

NEW GENERATION MATERIALS

by Paola Govoni

The research into innovative materials is a never ending process, which largely contributes to the success of the furniture and furnishings industry.

A new generation of materials with superior optical and sensorial qualities – mainly composite and engineered stones – represents an alternative to traditional solid surfaces.

On the other hand, natural stone as well as high tech ceramic offer new applications through thin sheets and high versatility.

Newly born surfaces prove to be first-class concerning aesthetics, functionality, reliability and high performance. Most of them feature a “green” soul as well ‘...so you can enjoy its beauty and function with added peace of mind’ (quoted from PaperStone).

GREEN ARCHITECTURAL SURFACE

PaperStone Certified is a ‘green’ architectural surface made from 100% post-consumer recycled office paper and non-petroleum, water based, phenolic resins derived from organic materials. Phenolic resins and paper composites have long been known to be abrasion and fire resistant with superior tensile, compression, impact and flexural strengths.

PaperStone can be easily worked and installed using traditional woodworking tools. Strong, durable, easy to clean, heat resistant, it is distributed in Italy by Evostone, a new eco-friendly reality based near Brescia and operating in the fields of architecture and design, promoting the use of new generation materials, elegant, functional and sustainable.

BRETONSTONE PLANT AND TECHNOLOGY

Millions of sq.m. of Bretonstone® have been used to cover both large and small surfaces all over the world; in airports, banks, public buildings, underground stations, shopping centers, retail stores and private homes. Bretonstone®, also referred to as natural stone or quartz sur-

facing by Breton technology or simply compound stone or engineered stone, is produced using plants and technologies patented by Breton S.p.A. (www.breton.it), world leader in the sector with headoffice near Treviso, Italy.

This compound stone is made of more than 90% natural stone aggregates, bonded together using a structural resin-based binding paste. Different stones can be used in the Bretonstone® system process: silica sands, quartz grits, quartzite, diorite, granite, marble grits, limestone, ecc.

All these raw materials are readily available on the market. Special aesthetics are achieved when the product is made with the addition of colored glass, mirrors, mother-of-pearl or small pieces of semi-precious stones such as lapislazuli, amethyst, etc. in any color.

The range of application is wide: kitchen counters fabricated with anti-wear materials that are waterproof and resistant to acid attack; vanity tops, interior wall cladding, stairs, and window sills; exterior cladding resistant to atmospheric agents and UV radiation; floors for small and large areas in various thickness, color and size.



Bretonstone.



Laminam.



Evostone.



Nano-Stone in the kitchen,

SURPRISINGLY LARGE, LIGHT AND THICK

Laminam® is an innovative, natural and ecological product that flaunts the latest ceramic technology. A fully industrialized process generates an astonishingly large slab of 3x1 m with a thickness of just 3 mm and boasting excellent properties (hygienic as well as resistant to chemical attack, wear, flexure, frost and fire). Being aware of the potential benefits for the kitchen sector, Laminam S.p.A. - a company based in the heart of the ceramic district near Modena, Italy, - has encouraged skilled furniture makers to use the ceramic product and the results were presented at the Salone del Mobile (Furniture Exhibition) in Milan. The versatility of the product in making components with original and refined stylish combinations, its light weight, faultless finishes, scratch-resistance and hygienic properties were particularly appreciated. More, Laminam can be cut and drilled on site using normal tools for glass. Many finishing treatments are possible: some of them leave the product looking like natural stone and others create a more modern graphic effect.

“O” IS THE SIGN OF PERFECTION

OKITE® is a young brand launched in the year 2000 by SEIEFFE, a family-owned group of companies located near Benevento, Italy, with a long tradition and more than 50 years of activity ranging from prefabrication for construction industry to real estate and financing sector. OKITE, a well recognised brand with its red circle logo, is available in nine seductive collections in 90 colours under the motto “give life to your creativity”. Fully compliant with international safety and

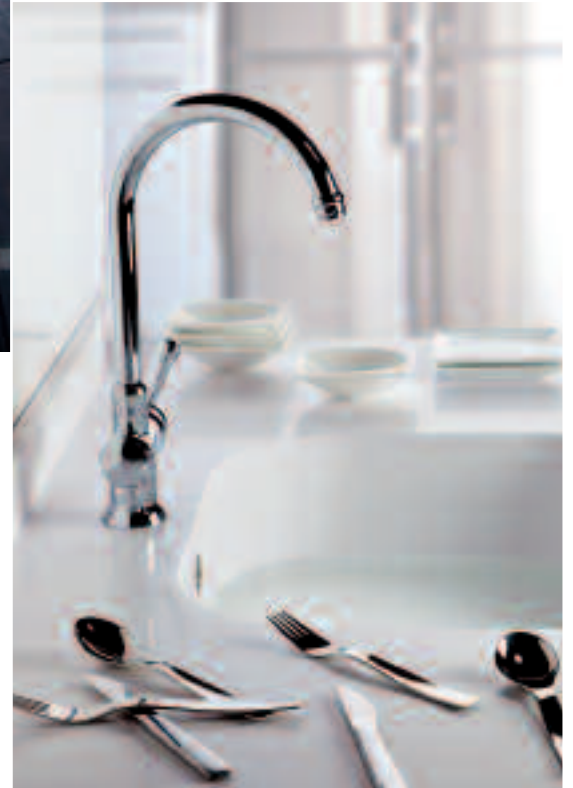
eco-standards, OKITE is gaining a growing reputation for quality and excellence in the US, Europe and Asia.

STONE-VENEER® A MILESTONE FOR THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY

Light, flexible and ultra-thin. Stone-Veneer® is the very first natural stone which a woodworker can process with his usual tools.

Stone-Veneer® by RICHTER Furniertechnik (leading German veneer manufacturer) is a real natural sheet of stone. The veneers are split in a thickness of 0,1 to approx. 2,0 mm from natural slate or quartzite rocks. Polyester resin on the backside (Stone-Veneer) and natural fibers (NanoStone) are holding the extremely thin sheets together. The split rough, natural surface makes each stone sheet a unique piece and an adventure for the senses. 12 different stones are available in sizes of 1'220 x 610 mm (standard size) up to 2'650 x 1'250 mm.

Since Stone-Veneer® was presented for the very first time in Italy in 2006 a rapidly growing community of companies is using it with growing success. Indeed, this multipurpose natural surface material is entering markets and spaces we never thought before, such as exhibition stands, mobile partition walls and sliding doors, furniture, lightweight construction, airplanes, automotive and Yacht/shipbuilding industries. RICHTER-Italia is based in Rovio, Switzerland: www.richter-italia.com



Integrity White by Cosentino.

TOP AND SINK WITHOUT JOINTS

Cosentino, leading Spain-based manufacturer of Silestone natural quartz surfaces, launched Integrity, the Silestone® sink especially designed for those who want all the advantages of Silestone (outmost hygiene, high scratch and acid resistance, beauty, easy cleaning and durability) in a new product offering a uniformity never seen before in kitchen worktops, thanks to its “one piece” effect.

Worktop and sink are united and perfectly combined without joints, thus allowing a simple installation. Integrity by Silestone is currently available in a single bowl format, it is called the ONE model and measures 41x51x15.5 cm.