,000 square metres. It also hosts its own Manufacturing Lab and Tech Centre for digital innovation.

'At 15, we're apt for the future'

Started in 2006 with a team of just 10 people, Biesse India today includes more than 700 employees at its world-class manufacturing facilities in Bengaluru. It manufactures more than 1,800 woodworking machines annually, and also exports different configurations to customers across 60 countries.

*Dhananjay Sardeshpande caught up with **Mr Sayeed Ahmed**, CEO of Biesse India, to find out what the last 15 years have meant to him in terms of being recognised as a professional company that is driven by knowledge, expertise, focus on customer service and its sustainable approach to business. Excerpts:*

Biesse Group from Italy has a reputation for innovation. How do minds, machinery and manpower work together to provide cutting-edge technology to the wood processing sector globally?

At Biesse, innovation is a top management priority. We have a clear innovation strategy and support it with appropriate investment, leveraging the advantages of scale, and ensuring that the system is nimble enough to spot and seize the best opportunities quickly and decisively.

With the advent of latest technologies of Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, rapid prototyping, artificial intelligence and big data analysis, Biesse continues to harness these opportunities and continues to transform itself as a data-enabled technologically advanced company.

'Fail fast, learn fast' is an axiom that is practiced by us. As Einstein said, it is insane to do the same thing over and over again and expect different results! So, if we need different experiences, different learning, we need to try different things. We need to innovate to unleash the potential of the human mind.

At Biesse, employees have been taught to think like innovators. We have innovation-friendly systematic management processes that enable creative minds to channel their ideas into solutions to support our customer's needs.

Biesse India has been a strategic location for Biesse's growing business and the Bengaluru campuses – which comprises of plants at Nelamangala and Makali/ Nagarur – make up a sprawling space of 35,000 square metres, equipped with the most advanced minds, machinery and manpower to design and manufacture cutting-edge technology in wood and advanced materials processing.

Ever since its inception in 2006, the plant has etched a successful path for itself by reaching one credible milestone after another. Biesse India rolled out its first machine in 2007. Today it produces about 1,800 machines per year with over 60 countries (including Europe, the US and Australia) being part of our customer circle.

Biesse India was established 15 years ago. What were the motives for this move?

Biesse Group launched its first production site abroad by establishing its manufacturing plant in Bengaluru. The objective of the facility was to produce technologically advanced machines to satisfy regional demands.

The strategic investment in India was a forward-looking strategy that created the most advanced production plant for manufacturing wood processing technologies in India. Its objective is to guarantee a direct presence in the region, as well as support global needs.

With the support of a team of technical experts from Italy and synergising this with local competencies for product development, manufacturing,

The gamut of manufacturing technologies and solutions from Biesse India include processing of wood, glass and advance materials.



sales and service support, Biesse India is now well established to offer customised solutions for customers' specific needs globally in the mid-market segment.

How has local manufacturing contributed to customer trust and satisfaction? And to 'Make in India'?

At Biesse, the core belief system lies in promoting, nurturing and developing close and constructive relationships with customers in order to better understand their needs and improve our products.

This is not limited to sales, but the creation of a total experience which accompanies clients from the time of purchase all way through to their daily work, ensuring continuous satisfaction.

Be it the showroom, where our customers encounter our technology which they can touch with their own hands, or the specialised sales and service teams that offer technical machine and component services and spare parts anywhere in the world, our primary goal has always been to be present as a technology provider and an impeccable service agent.

Our investments over the years have been in both personnel and

systemisation, aimed at yielding an environment conducive for great business. Through these continuing efforts, we have been engaging all our customers in innovative ways so that at the end of it, beyond business and numbers, the memory that etches in the minds of the customers is of Biesse India being a truly trustworthy associate. Our products stand as a testament to 'Make in India' for the world.

How do Biesse's products and services provide good returns on investment for the woodworking industry?

Biesse's machines are always designed keeping in mind the core demands of the customers. At the same time they are made to handle any requirements that stretch its capability in the future.

With the added advantage of having a fully integrated manufacturing facility in India, Biesse is able to design, develop and manufacture machines that can cater to a wide range of customer demands both domestically and also globally.

Customers get this advantage as a part of Biesse's value delivery over its competitors, who have closed configurations of machines that are majorly imported from their parent companies abroad.

How does the showroom on Biesse India's Bengaluru campus benefit existing and potential customers?

As technology progresses, its availability too is of significance. At Biesse, we believe in every genuine way that what we create has to reach the customer the right way.

Our Tech Centre at Nelamangala is a place where exhibition also means relation. It is a shining example of how Biesse wishes to conduct business. The Tech Centre, with a dedicated space of 1,000 square metres, has full-fledged facilities to accommodate the wide range of machines and systems.

From edge banding to CNC nesting, as many as 15 technologies are on display, offering innovative and unique solutions in the field of wood, glass and advance material processing. Our dedicated training facility and staff helps in educating customers regarding all the latest developments and trends.

The creation of a Manufacturing Lab facilitates our young minds to experience the machinery in a hands-on environment, enables us to remain aware of all the intricacies so that any customer who walks in, experiences smart service.

Alongside, the Digital Hub lets the customers find out what our advanced software and its application mean by ►

Biesse has innovation-friendly systematic management processes that enable creative minds to channel their ideas into solutions to support its customer's needs, says Mr Sayeed Ahmed, CEO, Biesse India.



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Heavy Duty Helical Planer
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with Changeable Knives
Knife: 30 x 12 x 1.5 x 35°



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Since the Covid-19 pandemic began in 2020, Biesse India has seen a considerable number of enquiries towards automation and digitisation of the factories.

themselves. The Tech Centre also takes part in empowering customers by organising open house events at regular intervals.

Through one-on-one gatherings, we showcase all our technological solutions in a theme-based event, encouraging our customers to become part of a synergy.

Each event allows us to provide a personalised demo to customers who are looking to expand or increase their productivity.

Does Biesse have a training programme for the industry? How does it function?

Biesse Group confirms its commitment towards education and a strong will to support the country in which it operates by investing in projects that boost the spread of knowledge of the most innovative and advanced woodworking technologies.

Biesse has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Institute of Wood Science & Technology (Bengaluru) for a period of 5 years under which it affirms its will to financially

support the project. The IWST is a research institute that works under the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

This collaboration has led to the establishment of a 1-year Diploma in Advanced Woodworking (offered since July 2018) and three short-term courses.

The comprehensive programme aims in developing multi-skilled operators, CAD/CAM specialists, technicians and supervisors with relevant training and exposure to industry.

The courses offered are in line with the modern industry requirements and also encourages its participants to pursue their own entrepreneurial goals.

How has automation and digitisation of the Indian woodworking industry progressed? What is the scope for further improvement?

Since the Covid-19 pandemic began in 2020, we have seen a considerable number of enquiries towards automation and digitisation of the factories, primarily due to two reasons: availability of skilled manpower and increased awareness of quality finished products at the end customer.

Both these aspects have created a demand for the automation and digitisation of factories to ensure better quality of the finished products due to minimal human errors. We foresee this trend to continue because, in the coming days, more and more customers would expect their products to be fine finished and made available within the timelines committed.

Biesse also has its own IoT platform, 'Sophia'. How is the adoption rate in India? What are the impediments, if any?

Biesse's IoT platform, created in collaboration with Accenture, provides its clients access to a wide range of services for simplifying and rationalising the management of their work. It is based on a connection to a cloud service and to special sensors applied to the Biesse machines.

The information and data on the technologies in use can be recorded and sent in real time to optimise performance, prevent malfunctions, and increase the productivity of machines and systems.

In addition, the direct connection to Parts, the Biesse replacement parts portal, and the chance to upgrade software with just a few clicks, provides clients with everyday work tools that can simplify a host of tasks.

The main value of 'Sophia' is the power of its predictive nature: the ability of this technology to provide a vision of the future, anticipating issues that may arise, identifying solutions, and improving performance.

The IoT features within the platform guarantee a significant increase in productivity, thanks to a process of constant, accurate and comprehensive analysis and reporting on manufacturing performance.

Out of 124 Sophia subscriptions, more than 80 customers are active on this platform to monitor their machine performances and productivity. The current adoption rate is at 64%, and we expect this number to go up in the coming years.

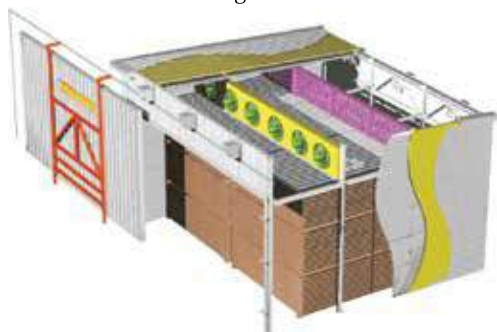
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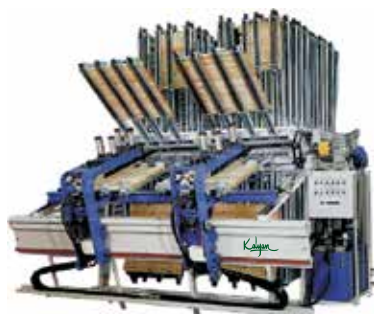
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The solvent-free and water based two-component adhesive, Simalfa 825, has been specially developed for bonding foam to upholstery materials such as wood or plastic.



A game-changer for upholstery

Mr Mariusz Stróżak, upholstery expert, started his career in the furniture industry in 1998. Since 2004 he has been working with adhesives for the foam industry, the last years as an adhesives expert. He knows what is important for adhesives in upholstered furniture and why the demands on bonding are especially high in this industry.

Simalfa 825 was specially developed for bonding foam to upholstery materials such as wood or plastic. The solvent-free and water based two-component adhesive shows a very high flexibility. Here Mariusz puts the new Simalfa 825 through its paces...



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Hello Mariusz, you have been working in the upholstered furniture industry for a long time. What makes you an expert in bonding in upholstery?

I have been working in the upholstery industry since 1998 and have been working with adhesives for this industry since 2004. Adhesives are a central component in the manufacturing of upholstered furniture and are used in various places.

In my work I have already processed, tested and compared quite a few brands of adhesives from different manufacturers. Especially when it comes to upholstering high-quality products in the furniture industry, the demands on adhesive application and processing are particularly demanding.

Certain intricate shapes in furniture design are unattainable without a high-class adhesive. The perfect adhesive can easily be processed and has a high durability in the end product.

Talking about the high demands towards bonding, how are these requirements being met today?

In the upholstered furniture industry, solvent-based products are used for many bonds, which are still widely used. On closer inspection, however, we see some disadvantages for the processor as well as for the end consumer.

Once the materials to be bonded are put together, it is no longer possible to reposition them. This means that the processor can no longer make any corrections to the work piece.

In the end product solvent-based adhesives remain sticky and quickly lose their flexibility. This lost elasticity of the bonded adhesive film causes the adhesive seam to begin to crumble. It is obvious that this has a negative effect on the quality of the upholstered furniture.

The solvent residues can also be found in the end product. And we all know that volatile solvents are harmful to the environment and, therefore, have a negative impact on the health and safety of processors.

What about water-based adhesives?

There are applications in which classic

water-based adhesives are used and work well. But here, too, there are limitations that must be considered. Since foam absorbs high tension during bonding, water-based adhesives also have to adhere quickly.

Up to now, bonding under tension could only be carried out to a limited extent, as a high initial tack is required. This means that work pieces cannot be repositioned – or only to a limited degree.

In addition, classic water-based adhesives have a limited area of application in the upholstery industry. This has to do with the fact that not all materials used in this field of application can be bonded using adhesives based on water.

How does Simalfa 825 meet these demands?

We have been using the new Simalfa 825 at various customers in the upholstery industry for quite some time. This is a water-based, two-component adhesive, that can quickly tackle further production steps and has a wide range of application possibilities.

Simalfa 825 bonds the materials used in the upholstery industry with ease and comes out on top with the industry-typical bondings of foam on wood. We tested everything on wood that we could get our hands on: hardwood, softwood, plywood, chipboard, HDF, MDF, OSB etc.

The foam can be glued under extremely high tension. Simalfa 825 is the first water-based adhesive that remains repositionable even with upholstered products. This is a crucial help for every upholsterer.

It is everything an upholsterer's heart desires?

I am convinced of the new Simalfa type. We were in the factory of one of our customers. The production manager said to me that Simalfa 825 is the first water-based adhesive with which he can completely replace his solvent-based products.

So, if he had to remove solvents from his upholstery overnight, he knows that he can sleep better, thanks to Simalfa 825. And that means something!



Upholstery expert Mariusz Stróžak has tested everything successfully on Simalfa 825: hardwood, softwood, plywood, chipboard, HDF, MDF, OSB, etc.

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What are 'hard' and 'soft' woods?



Pix: Petr Krejci Photography

Hardwoods are broad-leaf trees with leaves that are properly defined in a variety of shapes and sizes and which produce some form of fruit that protects the seeds within it. There are thousands more hardwood species in the world than there are softwoods.

'Technical Matters' is the first in a number of technical articles that are designed to inform the reader about different aspects and properties of timber as a material, before discussing different processing methods such as kilning and finishing, and describing North American hardwoods in more detail along the way. Read on to find out how wood is formed, the fundamental differences between hardwoods and softwoods, and their different growing regions around the world.

NEIL SUMMERS

Wood is an incredibly variable material and, because of this diversity, it is a slightly misleading term, as there is not one individual species of wood that is capable of performing every task that you might want it to do for you.

Wood grows on trees, or rather it is the product of the growth of that tree over many years, before it is sawn and converted into timber – or lumber, as it is known in America.

There are literally thousands of different types of tree that grow on the planet and each one produces wood with different characteristics and properties that will be suitable for different end uses.

These properties may differ slightly within a single species, but the differences can be huge between wood species – you might say the difference between chalk and cheese!

There are at least 60,000 different species of wood in the world which have been discovered so far. Only a small proportion of these species are traded commercially around the world. But the important fact to understand is that they are traded with a specific purpose or use in mind.

Choosing timber

You might require a durable timber that is not going to rot or be attacked by insects; appearance could be a factor when choosing a timber for making furniture; or a lower cost timber for simple structural applications.

In each case you would probably choose a different timber species for these different types of application. So it is important to understand exactly what sort of wood it is that you are looking for.



The choice of timber would depend on application, resistance to pests and moisture, strength and elasticity, or even just appearance.

Wood grows naturally in billions of trees around the planet, and in all of these trees the main constituent is an organic substance called cellulose. The tree is a natural chemical factory and makes cellulose from carbohydrates that are formed by the combination of water drawn up from the root system and carbon dioxide that is sucked out of the air.

A very useful by-product of this ingenious chemical process is oxygen, which the tree releases back into the atmosphere. Cellulose is, in effect, a natural form of carbon fibre, which is what gives wood very high strength properties in relation to its weight. In fact, it has been proved that wood is stronger, weight-for-weight in tension, than steel.

Classic misconception

If you are involved with the timber industry in any way then you will be familiar with the terms 'hardwood' and 'softwood', two basic sub-divisions that are used to categorise timber species.

These apparently descriptive terms do not necessarily mean that a 'hardwood' is hard, or that 'softwood' is soft. For example, the classic misconception between softwoods and hardwoods is the fact that the balsa wood tree, which produces one of the softest timbers in the world, is actually a hardwood!

The two terms actually relate to the tree itself and not to the wood that it produces. Softwood trees are basically described as conifers, trees that have needle-like leaves and bear cones with open, largely unprotected, seeds. An example of a softwood tree would be Southern Yellow Pine (SYP).

Hardwoods are broad-leaf trees with leaves that are properly defined in a variety of shapes and sizes and which produce some form of fruit that protects the seeds within it. Examples are American white oak or teak.

Softwood trees have a much more primitive cell structure than hardwoods, which have evolved much later on in time. Due to this evolutionary trait there are thousands more hardwood species in the world than there are softwoods.

As a general rule, softwoods prefer to inhabit the colder parts of the world, whereas hardwoods tend to grow better in warmer climatic conditions, including hot tropical areas.

This is why you will find an abundance of conifer trees in cold countries, such as Sweden, Finland and Canada. There are exceptions, such as Parana pine from South America and even SYP mentioned earlier, which favours the hotter regions of North America.

Hardwood types

The greater evolutionary development of the broad-leaf trees has produced two distinct categories of hardwoods. Temperate hardwoods frequent both the temperate zones of Europe and North America, where the temperature is reasonably warm for most of the year.

Tropical hardwoods grow in the tropical regions, where the climate is much hotter. Again, there are exceptions, with species such as American hard maple, which prefers the colder temperatures of the American-Canadian border.

As we go along in this series, we will explore the relationship of water and wood. In the words of one of America's pre-eminent architects, Frank Lloyd Wright: "Wood is a friend of mine. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on earth. It is a beautiful material, friendly to man, the supreme material for his dwelling purposes. If a man is going to live, he should live with wood."



– The writer is a Technical Consultant with the American Hardwood Export Council. For more information on American hardwoods and to download the latest publications and industry facts, visit www.americanhardwood.org.



Akash and Poonam Mehta's (AMPM Designs) colourful set of windows, 'Virya' (L), is inspired by the famous Paris-based Indian artist, Raza. Geometry is also evident in Sameer & Shilpa Balvally's 'Equilibria' (R) that exhibits the design principle of balance.

V(en)eering to art forms

The versatility of art is infinite, offering opportunities to our wildest imagination. Art also allows us to create self-imposed challenges, break stereotypes, and force ourselves to derive new processes and reveal unique, unexplored outcomes.

The 'Art of Veneer' campaign was introduced by Venzo Wood, a leading supplier of decorative veneers and woods, in Mumbai recently. Venzo Wood is exclusively associated with TABU, an Italian wood leader in natural veneers, dyed natural veneers and

multi-laminar veneers.

The aim was to stir things within the veneer domain, push the industry to its fullest potential and reveal what can be achieved with the use of veneer as a material.

The designers associated with the campaign included Anand Menon, Akash and Poonam Mehta, Ishan Grover, Kumpal Vaid, Sameer and Shilpa Balvally, Saniya Kantawala, Rajiv Khushalani, Manish Dikshit, Kanhai Gandhi and Jannat Vasi.

Each designer was given a set of veneers as their colour palettes and the freedom to let their imaginations flow. Each art

work is a culmination of varied veneer pieces stacked and inlaid like a one-of-a-kind jigsaw puzzle. The art is manifested in the designers' unique thoughts expressed through an unconventional medium.

Creating each and every art work was a time-consuming, labour-intensive process where every shade of colour is a different veneer, laser-cut and inlaid into the canvas. Not only the colours but the grains of the veneers had to be in sync with the entire artwork to make it look flawless.

To put things in perspective, every dot of Kanhai's 'Drop' is an individual piece inlaid into the canvas like a massive jigsaw puzzle; every grain in Sameer and Shilpa's 'Equilibria' is cut and matched with the rest of the artwork.

The overall exercise has raised the bar of the veneer industry, pushing boundaries and possibilities of the potential of veneer as a product, and Venzo's drive to change the perception of veneer as a mere building material product to something that is worthy of creating art.

The art works will be put on sale by the end of 2021 on www.Eztablish.ART, proceedings of which will be donated to charity.

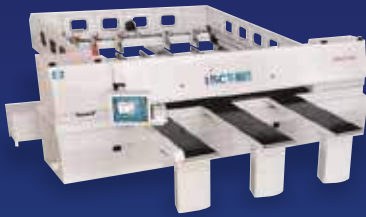
Kanhai Gandhi's (KNS Architects) 'Drop' (L) is a constant reminder of saving the most precious resource on this planet. The mono-toned 'Coded Illusions' by Anand Menon (R) comes from a universe of its own.





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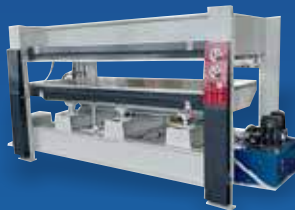
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JLR gets iconic product creation centre

Pix courtesy: Bennetts Associates/B&K Structures.



The engineered timber roof covers more than 50,000 square metres. It consumed 1,512 cubic metres of PEFC-certified glulam beams and 2,674 cubic metres of CLT panels.

The design of the steel to glulam connections were a primary factor in the accuracy of the frame.

Jaguar Land Rover's (JLR) Advanced Product Creation Centre has the largest engineered timber roof in the UK, reflecting the design quality and company values associated with one of Britain's most iconic automotive businesses.

Encompassing 1,512 cubic metres of PEFC-certified glulam beams and 2,674 cubic metres of cross laminated timber (CLT) panels manufactured by Binderholz, the engineered timber roof makes a huge design statement, covering an area of over 50,000 square metres.

This award-winning roof structure with outstanding green credentials has already achieved two prestigious Structural Timber Awards for 'Commercial Project of the Year' and 'Solid Wood Project of the Year'.

Construction partners B&K Structures designed, engineered and installed the timber roof to

encompass a diverse range of spaces and facilities for JLR.

The CLT and glulam structure was designed to deliver permanent quality and long-term energy efficiency, requiring little or no maintenance to meet JLR's sustainability objectives.

The engineered timber industrial system was specified as it allows for rapid assembly and offers excellent airtightness through robust CLT panels.

The solid wood structure met the natural look and feel that JLR required, together with the low thermal resistance and airtightness that the structure demanded to meet the challenging design brief.

The timber roof will require only minimal maintenance during the building's lifetime as the solid timber sections prevent dust getting trapped – as it would with steel sections. The timber structure is designed for 90 minutes of fire resistance.

The project represented the largest PEFC-Certified CLT roof deck constructed by B&K Structures. The design of the steel to



glulam connections were a primary factor in the accuracy of the frame.

Adopting a hybrid approach, the structure is designed to be as lean and efficient as possible. Maximising performance in this way has resulted in a roof with the lowest possible amount of embodied carbon.

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Construction sector aims at net-zero emissions

Pic: Central Public Works Department



Indira Paryavaran Bhavan in New Delhi, has achieved energy savings of about 40% through the adoption of energy-efficient chilled beam system of air-conditioning.

The World Green Building Council (World GBC) has issued a bold new vision for how buildings and infrastructure around the world can reach 40% less embodied carbon emissions by the year 2030, and achieve 100%, or net-zero, emission buildings by the year 2050.

Together, building and construction are responsible for 39% of all carbon emissions in the world, with operational emissions (from energy used to heat, cool and light buildings) accounting for 28%. The remaining 11% comes from embodied carbon emissions, or 'upfront' carbon that is associated with materials and construction processes throughout the whole building lifecycle.

WorldGBC's vision to fully decarbonise the sector requires eliminating both operational and embodied carbon emissions.

In a report, 'Bringing Embodied Carbon Upfront', it proposes this ambitious goal alongside solutions to accelerate immediate action by the entire building and construction value chain. The vision is endorsed by representatives from developers and construction companies, financial institutions, city networks and government, as well as industry representatives from concrete, steel and timber and many more.

Common language

The report sets out to demystify the challenge of addressing embodied carbon emissions, through breaking down complex terminology and creating a common language to set a consensus-built definition for net zero embodied carbon.

Addressing upfront carbon is crucial to fighting the climate crisis, as new construction is expected to double the world's building stock by the year 2060, causing an increase in the carbon emissions occurring right now. The report is calling for coordinated action from

across the sector to dramatically change the way buildings are designed, built, used and deconstructed.

The transition towards mainstream net-zero carbon standards requires immediate action to achieve greater awareness, innovation, improved processes to calculate, track and report embodied carbon, voluntary reduction targets from industry and roll out of new legislation at city, national and regional levels.

Approaches such as maximising the use of existing assets, promoting renovation instead of demolition, and seeking new circular business models that reduce reliance on carbon-intensive raw materials are also needed.

To kick-start cross-sector collaboration, World GBC is calling for new national and sector-wise roadmaps to be developed, such as those produced in Finland, Norway and Sweden, with strong support from industry and policymakers.

Businesses involved in design and delivery have already committed to ambitious individual or national decarbonisation strategies. Materials suppliers are also taking a leading role. For example, Dalmia Bharat Cement, one of India's leading cement manufacturers, is committed to becoming a carbon-negative group by the year 2040.



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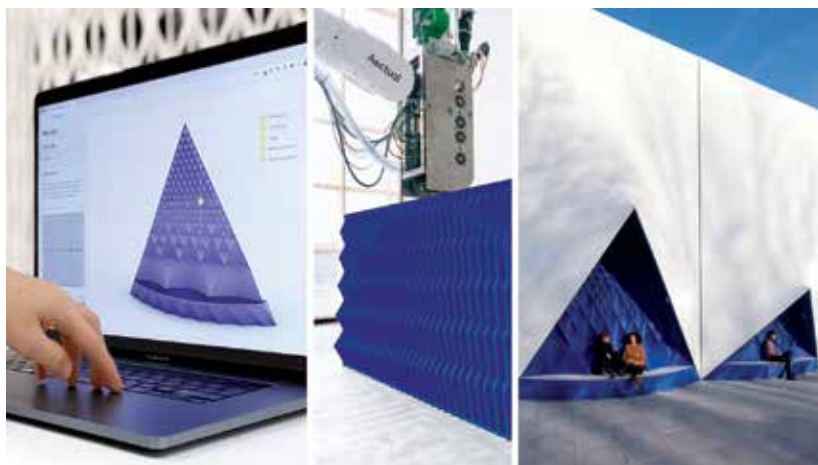
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World's first 3D, design-to-delivery platform is here



The architectural rendition (L) and the 3D-printed space (R) in reality.

Aectual's turnkey, design-to-delivery platform enables rapid production of beautifully designed, high quality, 3D-printed architectural and interior products, all made from 100% recycled, sustainable materials.

The platform enables architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) professionals to create beautiful, customized XL 3D-printed buildings, architectural and interior design products from 100% recyclable, renewable materials that minimize waste.

Aectual, the Amsterdam-based company, recently announced the launch of its platform to produce bespoke 3D-printed XL architectural and interior products at industrial scale, alongside the beta launch of its commercial web shop for consumers.

Founded in 2017, Aectual is the brainchild of three experienced architects and 3D-print experts and offers beautifully designed,

modern 3D-printed architecture and interior items, such as terrazzo artwork flooring, fixtures, wall panelling, columns, façades, stairs, room dividers, planters and table screens — even entire buildings — that are all made from 100% circular, sustainable recycled and renewable materials.

The construction sector accounts for 39% of all global carbon emissions and is one of the largest polluting industries in the world. The turnkey platform enables AEC industry professionals and consumers to create truly unique, 100% sustainable products without being slowed down by extensive prototyping and long lead times.

The platform allows for a 10X faster design-to-build process, eliminates waste and reduces materials usage and CO2 emissions, resulting in up to a 50% cost savings and the possibility to create truly sustainable, custom-made architectural and interior design products.

Commercial real estate projects already deployed globally by Aectual include flooring in Amsterdam's Schiphol

International Airport, flooring in BMW World in Munich, and the temporary EU building in Amsterdam.

To facilitate global deployments, the company has built a stable international ecosystem, partnering with reliable multinationals such as Henkel (materials), ABB (robotics) and Arup (engineering).

A key factor in its success is the combination of the three pillars of the AEC into a one-stop-shop solution: digitally linking architectural design parameters with engineering constraints, and then producing a verified 3D-print file that is constructed with the company's proprietary 3D-printing technology.

The combination enables fast, high-quality product production on an industrial scale and makes custom-made architectural design available to the masses.

Aectual's XL 3-D printing robot in action.





WA8 T



NR 153 - 3R



F5



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Koch brings solutions to India



The BD-60 is a through-feed drilling and dowel insertion machine (R) that can be adapted to suit individual production (L).

Koch, a leading manufacturer of customised woodworking machinery for furniture and kitchen production, has brought its edge-cutting technologies for sawing, shaping, drilling, gluing, doweling and WoodWelding to India.

The German machine manufacturer, with 60 years' global experience, has tied up with Bengaluru-based Nitshaw Technologies, to offer its broad product portfolio, which includes single-sided machines for small volumes as well as through-feed machines for large quantities up to 100 parts per minute.

Highly automated solutions for 'Batch-Size 1' productions also form part of the product range; as well as customised machine concepts according to customers' requirements. It already supplies woodworking technology to the likes of IKEA, Nobilia Kuchen, Jeld-Wen, Wren & Ashely and India's Merino Industries.

Machines made by Koch are characterised by the highest quality, reliability and flexibility. For example, the machine concept BD is a through-feed drilling and dowel insertion machine. Thanks to its modular design, it can be perfectly adapted to suit individual production processes.

Each high-performance, high-precision component can be equipped according to one's specific requirements. Horizontal and vertical drilling units from below and above and edge drilling units can be combined with drilling, sawing, routing or notching units if needed.

Depending on the configuration, the production centres can be used as stand-alone solutions or as part of a production line. The Koch drilling machine is ideal for the processing of small and narrow parts, frame parts, profiled rails and cabinet components.

In comparison to the high volume BD concept, the Uniflex machine line focuses on flexibility: this through-feed drilling machine is perfect for drilling and doweling on a point-to-point basis. For increasing the flexibility even further, the machine can be equipped according to individual needs.

For instance, a doweling station as well as grooving, routing, notching and sawing units can be added if required. Depending on the focus of production, it can accommodate a variable number of drilling spindles and heads for vertical,

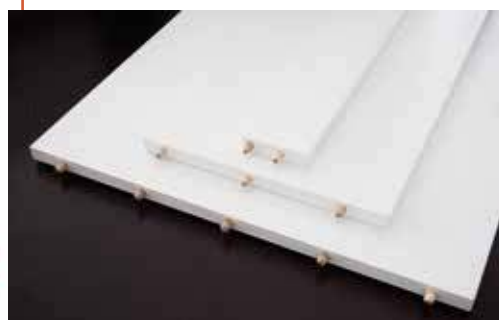
horizontal and long edge drilling.

Point-to-point processing guarantees precise, consistent results for changing drill patterns and work piece widths. Therefore, the machine is not only suitable for larger volumes, but also for Batch-Size 1 manufacturing.

Besides panels, small and narrow parts can be processed on the Uniflex. Furthermore, with Koch's optional double-cycle function, productivity can be increased by processing two panels at a time.

For more information, email markering@nitshaw.com.

The Uniflex machine line (L) focuses on through-feed drilling and doweling. It can accommodate a number of drilling spindles and heads for vertical, horizontal and long edge drilling (R).





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CenturyPly puts up Firewall, at no extra cost

CenturyPly – the first ISO 9002 company in India for plywood and veneer, and also the country's largest manufacturer of plywood and decorative laminates – has announced the introduction of "Firewall" technology to ensure adequate time to act and be safe in case of an outbreak.

Firewall technology is the outcome of arduous and indigenous research work done by the organisation and is available to its customers at no additional cost. It involves the use of nano-engineered particles, which are embedded in the polymer matrix of plywood, giving it best-in-class fire-fighting properties.

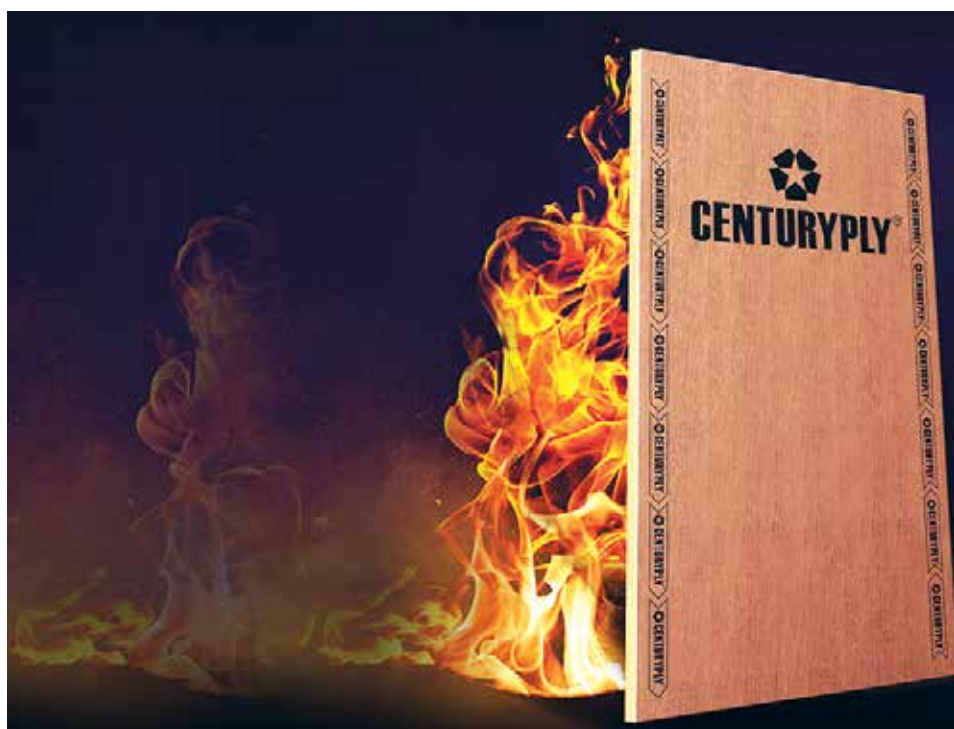
Ordinary plywood, once ignited, rapidly gets destroyed and acts as a medium to spread fire within minutes and also generates a lot of smoke. The rapidly spreading fire ignites and destroys everything in its wake, while the smoke hinders rescue operations

and may suffocate people.

CenturyPly's Firewall technology is certified as the 'best in class' by Indian Standards (IS 5509), American Society for Testing Material (ASTM E84) and British Standard (BS476) when measured against

critical parameters like flammability, spreadability, penetration and smoke-developed index.

CenturyPly's product is best prepared to fight against self-disintegration due to fire and to contain the spread of fire and smoke generation. Once the source of fire is removed it also acts to self-extinguish the fire.



Samhwa unveils anti-viral paint

Samhwa Paint is a global paint company producing items for construction, automobile repair, woodworking, urethane, heavy-duty corrosion protection, epoxy, canning, and resin.

'Safe Doctor' contains a porous, inorganic material with an anti-

viral function, so when the virus in the air comes into contact with the painted surface, 99.9% of the virus is killed.

It is an indoor paint developed with pure acrylic resin with almost no odour, and does not contain the designated six heavy metals. It also has excellent stain resistance and ability to be cleaned by

using special functional additives and can be applied to concrete, wallpaper and doors.

In November 2020, it was tested and verified at FITI for eradicating *Staphylococcus aureus*, a bacterium frequently found in the upper respiratory tract and on the skin, and *Escherichia coli* and the virus killing effect at an affiliated agency from MOHW.

The company has applied for an anti-virus related patent for the first time in Korea with an eco-friendly water-based paint composition having anti-viral, anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and easy cleaning properties.

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Sleek Boards bring Emporio Skin to India



Emporio Skin is the exclusive brand of Kronospan Italia, intended to become the partner of design customers looking for something unique, combining the values of Kronospan-like sustainability, quality and made in Italy.

The 2020-22 Emporio Skin collection consists in 54 innovative, highly valuable decors with special finishes that recall immediate tactile sensations and reproduce natural textures.

These innovative ideas have become a must-have among the most important furniture manufacturers worldwide. Working in the design universe, Kronospan Italia knows how important it is to follow the evolution of taste and needs, to satisfy each customer's needs.

Woods, metals, textiles, stones, concrete, metallic woods, metallic textiles and marbles are traced with extraordinary precision and good taste by the seven Skin

textures:

- Sagade (SG) recreates the irregular effect of hand-sawn wood, literally the "saw effect", representing a noble melding of the tradition of wood and its contemporary expression of living;
- Dolce Vita (DV) is elegant, pure and simple, inspired by natural walnut, creating textural decorations, rich in optical and tactile sensations;
- Cala Bianca (CB) reveals hidden pearlescent tones on sophisticated colors, referring to cement, stone, resin and marble world, becoming the ideal product for urban aesthetics, combining minimalist and modern design;
- Tessuto (SX) honours Italian weaving tradition reproducing textiles which create decorative motifs with natural



shades;

- Giada (GD) starts from a natural element such as stone, and the decor is developed to reveal nuances and luminous reflections that are never cold and bare;
- Miro (SW) texture, with its dark and light tones on ash wood, leads to a very natural tactile effect which is obtained using the 'synchronous pore'

technique (the carving of the pore on the melamine panel is achieved simultaneously to the print itself);

- Minerva suits the interest developed by market to metals, creating a technical surface combining and emphasising both wood and metal.

Pune-based Sleek Boards is proud to bring the Skin Collection to India and is looking to appoint distributors, so that

Indian furniture manufacturers will be able to offer the seven Skin textures to the market.

Interested parties wanting to take up distribution, or furniture manufacturers who want to introduce the new range, may contact kronoboardsindia@gmail.com.



New SCM performance solutions



The ME 40 gets a new rounding unit, offering a unique processing quality without requiring further finishing work.

SCM's 'Joinery Lab' cell offers stand-alone solutions specifically for custom designed production that can guarantee high performance levels. The Joinery Lab cell is focused on models for sizing, edge banding and drilling with a production capacity of around 30 cabinets/shift, a high productivity edge bander and the automatic Startech CN-plus drilling-routing machine.

The Class PX 350 circular saw is fitted

with 46° tilting blade that allows safety, with reduced sizes and a perfect grip on the panel. The saw can house blades up to 350 mm (300 mm when using the scorer blade function).

Operators can work in reduced spaces, thanks to the unique structure and machining process that includes a presser to ensure that the panel is perfectly locked, as well as protecting the operator at the same time.

The 'Ready' mobile control panel guarantees the motor-driven and programmed movement for the blade tilting and the rear stop, resulting in fast and precise positioning and ergonomic operator movement.

ME 40 edge bander

The ME 40 offers high productivity levels and quality performance.



The Startech CN-plus stands out for the 23-spindle drilling head electro spindle and for high-execution speeds.

The new version is the same size as the previous model, but has been further upgraded and fitted with a fully redesigned hard base, which can house the new rounding unit to offer a higher quality finishing even on solid wood edges.

The new rounding unit with a solid structure ensures a unique processing quality without requiring further finishing work.

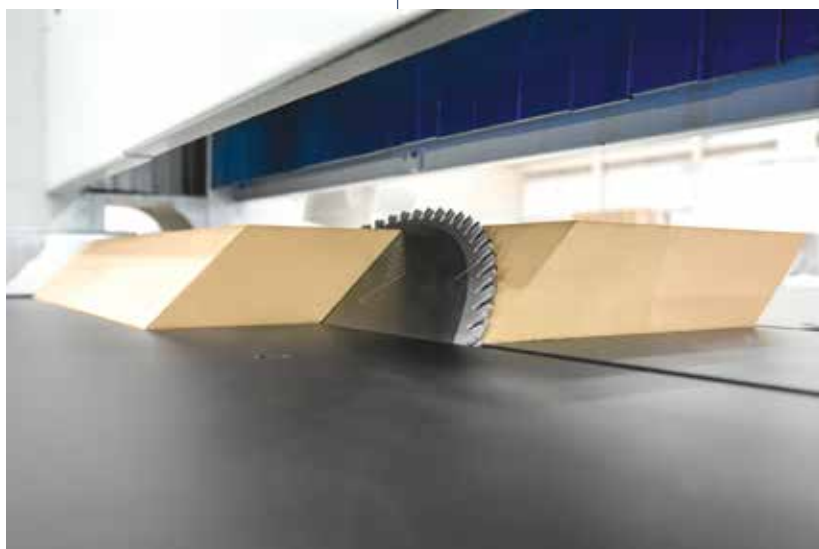
With this new upgrade, productivity can be further increased. The panel feed belt can reach a speed of 9 metres/minute, the highest in this range of solutions.

Processing quality standards also increase with the possibility of working with PU glue and making the mortise scoring.

A 360-degree processing control can be achieved with the option of monitoring the panel position with encoder, throughout the entire processing cycle.

The process management is streamlined from the control panel from where all the main functions can be easily selected, like the activation and exclusion of machining heads. The PLC also assists the

The Class PX 350 circular saw is fitted with 46° tilting blade for safety.



operator with maintenance, cleaning, diagnostics and other operations.

Startech CN-plus

The machine stands out for the significant power of the 23-spindle drilling head electro spindle and for high-execution speeds. Its PC includes SCM Maestro software which guarantees a higher level of communication between machine and projects.

The panel aligner is automatic and guarantees a genuine and complete automation of the drilling and routing machine.



The Thundercut is a new App to manage circular saws, material warehouse and various projects.

Another new development the automatic drilling machines field is with the Startech CN-V, a completely automatic machine that is competitively priced and has a good level of productivity. The 11+ spindle grooving cut blade drilling head operates with a panel clamp and barcode reader.

SCM Thundercut the new Optimizer/Sequencer App is available for iOS and Android OS users. It allows optimising the panel surface and guides the operator through the cutting sequence.

With the App your circular saws fleet, the material warehouse and the various projects can be managed. The 3D sequencer provides simple, intuitive graphics, and recommends the right settings.

The advantages are greater cutting speed, less material waste and mistake odds minimised.



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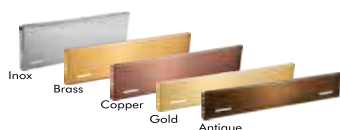
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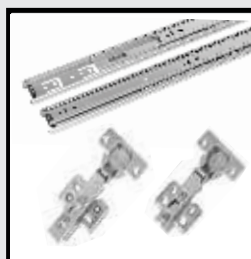
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JK Cement launches premium wood finishes

JK Cement, which has a strong brand presence in the white cement and wall putty segments, has made its foray into the wood finishes with the launch of JKC Wood Amore.

This range of premium polyurethane (PU) wood finishes has been formulated in collaboration with Italian wood coatings and finishes pioneer, Nuova Sivam SpA.

JKC Wood Amore products ensure outstanding finish, appealing aesthetics and higher durability for wood surfaces best suited for interiors.

The "crafted with love" PU range of products is being introduced in clear and white, matt and glossy finishes. It also comes with over 2,000 colour options.

The Wood Amore range of products is so easy to apply that



one can select the colour from the catalogue to choose a finish for the wooden surfaces and can give a touch of artistry to them.

The product is being launched in a phased manner and is already available in some key markets of North India. JKC Wood Amore product and colour excellence centre is located in Gurugram.

The footprint of Wood Amore will expand across India by the year 2022. The brand will further launch polyester, water-based and special effects range of finishes shortly.

Nuova Smalti Industriali Vernici Affini Milano carries 70 years of expertise in coatings and finishes and is one of the first Italian companies to produce paints. It is now sold in more than 40 countries.

A new Super Noise-Lock sliding door

IAC Acoustics, a leading brand of noise control products and solutions serving the industrial, commercial, architectural, and construction industries, has introduced the Super Noise-Lock sliding door.

Super Noise-Lock is a modified and improved version of IAC's previous sliding door, now featuring improved safety options, an updated labyrinth, a new track and motor system and improved seals.

These sliding doors made of rugged steel construction and a field-verified performance rating provides benefit to nearly any situation where noise control is required within a room or building.

Not only is this high-performance door available as a horizontal slide or vertical lift door with either manual or electric operation, but it is also manufactured to custom sizes.

Features such as glazing options, fire-rated construction and blast ballistic ratings are also available.



IAC Acoustics also offers outdoor noise barriers, anechoic chambers, Dyno Rooms and HVAC products. The architectural products include secure facilities, music practice rooms and studio packages. The Medical offering includes mini and full-size audiology booths and test chambers.

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World-class machinery from the Jai stable

Jai Industries offer an unparalleled array of products that include woodworking and panel processing machinery. Its range of machines are products of R&D backed, high-end precision engineering and have the best possible features and are made of the topmost quality material and components. All the products are backed by

dedicated service and guidance.

Jai manufactures 30,000 machines a year in its seven plants spread over a total floor area of 4, 00,000 square feet. Its machines, specifically produced to suit Indian working conditions, ensure performance and operating comfort.

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



J-2400.in (Post Form-Auto)

A high quality CNC model that allows you greater workability with affordable installation and operating cost.

Salient Features

- 8 pneumatic cylinders to apply uniform pressure on work piece through forming rail for effective bonding of laminate
- Ground and hard chrome plated heater bar for smooth operation & long life
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- Facilities for dry runs and manual runs provided for settings & trials
- Automatic post-forming cycle with variable heating time, stop and go time & holding time, which can be adjusted to profile
- Drive motor with brakes is provided to avoid slippage of rotary motion of the heater frame
- Mechanical drive control by limit switch

Technical Specification:

Technical Specification:		
Maximum length of work piece	mm / feet	2440 / 8
Minimum length of work piece	mm	600
Work piece thickness range	mm	16 - 105
Minimum work piece width	mm	200
Maximum heating temperature	°C	200
Compressed air requirement	hp / kg-cm	2.0 / 7
Heating element	kw	3.5
Electric motor - 3 phase	hp	0.5
Machine dimensions (L x B x H)	mm	3300 x 1460 x 1830
Approx. net weight	kg	1300



Separate Electronics & Pneumatic compartments for easy accessibility and maintenance.



Special Pneumatic gauge operated by 2 pneumatic cylinders for repetitive jobs setting.



Pressure Clamp working with 3 pneumatic cylinders with rubber pad for better grip on work piece and to avoid damage while clamping.

Pneumatic cylinder panel with heater bar to apply uniform pressure on work piece for effective bonding of laminate.





J-3400.in

Spindle Moulder S-n-T (with sliding & tilting facility)

Salient Features

- Hard anodized 1300 x 360 mm wide aluminum extrusion sliding table that is precision machined
- Ground & electronically balanced spindle for vibration free operation
- Easy & convenient system for locking of spindle shaft
- Spindle driven by motors through V-belts housed in sealed bearings that ensure minimum maintenance

Technical Specification:		
Specifications	Unit	Technical Parameters
Fix table size	mm	865 x 548
Sliding table length	mm	1300
Sliding table width	mm	360
Spindle diameter	mm	30
Up / Down movement of spindle	mm	100
Spindle tilt	degree	45°
Spindle speed	rpm	6000 / 8000
Max. Moulding block width	mm	100
Dust extraction port diameter	mm	100
Electric motor - 3 phase	hp	5
Machine dimensions(L x B x H)	mm	1550 x 1200 x 1200
Approx. net weight	kg	400



- 2 spindle speeds - 6000 / 8000 rpm - for selection depending on tool diameter
- Dust chute provided on fence assembly for dust evacuation



1300 mm hard-anodized sliding table is precision for easy functioning.



*Auto Feeder (Optional) for auto feeding of work piece as shown in picture (*3 Rollers * 8 speed * 1 hp/3-phase motor)*



WOODNEWS

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Flexicut belts for fine finishes



Wide sanding belts find application in sanding plywood, particle boards, hardwood for furniture and MDF boards.



Narrow sanding belts and rolls are specially developed for light to medium pressure machine sanding, as well as for hand sanding.

Aurangabad-based (Maharashtra) Flexible Abrasives, one of the leading manufacturers in India of coated abrasives for woodworking, offers specially designed products for all types of applications.

Wide sanding belts are specially designed for drum sanding operations for plywood, particle boards, hardwood for furniture, MDF boards, etc.

These products come in aluminium oxide (419R and 428MP Super qualities). For sanding of laminate sheets the silicon carbide belts

(519R and 519RS qualities) are suitable for high pressure working.

For medium pressure working, depending upon the application, Flexible Abrasives also offers economy versions in aluminium oxide (428MP and 438MP qualities).

These belts ensure excellent finish throughout the product life. The open grain structure helps to prevent clogging, making it ideal for all wood applications.

These belts are available up to 1350mm width, suitable for dry application only.

Narrow sanding belts and rolls ensure excellent finish on plywood and any wood-based product. They are available in aluminium oxide and are specially developed for light to medium pressure machine sanding, as well as for hand sanding operations. These come in qualities 428/438M, 428MP, 438MP and 428MP Super, and are available in a wide range of sizes and grits.

These products are specially developed to withstand any heat generation as well as elongation during use. For enquiries email at@flexibleabrasives.com or Jagadish@flexibleabrasives.com.

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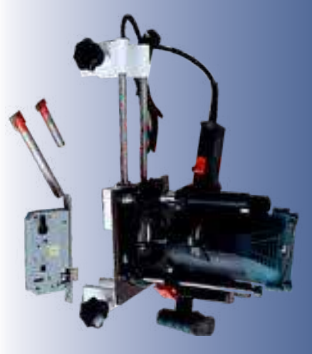
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Mr. James Gayen

(Manager-Customer Relations)

(M) 9168631175 Email – info@flexibleabrasives.com

Best-in-class putty from Richwood

Sholapur-based Richwood Industries, a pioneer in wood putty and plywood crack fillers, is known for the product, Richfill, putty used to repair wooden cracks, plywood edges and core gaps.

Richfill wood putty is developed scientifically to solve all the filling

pinholes in wood and plywood.

The putty is available in different colours that include teakwood, rubberwood, jet black, steam beech, white and American walnut.

Richfill wood putty is a powder that can be made into a paste by adding water, which can be then be applied on the



L-R: The crack in a wooden leg, after application of Richfill wood putty, and after sanding it.

Important properties

• The perfect crack filler	• High density filler	• Sink free	• Non harmful
• Water- based	• User friendly	• Crack free	• Easy to sand
• Can be nailed	• No wastage	• Less shrinkage	• Value for money
• Can be carved with wood		• Good holding capacity	

problems related to wood. The product is very useful to fill wooden cracks, knots, damaged corners, edge gaps, and nail and

damage surface of wood. The putty is useful to repair damaged wood, mould, sculpture, stonework, plywood crack, edge gap of block board.

It can also be used to fill gaps and cracks on wooden floors, rattan, bamboos, MDF, etc. It beautifies the wood and resolves any problems associated with it.

Original blades from Wood-Mizer

Wood-Mizer is a world-leading brand in the market of wood processing machinery. Its band-saw blades are used in sawmills in almost every corner of the world and are used to saw every type of wood, from hard tropical species to softwood from Europe.

It offers band-saw blades in over 100 configurations, based on different profiles, tooth settings, and steel grades. The blades are manufactured using top quality European steel and utilising the most advanced machine tools available for the industry today.

The blade production process is certified according to the standards of ISO 9001:2015. The whole manufacturing process is

controlled by a computerised system and an advanced internal lab that is responsible for ensuring only the best material is used.

From start to finish, the company uses the best equipment to manufacture sawmill blades. The approved raw steel is prepared and processed on highly efficient and specialised machines capable of continuous work and producing a product that passes additional quality checks.

The blades are induction hardened and every tooth of the blade is hardened to make it stronger and tougher. As a result, the blade can cut for a longer time, is more resistant to abrasion, and can cut with higher quality, especially in hard species of wood.



Depending on the customer's order, the material is cut to the desired length. Only the blades which have successfully passed strict quality tests qualify to be shipped to the customer.

It is packed into branded boxes with full product information – blade type, width and length of the blade, type of blade material, profile, raw material ID number, date of production, and QR code.

Blum 'steps-up' innovation for cabinet plinths



Storage restrictions in kitchens are forcing planners to make more use of vertical spaces available within the kitchen layout to offer more freedom in storage. But the higher one goes with vertical space utilisation, the more out-of-reach storage items can be for one to access.

Keeping ergonomics and convenience at the forefront of design, Häfele's exclusive kitchen partner, Blum, has come up with a simple innovation for the cabinet plinth area that can help you access storage items in upper cabinets easily and effortlessly.

The 'Space Step' pull-out solution by Blum is a unique fitting that occupies the otherwise unused space in the cabinet plinth area like any other drawer unit – the difference being that this drawer unit acts as a 'step' for you to climb onto and reach out to the higher cabinet areas with much ease, stability and convenience.

This plinth fitting can also be used in the bathroom vanity areas,



providing children with some extra height to carry out their daily hygiene activities at the wash basin.

The clever plinth solution also fulfils another function: the top of the step can be simply pushed back into the cabinet to reveal a pull-out underneath. This is where Space Step creates extra storage space for seldom-used storage items.

Crafted to withstand loads of up to 150 kg, the Space Step presents itself as a formidable solution in kitchens and other areas. It can be used for step heights of 80mm to 250mm and is suitable for

cabinet widths of 400mm to 1200mm.

Be it recessed plinths, recessed low plinths or flush plinths, the plinth solution by Blum can be implemented for all standard plinth types.

For supreme user convenience, one can combine the solution with the servo-drive electrical opening support system by Blum. It can also be easily implemented with mechanical motion technologies such as Tip-On Blumotion and Tip-On.

The Space Step pull-out solution by Blum reinvents the definition of cabinet plinths within kitchens and bathrooms.

Indian architects reimagine 'jhoola'

The American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) and Think!Design are presenting AHEC's biggest and most ambitious design collaboration in India to date: Reimagine.

The project challenges five of India's leading architects to recreate that quintessentially Indian piece of furniture: the swing seat (jhoola). The architects involved are Annkur Khosla, Sonali and Manit Rastogi, Naresh V Narasimhan, Prem Nath and Sanjay Puri.

They have been asked to draw on their childhood and to temper these with 'grown-up' elegance in a furniture piece for a contemporary context; a limited edition, legacy piece made out of American hardwoods.

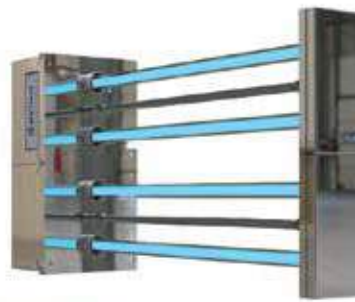
Each architect is required to select from six species (a single species or a combination), which include American cherry, hickory, hard maple, red oak, white oak and tulipwood. All five pieces will be manufactured by Bram Woodcrafting Studio in Mysuru.

'Virus killer' for AC environments

With mounting evidence that Covid-19 can spread through the air, a whole market new for devices and technologies that can clean and disinfect the air in preventing the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus has opened up.

UVHeal SafeAir, a UV-based air disinfectant for central air-conditioning systems, has been developed by Delhi-

based start-up Airific Systems. The brand has already deployed its



technology in several malls, offices and theatres.

UVHeal SafeAir has now become India's first UVGI system, tested and certified by ICMR-CSIR, Virology Lab (CCMB) for 99% disinfection for the virus that causes COVID-19.

UVHeal SafeAir is one of the most innovative products that give a strong voice to the 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' movement. It is suitable for use in all public places equipped with central air-conditioning systems.

Design award for IMK Architects



Mumbai-based architecture and urban design firm, IMK Architects, has been honoured as a Winner at the prestigious 2021 Surface Design Awards, London, for their

project on the Symbiosis University Hospital and Research Centre (SUHRC).

In a virtual ceremony the firm also won in the 'Public Building Exterior' category for its design of SUHRC, a 41,800-square-

metre, 216-bed, multi-specialty hospital in Lavale, near Pune.

Winners in the 12 categories were chosen from a pool of over 100 projects across the world. The award jury commended IMK Architects for the use of compressed stabilised earth bricks at SUHRC.

Last year's winner, New-Delhi-based design practice, Studio Lotus, also previously won in the same category for its design of Krushi Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Coming: Merino factory in Gujarat

Leading furniture manufacturing company Merino Industries' proposal to establish a plant with an investment of Rs 630 crore at Halol has been approved by the Gujarat government.

Merino has proposed setting up facilities for wood processing for particle board, pressing for particle board, pressing for pre-lam particles board, coating on pre-lam particle board, and cutting, edging and drilling of furniture.

Hexa names actress brand ambassador



After good success in kitchen hardware and accessories Hexa Kitchens has launched a modular kitchen range with actress Vaani Kapoor as its brand ambassador.

Hexa is now entering the tier-1 and tier-2 markets through the franchise model with its premium range of modular kitchen. In tier-3 cities, Hexa will be associating with interior designers and architects, or even existing modular kitchen stores.

The company is already exporting kitchens to the US, West Asia and Australia and is developing a global web portal which will cater to global as well as Indian clients.

Salice sets up base in India

Despite today's challenging business environment, Salice is expanding its operations to closely reflect the ever-changing demands of world markets. The establishment of Salice India brings a further important extension to its global reach and marks the consolidation of its presence in one of the fastest growing economies.

Located in Thane, near Mumbai, Salice India will be the logistics hub and the commercial subsidiary within one of the regions that is home to the largest number of companies, active both nationally and internationally, in the furniture sector.

Its geographically strategic position and the ease and immediacy of connection with different parts of the country will also ensure prompt customer service, flexibility and quick and punctual deliveries.

Amazon to assemble furniture at home

Amazon is experimenting with a premium service in the US that lets customers opt to have furniture or appliances assembled as soon they arrive at their homes. It would help the world's largest online retailer compete more effectively with other furniture and appliances malls such as Wayfair, Best Buy, Home Depot and Lowe's.

Amazon currently offers scheduled delivery of big items – such as bunk beds and treadmills – to a particular room in a shopper's home. The new service requires drivers to unpack and assemble the items, remove the packaging and install it.

The new service will include furniture, ceiling fans and even wall-mounted televisions. The service will also allow drivers to take the item back on the spot if the customer isn't satisfied, according to a presentation reviewed by Bloomberg.

Previously, Amazon customers in the US had to schedule a different contractor to come to their home at a different time to assemble the product, assuming the service was even offered in their location.

IKEA launches new 2030 forest agenda

The IKEA business has been committed to using its size and reach to eliminate forest degradation and deforestation around the world. It recently announced a new forest agenda for 2030 as a way to ramp up the work to further enhance biodiversity and mitigate climate change. Last year Inter IKEA Group announced a 200-million-Euro investment to speed up transformation to become climate positive.

The IKEA Forest Positive Agenda for 2030 includes taking the lead and making responsible forest management the norm across the world; improving biodiversity; supporting the rights and needs of people who depend on forests across the whole wood supply chain; driving innovation to use wood in smarter ways and storing carbon



for as long as possible; securing that at least one-third of the IKEA wood range will be made from recycled wood; ensuring that the sourcing of other critical deforestation risk raw materials and continuing to only use wood from more sustainable sources certified by global third-party certification systems.



New directors at SCM Group

The SCM Group, a global leader in technologies for processing a wide range of materials and industrial components, has appointed a new board of directors with Mr Giovanni Gemmani (President), Mr Marco Mancini (CEO), Mr Andrea Aureli, Mr Enrico Aureli and five other members.

Marco, with SCM Group since 2015 and currently General Manager, will also take up the position of CEO. The board is comprised of representatives of the next generation, together with professional figures, to consolidate the Group's governance.

German machinery imports at €2.3 bn

Germany, the 7th-largest foreign direct investor in India and largest trading partner in Europe, has more than 1,700 German companies active in India and over 600 Indo-German joint ventures in operation. German investments in India are mainly in transportation, electrical equipment, metallurgical industries, insurance, chemicals, construction, trading and automobiles.

In spite of the rapid spread of the Covid-19 pandemic during 2020, Indian and German enterprises have managed to capitalise on each other's strengths and seek new opportunities in commercial engagement. In 2020, Indian imports from Germany amounted to € 10.7 billion, out of which machinery imports comprised 21.5 % and stood at € 2.3 billion.

In the machinery sector, major demand of German equipment was for power transmission (12.7%), valves and fittings (5.8%), machine tools (5.7%), air handling technology (4.9%), and construction equipment and building material machinery (4.8%).

In 2020, India imported machinery of the value € 19.6 billion globally, with Germany accounting for a share of around 11.8%. In the last 5 years, Pune has become the hotbed for new German investments. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are other important destinations.

Herman Miller to acquire Knoll

US furniture giant Herman Miller has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Knoll Inc. for \$1.8

billion, combining two of the top five contract furniture makers in North America. According to a statement from Herman Miller and Knoll, the combined company will have annual revenues of approximately US\$ 3.6 billion.

The two companies collectively represent 19 brands and have a presence across more than 100 countries, a global dealer network, 64 showrooms globally, more than 50 physical retail locations, and global multi-channel e-commerce capabilities.

Catas working on VOC code

The leading European testing laboratory for the wood-furniture sector ended the year 2020 with better results than expected. It is back to normal, with the inevitable fluctuations due to the pandemic situations the world over.

The issue of the emissions undoubtedly stays on the top and in the first months of 2021, Catas recorded an upward trend in test requests from customers from all over the world.

The issue of indoor air quality in the living environments is always in the spotlight and within the Italian standardisation body (Uni) Catas is working on a standard for the classification of VOC emissions from furniture components.



Italy could be the first country to adopt a standard that allows the furniture surfaces to be classified according to their emissions and their components, including coatings systems.

Sustainability and ecology are always among the keywords of Catas and one of its first goals will be to provide a new service the life cycle assessment of a furniture product.

Siempelkamp gets 'repeat' Brazil order

The convincing overall performance of Siempelkamp's first plant for the Brazilian wood-based materials producer, Guararapes Paineis, has led to a repeat of the successful concept. Guararapes, one of the most important MDF producers in South America, is fully satisfied with the performance of its first Siempelkamp plant.

For its new Caçador unit, it has ordered an almost identical copy of its successfully operating existing plant with the ContiRoll Generation 9 component. The daily capacity of the MDF plant is designed for 1,500 cubic metres in the 9'x48.7-metre format. All components, from the debarking and chipper line to the packing line,



includes the EcoResinator glue blending system for MDF.

Jowat hit by material shortage

Outages in Europe and in the US, as well as limited freight capacities on sea and on land, have a negative impact on the availability of raw materials essential to adhesive manufacturing.

As a result Jowat is facing a disruption to the supply of key raw materials and adhesive intermediates caused by outages at several European and American chemical

manufacturers. Availability of raw materials essential to adhesive manufacturing had already been limited prior to the outages.

The situation has been further exacerbated by the recent severe winter in the US South which has led to the loss of a large part of refinery and chemical production capacities in the US. This has also impacted the supply chains of Jowat's international locations and will take weeks or even months to recover.

Swiss rules for grading sawn timber now in English

Industry organisations, Swedish Wood and Svenskt Trätekniskt Forum, are launching a new handbook called *Commercial Grading of Timber*, in partnership with Suomen Sahateollisuusmiesten Yhdistys in Finland and Treindustriens Tekniske Forening in Norway. The handbook is the English version of the Swedish title *Handelssortering av trävaror*.

The new rules are based on previous grading rules and test grading. The values in the previous rules have been carefully reviewed and revised, based on current production and market conditions.



Akzo Nobel sets up contest for start-ups

For the second time, Akzo Nobel is looking for innovative start-ups that offer solutions in specific subject areas for the 'Paint-the-Future' competition. The second edition of the competition will launch on May 18.

Led by Akzo Nobel, the global platform has become the industry's largest collaborative innovation network. Start-ups will be invited to submit solutions addressing five challenge themes: Enhanced functionality, Customer

experience; Smart application; Circular solutions; and Smart manufacturing and supply chain.

Exploration, enrichment and evaluation of the submissions will continue through July 20. Select finalists will be invited to a collaboration event in late 2021, where the challenge winners will be announced. For more information visit www.lets paintthefuture.com.

Sutherland opens showroom in India

Perennials and Sutherland, leaders in the international design industry and the pre-eminent provider of luxury furniture, performance textiles and accessories, announced the opening of a showroom in Mumbai. The newest Perennials showroom will offer a curation of Perennials fabrics and rugs, as well as select Sutherland furniture.

The opening comes after the brand's successful Perennials India expansion, a three-building rug facility in Gujarat that houses hundreds of artisans and looms – the manufacturing hub of Perennials rugs.

The 1,600-square-foot space will house a limited selection of fabrics and rugs, as well as a handful of Sutherland furniture designs. The Mumbai showroom will cater to architects and interior designers with trade pricing.





Japanese woodworking events in NY

Japan Society is presenting 'When Practice Becomes Form: Carpentry Tools from Japan', an exhibition celebrating the resilient spirit of Japanese architecture and craftsmanship through woodworking tools, architectural patterns, and models.

The exhibition in New York City highlights

an enduring connection between traditional Japanese wooden construction and modern architecture. Featuring a variety of hand tools and wooden models reflecting joinery techniques that have been used for hundreds of years to build Japan's wooden architectural masterpieces, the exhibition unpacks the

intangible qualities of craftsmanship.

The exhibition runs from March 11 to July 11. There will be free carpentry tool demonstrations in April and May, a paid carpentry tool workshop online in May, and a lecture by Sou Fujimoto online on June 24. For further information, visit www.japansociety.org.

2020 was good for Giardina



Giardina, one of the best-known brands in the world for the quality and effectiveness of its painting solutions, achieved a good 2020, thanks to the excellent results achieved in several markets.

Destefani, the new company of the group that inherits skills and experience recognised throughout the world in the field of edge and profile sanders, performed well in 2020 and in the last six months the number of machines produced has quadrupled.

The company also introduced the patented system for the roller finishing of shaped surfaces, drying technologies with better performance, and the new Dualtech 420 spray machine for high productivity. The Giampiero Mauri Innovation Centre was reopened and the work for the new electric panel assembly department is scheduled for completion.

Sherwin-Williams announces low-odour coatings



Sherwin-Williams, a global industry leader in the development of technologically advanced paint and coatings for some 155 years, recently rolled out its latest Asia-Pacific marketing strategy for industrial wood coatings business.

The ambitious plan highlights a series of eco-friendly innovations that provide consumers with green and gracious living experience.

As its first endeavors for the Asia-Pacific in 2021, Sherwin-Williams announced two major eco-innovation initiatives in its Huarun paints brand. The first is an Odour Evaluation Center, which is the first of its kind in both Sherwin-Williams as well as in the industry.

The second is a brand-new Low-Odour series that consists of eight wood coatings products. Both are Grade-1 for odour (dry film) and are certified by the China Environmental Labeling Programme.

In Asia Sherwin-Williams supplies coating solutions with famous brands such as Sherwin-Williams, Valspar, Huarun Paint, Aquaspar, Valde, AWPX, Ultra7000, Fluropon, WeatherXL and others for the construction, consumer, industrial, packaging and transportation industries.

Global demand for LPLs to grow

Global demand for low-pressure laminates (low-basis weight papers, saturated papers, vinyl films, and decorative foils) is forecast to increase 2.2% per year to 9.1 billion square meters in 2024. These and other trends are presented in the new Freedonia Group study, Global Decorative Laminates.

Thermo-plastic films, mostly vinyl films, are expected to post the faster gains of LPL types due in part to their performance advantages, such as ease of cleaning, durability, and enhanced designed flexibility as they can wrap around irregular and curved surfaces.

Gains for vinyl films will result from their favorable cost and performance in comparison to other types of LPLs and HPLs. In particular, these products are valued for their use on furniture and store fixtures with curved edges and cabinet doors with raised panels.

Growth seen for paints, coatings in SE Asia

A new analysis of the US\$ 186-billion global paint and coatings market projects that the world's emerging markets – most predominantly those in the Asia-Pacific region – will continue to post the fastest gains through 2024, driven by rising income levels and expanding industrial sectors in these countries.

Led by China, by far the world's largest market, the Asia-Pacific region is forecast to account for nearly 80% of new global paint and coatings demand in volume terms through 2024, driven primarily by manufacturing and construction trends in China and India.

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COMPANIES IN THIS ISSUE

Company Name	Page Nos.	Page Nos.	Company Name	Page Nos.	Page Nos.
Machines & Tools					
Altendorf India		15	JK Cement (Amore Wood Coatings)	72	
Axcent Air Flow Technologies		65	Jowat	83	
Barberan SA		5	Kleiberit		23
Biesse Manufacturing Co.	44		Kronospan/ Slek Boards LLP	68	37
Bosch Tools		PFE	Merino Industries	81	
Caple Industrial Solutions		31	Nimmi Hardware		25
Carve Tech		67	Praveedh Décor		17
Creations Infra India Private Limited		19	Rakshan Home		71
Felder GmbH	14	21,53	Richwood Putty	78	13
Ferro Foundries		59	Salice	81	
Giardina	85		Samhwa Paints	66	
Holytek		3	Sherwin-Williams	86	
Homag GmbH	26		Simalfa Adhesives	50	
Jai Industries	74	27, 39	Surfa Coats		51
Jovas Tech		61	Venzo Wood	56	
Kalyan Industries		49	Wood Finishing		87
Koch GmbH	64		Industry Services		
Leitz Tools		PFIBC	Amazon	81	
Lipi Marketing Pvt Ltd		57	American Hardwood Export Council	54,80	BC
Marian Services		63	Canadian Wood/ FIL-India	18	
Nitshaw		2	Catas	83	
Rasa Engineering		76	China International Furniture Fair 2021		20
Siempelkamp	83		Herman Miller	82	
SCM Group	69,82		Hexa Kitchens	81	
Technik		43	Hexagon		29
Weining		IBC	IKEA	82	
Wen Chih/ Tong Fong		47	IMK Architects	80	
Woodtech Consultants		32, 33	India Toy Fair 2021	22	
WoodMaster(India)Machines		73	Interzum 2021	12	
Wood-Mizer	78		Japan Society	85	
Yow Cherng		43	Ligna 2021	10	
Materials & Products			Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification	24	
Aectual	62		Sutherland Furniture	84	
Airific Systems	80		Swedish Wood	84	
Akzo Nobel	84		Taiwan International Woodworking Machinery Show	16	
Binderholz Deutschland GmbH	58		Total Environment	34	
B&K Structures	58		World Green Building Council	60	
Century Plyboards	66				
Decora Kitchens		7			
Flexible Abrasives	76	77			
Green Panel		IFC			
Häfele	79				
IAC Doors	72				

Editorial

Advertisement

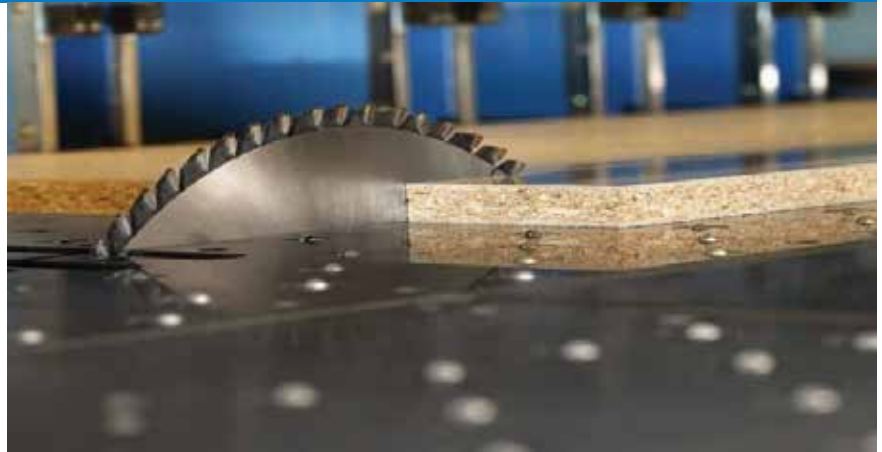
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