



The Duncan MacKellar Signature Collection of plaster wall finishes for Armourcoat was developed with the use of advanced CAD and CNC software.

product is called BauBuche. According to Jan Hassan of Pollmeier, 'BauBuche opens new possibilities for the design of larger spans with slimmer, more elegant, structural elements.' He points out that the pleasing appearance of hardwood means there's nothing to stop users from leaving it fully exposed.

Ultra Luxury

The appeal of contemporary surfaces with a high-end, handcrafted appearance is undeniable. The Dialoghi collection, compliments of Mosaico+, combines wood, natural stone, metal and glass in mosaics that suggest ancient arts while giving the space in question a 'here and now' feel. The Marea tile, to name just one member of the family, has an abstract motif that highlights the rich contrasts between the materials mentioned.

'Ultra-luxury finishes are a growing interest,' confirms Duncan MacKellar, whose Signature Collection for Armourcoat – with its exclusive polished-plaster wall finishes – underpins his words. 'We developed a novel 3D sculptural wall system,' says group marketing director Daniel Nevitt, 'which offers contoured seamless wall effects, created using CAD and CNC software. This trend – a blend of texture and sculptural contours that begins on the computer screen – will eventually allow architects and designers to express form and function in ways that would have been prohibitively expensive or even impossible in the past.'

Part of the Furniture

Obviously, cutting-edge finishes are also key in the world of furniture. According to Lapalma's Romano and Dario Marcato, the use of new and innovative materials, besides distinguishing their products from the competition, also helps to ensure high quality and performance.

↳ a search that Móz Designs is responding to with its brand-new equipment and know-how.

New Takes on Technique

It's no surprise that this year's finishes feature all sorts of technical eye-openers. Ceramics company Florim developed a new technique especially for its #collection01. A dry-powder coating applied to Florim's new tile series achieves a natural effect that closely mimics stone, in part because the clay is 'surface-sculpted' during the coating process. Inspiration for the method was found in the spontaneous shaping that occurs during the natural erosion of stone. In both cases, results are unpredictable.

Pollmeier's research led to a cost-effective technology for producing top-quality laminated veneer lumber (LVL) from beech for architectural applications. The process is similar to the one used to make LVL from softwood. The



Cuban, a three-legged table by Ivan Woods for Schiavello, gives commercial interiors a domestic air. The table is available in oak or walnut with a natural-wood or painted finish.



The intricately patterned Marea tile is part of Mosaico+'s Dialoghi series, which is composed of wood, natural stone, glass and metal.



The beauty of marble embellishes Neutra's groundbreaking Hydrowell whirlpool bath, a world premiere, thanks to the material. Carved from a single block of Bianco Carrara marble, the tub has a massage function and maintains the desired water temperature, owing to the thermal conductivity of stone.

Lapalma's latest designs include Cut, a chair with a polyurethane shell that is available in a Baydur finish, and Apta, a versatile table with a frame of powder-coated steel and a top in a choice of finishes: honeycomb aluminium, laminate and Canaletto (walnut veneer).

Schiavello's Michelle Hyams believes that current finishes for furniture are 'striving for an honest relationship with the inherent materials beneath'. She cites her brand's Cuban table, which is available in a natural wood finish or in a range of painted colours. The OTM Table, on the other hand, demonstrates the preservative powers of finishes: 'Workers in our purpose-built powder-coating facility apply special low-bake powder finishes to various heat-sensitive substrates, such as MDF, plastic and metal,' she says. 'The result is a highly durable, cost-effective finish that's more environmentally friendly than traditional laminates, veneers and wet-paint finishes.'

Craft Celebration

Bisazza's Contemporary Cement Tiles celebrate the traditional craft of tile-making with a modern interpretation of the irregularly shaped, one-off tiles of yore. Bisazza's update is a medley of exuberantly playful designs by Paola Navone, Jaime Hayon, Carlo Dal Bianco and Bisazza Design Studio. 'Careful craftsmanship gives charm and character to the collection,' says Rossella Bisazza. 'Lasers are used to make the striking patterns. Each tile is unique, because it is made entirely by hand.' She says that a protective coating increases the longevity of the traditional surface.

Neutra's impressively handcrafted Augmented Texture wall coverings and spec-

tacular marble Hydrowell whirlpool bath (a world premiere) display similarities not instantly noticeable: both revel in artisanal quality yet do not reject contemporaneity for nostalgia. The wall coverings, in a smooth or hammered texture, vary in thickness, creating a 3D effect. LED light playing across the wall enhances the drama. The end result illustrates the prediction that Neutra's Benedetta Arnboldi makes for her company's future: she envisions the continued 'development of finishes and finishing processes that add value to the material being used'. X



Bisazza blends traditional tile-making techniques with the use of lasers in its new line of geometrically patterned Contemporary Cement Tiles.

Lapalma's line of exclusive furniture includes the Cut chair and the Apta table. Cut's polyurethane shell, with a Baydur finish, makes the chair suitable for outdoor use. The extendible Apta table encourages users to stretch their legs; it has a frame of powder-coated steel and a top that comes in honeycomb aluminium, laminate, walnut veneer and concrete.



Pollmeier employs the latest technology has to offer in its manufacture of BauBuche, a line of laminated veneer lumber suitable for large-scale architectural and structural projects.

'We look at trends in various fields, from fashion to graphic design'

SILVIA DALLA VALLE,
STONE ITALIANA