



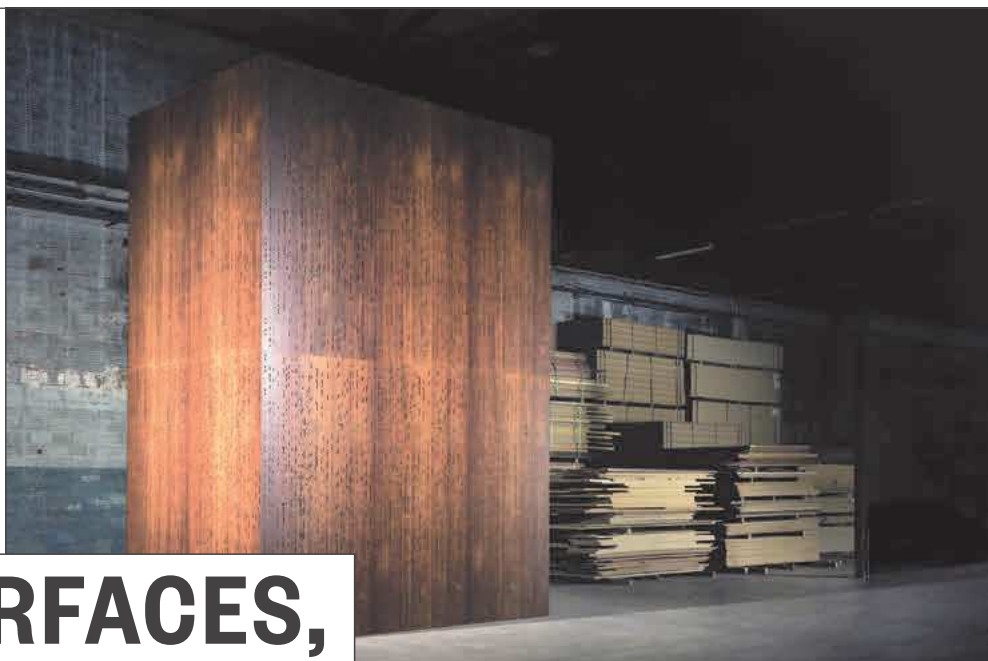
OBERFLEX, 50 YEARS OF INNOVATION

PRESS RELEASE

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A story of a French know-how

OberSurfaces[®]



OBER SURFACES, THE STORY OF A FRENCH GROUP

In 1925, the Ober family founded the company of the same name, which became Ober Surfaces®. Specialist in high-end decorative surface, for nearly 100 years, this French business has accompanied architects, designers and developers in their projects – retail, offices, hotels or even theatres.



A FRENCH KNOW-HOW



Located in Longeville-en-Barrois, the Ober Surfaces group and their staff of 500 has taken root in Lorraine, on the road to Nancy and they have no intention of moving. Hence, its production is 100% French; a Gallic know-how exported to more than 50 countries where the OBER products have an outstanding image, synonymous with luxury and comfort. Exports represent 60% of the company's turnover (39 M euros in 2017).

The demanding nature of this Lorraine company has allowed it to become a true showpiece of French artisanal industry. Quoted on the stock exchange in 2006, the Ober Surfaces group became a member of the Bpifrance Excellence network of companies. In 2013, they were presented with the medal of the Ministry of Industry by the minister Arnaud Montebourg.



A PANEL OF SPECIALISED COMPLEMENTARY SOLUTIONS



The **Ober Surfaces®** group unites five brands, each specialising in decorative surfaces and techniques, each with their own material preferences :

Oberflex, the key brand of the group created in 1968, proposes real-wood laminate, with an unequalled surface resistance – the Oberflex finish.

Marotte, acquired in 2006 by the group, complements their expertise with their complete mastery of textured surfaces on different types of top range woods – made to measure cabinet making.

Pure Paper, imagined in 2015, this brand is the result of a rich collaboration with the designer Patrick Norguet, proposing a new approach to decorative laminate.

Concrete LCDA, the latest Ober products trump card, acquired in 2017, just widened the field of expertise with a material not yet exploited by the group: concrete .

Staron, is the reference brand for quality solid surfaces – solid materials, homogenous and non-porous which can be worked like wood.

Wood, paper, metal, concrete, resin, **Ober Surfaces** possess a complete, wide range of materials for their decorative and technique solutions. A real intention of the group, is that the 600 or so product references give a great liberty of creation and inspire mixing and matching between them, combining them, playing them against each other. Frequently several Ober references can be found on site in the same project, often in close proximity.

Architects particularly appreciate the ability to be able to have different decorative surfaces coexisting, to mix materials, while limiting the number of people intervening and optimising the logistical costs



Oberflex®

CONCRETE LCDA



Marotte®

pure|paper®

staron®
Solid Surfaces



A CULTURE OF INNOVATION BY DESIGN

***In parallel with continued expansion,
Ober Surfaces cultivates a major R&D policy.***

Mindful to accompany their customers to the best of their abilities and to maintain a certain level of excellence, the Ober teams are able to adapt to specific needs and react to precise demands. But the group is most of all a catalyst for constant innovation to enrich an offer that is continually up-to-date.

Each year, new collections give rise to new colours and to new surface and material effects. This capacity to innovate is recognised by the major actors on the market. Ober has thus recently earned the label "Talents INPI 2017". Other priority of the group, the quality of products is certified ISO 9001.



It is important to note that the great innovations of the group are for the major part conceived with the greatest French designers. More than simple commissions, all the collaborations are the fruit of a true dialogue between the creator and the manufacturer, the design of the designer confront the capacity of the tools, the forms push the limits of the material.

In the history of great collaborations of the group, the privileged relationship between Studio 5•5 and Oberflex is well noted, or the important role played by Patrick Norguet in the development of Pure Paper. Plus, recently Marotte enriched their collections calling on the designer Patrick Jouin and the artist/cabinet maker Farouche. At Marotte and Oberflex, there are many temporary collaborations with architects and designers such as Bismut&Bismut, Rodolphe Parente, Le Coadic Scotto, Olivier Gagnère or Suduca&Merillou.

Recently, , Normal Studio, Neri & Hu, Jean-Philippe Nuel, matali crasset and Patrick Norguet created new ranges for Concrete LCDA. The taste for collaboration which as long been the DNA of the brand ; not forgetting collaborations with the designers such Ich & Kar, Jean-Marie Massaud, Victoria Wilmotte, Terence Woodgate or Ora İto.



OBERFLEX, 50 YEARS OF INNOVATION

LUXURY IS AN ARTISANAL INDUSTRY

The aesthetic qualities universally recognised in Oberflex products are the result of rigorous demands at all levels of the chain of production.

The most beautiful varieties of wood, (the classics Oak, Ash, Beech or Pine or the rarer varieties such Alder, Ebony, Rosewood or Zebrano*) are selected from the best suppliers in the world. Each batch of veneers comes from the one same block to guarantee maximum homogeneity of colour and structure. Thanks to a precision in slicing, one block can produce several thousand meters square of veneer: 1m³ of wood produces 700m² of veneer on average.

On arrival, each packet of veneer is opened by hand and verified with the naked eye to remove the sheets or the batches not conform and avoiding all aesthetic shortcomings. The sheets are then sorted by colour and joins. The veneers of wood are then prepared to receive a specific treatment than will make them an Oberflex product. Several aspects of finish are available: mat, satin or silky, sanded or textured.

A final manual verification of the finished product allows the removal of all products showing a flaw in aspect or technical quality. Oberflex doesn't offer any lower end products, so the rejects are recycled in a biomass boiler, which supplies the workshops with most of their energy needs.

The passion for the trade of working with wood, and excellent know-how shows through the history of Oberflex. In 1980, the Brut d'Ober – a panel whose finish is a veneer of rough wood – is launched. In 1990, rare woods like pear or birds-eye maple joined the catalogue with the Prestige collection. In 1991, it's the art of handcraft which takes pride of place in the the Oxydiane collection – a lacquered panel whose decoration is executed by an artist. In 2006, Oberflex leans towards textured surfaces and launches the Textured Wood collection which proposes wood veneer panels with sea effect, gouged, hammered... 9 handcrafted textures which bring a new sensibility to the products of this brand.

* non-exhaustive list of the varieties of wood referenced by Ober: Mahogany, Ako, Anigre, Alder, Bamboo, Birch, Bubinga, Chestnut, Oak, Ebony, Sycamore, Maple, Eucalyptus, Black Limba, Ash, Beech, Makore, Cherry, Movingui, Walnut, American Elm, Rosewood, Pine, Teck, Tineo, Wenge, Zebrano.



OBERFLEX, 50 YEARS OF INNOVATION

TECHNOLOGY CONTINUALLY PERFORMING BETTER

On the strength of a culture of innovation, the Ober family rapidly developed their Oberflex product. From 1989, the brought out Oberswing, the panel becomes flexible.

But the principle line of development where the company will position themselves, is in acoustics. Research began in 1993 with the launch of Chromophone – an acoustic wall block. The same year the Obersound range would be developed, the acoustic selection of the brand. In 1999, Oberflex continues its research and developed Microsound, the first clip-on ceiling panel, simple and quick to install, finished with a real Oberflex coated wood veneer.

In 2007, things speed up thanks to an encounter with Studio 5•5, still a young up and coming collective at the time. Oberflex entrusts them with the conception of an innovative range of acoustic surfaces, making use of an exclusive new production tool. The Result of this first collaboration was 25 models of acoustic panels with patterns inspired by nature or textiles, recognised by a Batimat 2007 design trophy and the EquipHotel 2008 Innovation Prize.

In 2013, Oberflex confirmed their trust in Studio 5•5. Together they developed Tectonique 5•5, a system of ready to install suspended ceilings. This new product allows new modulations and 3D ceilings to be created from a unique standardised system.

In 2018, le Studio 5•5 – now a loyal associate of the brand – developed a series of 6 models of acoustic panels fully customisable through an original web configuration tool, *Obersound.com*.





OBERFLEX, 50 YEARS OF INNOVATION

AN ECO-RESPONSIBLE APPROACH

Intrinsic to their R&D undertakings, Oberflex works towards the constant improvement of the process of production to optimise environmental performance. This policy of sustainable development, from the eco-conception to the products end of life, is one of the key points of the quality initiative.

In 2009, the company is one of the first in the wood industry to have worked out their carbon foot print. This voluntary approach is an extension of the policy of invested responsibility that has been in place for several years.



Wood, the living raw material at the heart of Oberflex's trade is given the greatest attention by the brand. Hence Oberflex is certified PEfc (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification)) since 2005. This certification guarantees that the wood used is from a sustainably managed forest. In 2010, the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification is awarded to Oberflex. This label assures a credible link between responsible consumption and production from the forest and enables responsible choices towards products produced under appropriate ecological management, socially beneficial and economically viable. This certification, obtained in the framework of a move made at the beginning of the year, now allows Oberflex to satisfy the demands of HQE (French for high environmental quality) and to optimise their advantages for export.

Besides, one of the axes of Oberflex research aims to reduce the emission of formaldehydes and its by-products, which are already below the authorised levels and to gradually replace urea-formalin resins currently used with new polymers.

COLLABORATIONS DESIGNERS AND PRODUCT INNOVATIONS

1. OBERFLEX X STUDIO 5.5

2. MAROTTE X PATRICK JOUIN iD

3. CONCRETE LCDA X PATRICK NORGUET

4. CONCRETE LCDA X MATALI CRASSET

5. MAROTTE X FARUCHE

6. PURE PAPER X PATRICK NORGUET

OBERFLEX STUDIO 5.5



STUDIO 5•5

A collective design studio founded in 2003 by Vincent Baranger, Jean-Sébastien Blanc, Anthony Lebossé and Claire Renard after their studies at the l'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués (the national academy for applied arts), they define themselves as furniture surgeons, political DIY and ideas craftsmen. They have thus provoked and jostled the world of design by systematically questioning their profession or at least their role in the process of creation in a consumer society.

Studio 5•5 runs a structure capable of accompanying their clients with the same convictions as at their beginnings: remaining close to people, by proposing things that are useful and aspirational for the majority taking care to brighten up our daily lives

« OBERSOUND 'ACTION' COLLECTION »

Ober Surfaces and Studio 5•5 create a series of 6 models of acoustic panels fully customisable through an original web configuration tool, Obersound.com.

Compose, Expand, Blow, Stretch, Fade and Shake, are some of the proposed steps to conceive your own model, architects, designers and acousticians now have the possibility to define and adjust the patterns of perforations in function of acoustic performance and/or aesthetics and to choose a finish (wood, metal, uniform) from the Ober surfaces decorative catalogue

Obersound.com offer gives immediate access to technical information for configured models.



OberSound

MAROTTE

PATRICK JOUIN ID



PATRICK JOUIN ID

Patrick Jouin is a designer. His creativity expresses itself through industrial design and crafted pieces. Associated with the best manufacturers for exceptional projects, Cassina, Kartell, Alessi, Puiforcat, JC Decaux or Fermob, he occupies a place on the international design scene where not many understand how move through it with ease and strength. Patrick Jouin also participates in interior architecture projects with his associate Sanjit Manku, in their practice Jouin Manku that was founded in 2006




Marotte®

« EMPREINTE »

The aesthetics of Marotte panels is governed by process, the angle and speed of rotation of the manufacturing tools specially designed for each model. This way the material is meticulously sculpted, the tool leaves a mark, an imprint (empreinte in French) made of solid and void, the light and shade that transform a blank panel and make a pattern appear, a drawing made of the material. Today Marotte perpetuates this highly qualified know-how with a new collection created by the designer Patrick Jouin. The Empreinte collection is composed of a series of 16 creations belonging to 6 big families, available in 8 colours, with infinite ways of combining them together.

A reinterpretation of decoration from the first machine age, with numerically control, Patrick Jouin reinvents the Marotte sculpted panels and plays with all the possibilities offered by the machine.

Beyond a simple reflection only on the material and form, Patrick Jouin's work presents modelling light as a subject in itself. The pattern now becomes dynamic, it depends on the lighting, the movement of people in the space, the shadows created that make it changeable, vibrant, alive.

CONCRETE LCDA

PATRICK NORGUET



PATRICK NORGUET

The line is the starting point where Patrick Norguet approaches an object. From childhood he preferred sketchbooks to text books. A journey through the world of industry and design studies marked the atypical path of this constructive rebel.

For Patrick Norguet, design is an encounter with a manufacturer who adjusts his creative intention with technical and economic constraints, and the expectations of a user whom he hopes, to discreetly but permanently seduce. Inspired by everything around him, Patrick Norguet seeks to give form to products whose soundness and modernity will resist time

« BOUCHARDÉ »

"Bouchardé (French for bush hammered) is both a material and a surface. For this new collaboration, I mostly wanted to respect the concrete as a material. So I concentrated on working the marking of a regular/irregular texture.

The result is the variation of an embossed surface, a vibration which resembles the finishing work and use of the surface of concrete on a horizontal surface" Patrick Norguet.



CONCRETE LCDA

CONCRETE LCDA

MATALI CRASSET



MATALI CRASSET

matali crasset views design as research. She works from an off centred position which allows her to intervene in everyday life and also to project future scenarios. Her methodology is made of observations of ordinary gestures and a questioning of habitual organising principles.

Bringing views of the world that are both expert and always new, she questions the evidence of design languages to be better freed from them. Her work then consists of looking for new typologies, and of formulating novel living rationales

« HAUSSMANN »

"This double proposition plays with the language of domestic interiors and projects to assimilate the language of bourgeois mouldings and ornamentation, by switching it over to the modernity of concrete, a sort of digestion of decorative language into a contemporary language: a decorative oxymoron.

The panels evoke the interiors of XVIII century or classic haussmannian apartments with the repetition of fake woodwork and a play of batons. The play of lines and recesses lets depths be created and its own light on the surface of the concrete, revealing solids and voids". Matali Crasset.



CONCRETE LCDA

MAROTTE FAROUCHE



FAROUCHE

Hiding under the brand FAROUCHE is Anna Le Corno.

With the strength of an architect eye, Anna uses all of her cabinet making know-how which she acquired at the Boule design school and invents her language, that's animal and poetic.

Marrying the conceptual capacity of laser cutting, and traditional cabinet making knowledge, In her workshop she crafts, cut, assembles, presses..., a place of experimenting graphics and materials, she has developed a range of marquetry and of contemporary furniture a one off in the series

« SAGE & SAUVAGE »

Marotte, the specialist in decorative panels manufacture, meets Farouche, artist/cabinet-maker with innovative marquetry know-how.

In this thirst to reveal the material, Farouche chose an expression through two universes.

One is "Classic". It proposes variants in 7 varieties of dark and elegant wood, from the darkest black of an Ash Excelsior to the pastel ivory of Oak Aure, declined in 4 patterns. The other is "Wild". It underlines the singularity of the veining of noble varieties, such as Madagascar Ebony, white Ebony or even French Walnut with the same sculpted graphics.

This collaboration crosses two established skills of Marotte; a fusion of sculpture and veneer work, offering a large palette of variations, replying to needs of architects, designers and fitter.



Marotte®

PURE PAPER

PATRICK NORGUET



PATRICK NORGUET

“By evolving the chromatic range, I wished to enrich Pure Paper Color with a new more deep and sensual palette ” affirms Patrick Norguet “Soft and delicate, this collection of balanced colours defines the space without invading it. Inspired by historic realms, this new colour chart dresses our walls subtly”.

Linen, Neutral grey, Dark blue, Cognac, or even Pale rosa form the palette of 7 new shades of the collection Color.

« COLOR »

Pure Paper is the new brand of Ober Surfaces decorative veneers. 350 references split between two collections, Color and Metal, whose conception was entrusted to Patrick Norguet.

Taking blotting paper as a source of inspiration, the muted depth of the colours are the character of the Color collection. The shades are carefully selected and exclusive, and are proposed in patterns inspired by geometry or the language of vegetation.

The tones of copper, inox, tin or even gun metal build the palette of shades for the Metal collection. According to the colours, the finishes take on a brushed, shiny or basic laminate and are declined with different patterns especially developed to be applied on metal.



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