
AMORIM NEWS

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Cork in the cities of the future

The lead story of this issue of Amorim News is City Cortex, the international cultural research programme promoted by Corticeira Amorim and conceived by Guta Moura Guedes, which explores the intersection between cork and contemporary cities. After six years of development, during which we worked in close collaboration with our long-standing partner, experimentadesign, and six renowned design and architecture studios (Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Eduardo Souto de Moura, Gabriel Calatrava, Leong Leong, Sagmeister & Walsh and Yves Behar), we presented the first results of the programme in early June, in Lisbon and Almada. The challenge was simple but demanding - to look closely at cork, scrutinise it, understand it and project a future based on it, taking the material to a new level. Inspired by cork's unique characteristics, the core objective was to think about how this exceptional material can help shape the future of cities, creating urban landscapes and collective spaces that are more welcoming, comfortable, sustainable and aesthetically pleasing. The projects were presented to the public on 6 June, as the culmination of a process involving several organisations, many individuals and tremendous talent, vision and dedication. This process fulfilled, and even surpassed, the goal of raising the profile of cork, highlighting its unrivalled sustainability credentials and potential for shaping the future of cities - that we want to be more sustainable, inclusive, creative and safe. We were all able to take part in the discussion about the role of cork in this context and discover each project created using this incredible material. In a way, this marked a new beginning for cork because we believe that, in Lisbon or anywhere in the world, there will now

be even more opportunities for cork that we may not yet be able to imagine, but which, like City Cortex itself, will be born from the intersection of knowledge, innovation and inspiration. Through these new perspectives, cork is revealing itself in an entirely new way. It questions possibilities, proposes solutions, brings nature into the city and the past into the future, paving the way for more responsible, inclusive and sustainable urban landscapes. In this edition, we also highlight two important recognitions of our work: World Finance magazine distinguished Corticeira Amorim as the most sustainable company in the wine products sector; and the United Nations Global Compact Network Portugal selected António Rios de Amorim as SDG Pioneer 2024, in the Large Companies category. We realise that sustainable development is essential to the future of the planet and people, and that our contribution is important. Our culture, practices and results influence and encourage many of our stakeholders to also make a vital contribution to the five dimensions of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships. This is a common goal that can only be achieved with everyone's action and commitment.

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City Cortex

Cork paves the way for the future of cities

City Cortex was launched in June. This cultural research programme explores the intersection between cork and contemporary urban settings, involving six leading names from the world of design and architecture who presented eight original projects for public and semi-public spaces in Lisbon, that reinvent cork and expand the possibilities of this material. Cork is a versatile and sustainable material that connects nature to the urban landscape and can help shape the cities of the future, making them more welcoming and inclusive, sustainable and aesthetically pleasing. The City Cortex installations form an open-air museum on the banks of the Tejo river, designed to be seen and touched, transforming this urban zone into a playful space with sustainability at its core.



Nature teaches us to wait for great things to happen. And even though we're in the city, on a bright June morning in Lisbon, we returned to nature for presentation of City Cortex, the cultural research programme produced by Corticeira Amorim that explores the intersection between cork and contemporary urban contexts. After six years of development, the results of this programme - curated by Guta Moura Guedes, developed by experimental-design and supported by Artworks - were presented to the public on June 6, in Belém and Trafaria, in a 3-day event that included a visit to Corticeira Amorim and an immersive tour of the cork oak forest at the Herdade de Rio Frio estate. For several months, the cork installations form part of an authentic open-air museum, designed to be freely discovered on foot, along both banks of the Tejo river. A book will also be published about the projects, which take a new look at cork and its relationship with the urban landscape, and expand the possibilities for its use. The contributions from the six invited studios - Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Eduardo Souto de Moura, Gabriel Calatrava, Leong Leong, Sagmeister & Walsh and Yves Behar - do precisely that: using cork's unique characteristics and intrinsic properties, they take the material to a new level, testing its possibilities. At the same time, the interventions propose a new way of living within the collective space, paving the way for better cities in the future, which, by taking advantage of a material such as cork, will become more comfortable, cosy, sustainable and aesthetically pleasing.



Cork and the city

City Cortex was presented in the auditorium of the National Coach Museum, attended by representatives of the various organisations and partners involved, such as Lisbon City Council and Almada City Council, all the project's creative teams, cultural and artistic personalities, the national and international press and members of the general public. After speeches by António Rios de Amorim, Chairman and CEO of Corticeira Amorim, and by Guta Moura Guedes, President of experimental design, there was a round table moderated by the British writer, editor and curator, Shumon Basar, with an informal and exciting conversation between the six invited design studios about cork and the future of cities.

After the round table, the participants had the chance to discover each of the projects in situ, on a guided tour that followed the walking route designed to discover City Cortex, to see the installations by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Eduardo Souto de Moura, Leong Leong and Yves Behar, all in Belém. After crossing the Tejo river, it was possible to see Gabriel Calatrava's installation, 'Onda', located in Trafaria, which is a square that will remain for the city, to be experienced by the community. The Mayor of Almada, Inês de Medeiros, attended this inauguration.



Cork in the museum

The afternoon was reserved for a visit to the three installations created by the duo Sagmeister & Walsh. The President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, accompanied the visit, demonstrating great interest and enthusiasm. The tour began in the pedestrian underpass in the Praça do Império, in Belém, where Stefan Sagmeister's 'Life Expectancy' panel is installed, and ended at the Museum of Popular Art, with presentation of an installation of cork bottles designed by Jessica Walsh, which was the perfect conclusion to this tour dedicated to the encounter between cork and the city, a material that, through City Cortex, blends into the urban fabric.



Closing the circle

From the city centre to the heart of the cork oak forest. The launch of a such an ambitious and broad-reaching of a programme as ambitious and broad-reaching as City Cortex wouldn't be complete without a visit to the point of origin - to learn about the starting point of the extraordinary raw material that underpins all the programme's projects. For this reason, the final day of the event was reserved for an immersive visit to Corticeira Amorim's universe, including a trip to the Herdade de Rio Frio estate, coinciding with one of the cork oak forest's most magical seasons: the cork harvest. City Cortex's creative team and various international press organisations were able to witness this unique moment and gain a deeper insight into the entire cork industry and, in particular, Corticeira Amorim's business profile, activity and ambition, as it embraces new challenges for the future.



A conversation about cork

Six renowned designers and architects, an *agent modérateur* and one of the most versatile and beautiful materials on the planet. A round table discussion on the City Cortex project and all that cork can bring to cities.



City Cortex aims to encourage innovative thinking and stimulate critical discourse around issues that concern everyone - such as the organisation and future of cities. The round table organised at the launch of this cultural research programme featured the six architecture and design studios involved - Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Eduardo Souto de Moura, Gabriel Calatrava, Leong Leong, Sagmeister & Walsh and Yves Behar - in a conversation moderated by British writer, editor and curator, Shumon Basar.

The creative teams involved in this project were very diverse, with different approaches and even from different generations. But, as Shumon Basar emphasises, 'what they have all tried to do is to experiment with this material and look for new kinds of proposals and new kinds of solutions for public spaces, which are also under threat in many parts of the world. For that reason, it's very important that city administrators and people who make decisions about their future are confronted with imaginative experimental projects that present strong arguments.'

In a packed auditorium, the conversation between the designers and Shumon Basar generated considerable interest, and would certainly have gone on for longer had the day's agenda not been so full. Accustomed to reflecting and writing about existing and imagined cities - Shumon Basar was an excellent



moderator and asked all the speakers to talk about their projects and share their vision of cork, urban contexts and the relationship between the two.

In his closing remarks, Basar said: 'Cities are facing genuine stress and pressure, especially successful cities, which have too many new arrivals. If you have too many people in too little space, you face a density problem. I think cork is an interesting way of thinking about this problem, and how to make crowded places more liveable and pleasant and, in a way, more inviting.'

In an extremely dynamic conversation, there were several inspired and even humorous moments. Eduardo Souto de Moura described cork as a 'remarkable material' and confided that he realised how architecture can take advantage of the fact that cork is so pleasant to touch when he visited Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater. At another point in the round table, Gabriel Calatrava referred to his project - a community square in Trafaria - as an attempt to expand public space by making it 'softer' through cork, something that is increasingly necessary in today's 'hard' cities. Yves Behar also agreed with this perspective: his Port_All project is, in fact, a gateway to a more welcoming and peaceful space, a refuge that takes advantage of cork's insulating characteristics - 'a material from the past that is actually the material of the future' - to create a space of recollection that contrasts with the urban context.

Shumon Basar saved one last provocation for last: are the designers more enthusiastic or more apprehensive about the future of cities?

The answers were surprising. Perhaps inspired by the characteristics of cork - resilience, protection, stability, softness - they envisioned a much brighter future for cities than we might expect.

“I think there's an urgent need to look for materials that are natural but can be used in very modern ways. I think that is what makes cork interesting: it has several different qualities that lend themselves to being applied in similar ways to other materials, but can be used in a way that is better for the environment and also better for the economy.’

Shumon Basar

Cork oak forest: nature, culture and innovation

From the forest to the city, and back to nature, delving into the cork oak forest, at the Herdade de Rio Frio estate, to gain first hand knowledge of the raw material behind the City Cortex project.



Some of the creatives invited to take part in the City Cortex programme had already visited the Montado (cork oak forest) in 2019, at the start of the project, but the experience of such an incredible and rich ecosystem always has something more to reveal. For this reason, after presentation of the projects that correspond to the first results of the research, in Belém and Trafaria, it was time to return to the origins, where the entire process begins. The visit to the Herdade de Rio Frio estate, in Alcochete, was one of the highlights of the 3-day programme organised for the launch of City Cortex. It was attended by several members of the creative team and accompanied by international journalists, in a privileged moment to get closer to cork and to Corticeira Amorim's universe in a unique forest setting.

June is one of the strongest months for cork harvesting. This further reinforced the uniqueness of this immersive experience, which allowed participants to expand their knowledge of cork, from its very origins, and learn more about Corticeira Amorim, its history and trajectory as a sustainable company that reaffirms its daily mission of adding value to cork in harmony with nature.

The delegation gained first hand experience of the harvesting process as it is currently carried out - manually and mechanically - as well as the new cork oak plantations in aligned plantation, which Corticeira Amorim has implemented, in a pilot experiment that is part of the Forestry Intervention Project.

The visit was also an opportunity to revisit the principal milestones and reference projects promoted by Corticeira Amorim

in the areas of design, architecture and other cutting-edge areas, through a presentation by Cristina Amorim, Company Director and Chief Sustainability Officer, who highlighted Corticeira Amorim's ongoing commitment to innovation and design, of which City Cortex is a prime example.

Cork in the sustainable public space

Diller Scofidio + Renfro
Eduardo Souto de Moura
Leong Leong
Gabriel Calatrava
Sagmeister & Walsh
Yves Behar

Diller Scofidio + Renfro

Second Skin

Public garden in the Rua do Cais da Alfândega Velha



“(Cork is) pleasant to the touch and has astonishing elasticity and can be thick or thin, it’s really fantastic (...) and it turns out that it’s something we can use in an integrated manner, so from a sustainability perspective, it’s a very important material for architects.’

A community library appears in the trees. It takes the form of cork shelves that adapt to the trees in the garden, dressing them like a second skin. The enjoyment of the space is expanded by a set of cork seats installed on leftover cork oak trunks from the clearing of cork oak forests. The project by New York architecture and design studio Diller Scofidio + Renfro for City Cortex centres on the relevance of reading and literacy, stimulating new encounters and connections, or ‘new synapses’ as Liz Diller explains. When first approaching cork, recalls Liz Diller, the idea was to design something on a smaller scale, something that could be transported, based on the lightness of the material. But soon it was the fact that cork is

extracted from a tree that most stimulated the team of creatives. It takes trees to make books and, in a different way, it takes trees to produce cork. From this came the friendly bookshelves, which are both columns and shelves, inviting passers-by to pick up a book, flick through it, sit down and immerse themselves in reading. ‘We love being outdoors in a library (...) and the fact that these books are out in the open, in the city, and that we assume no-one will take them, is fantastic. I think that when you are generous in urban spaces, people reciprocate that generosity.’ The project was initially conceived for the New York Public Library, but works with the same lightness and openness near the Belém Public Library.

Liz Diller, who reflects on ‘the public side of public spaces’, says that it is necessary to ensure that public space remains as such, protecting it and enhancing its use by communities. Working with cork was an ‘opportunity to do something innovative with this material’, and he plans to include cork in other projects: ‘it’s pleasant to the touch and has astonishing elasticity, it’s really fantastic (...). It’s something we can use in an integrated manner, so from the perspective of sustainability, it’s a very important material for architects’.

Eduardo Souto de Moura

Conversadeira II

Passeio Carlos do Carmo, on the western side of MAAT



The only Portuguese member of an international creative team, the architect Eduardo Souto de Moura is probably the participant for whom cork is most familiar. Despite his proximity to the material - which he has already used in other notable projects, such as the Portugal Pavilion designed with Álvaro Siza for Expo 2000 in Hannover - his approach is always new, as if he were approaching cork for the first time. For City Cortex, the architect, who won the Pritzker Prize in 2011, designed 'Conversadeira II' (His previous work, Conversadeira I, is made of marble). The new work is a double chair designed for conversation or shared silence. The idea came up during a conversation with Guta Moura Guedes, the programme's curator, on the

steps of the Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (MAAT), in front of the river. 'Where there is water, there is beauty' summarises Eduardo Souto de Moura, who immediately realised that his proposal would be designed for that place. Designed to be situated at the intersection of two buildings separated by time - the Electricity Museum and MAAT - and looking out over the river, this new 'Conversadeira' promotes encounters and is an invitation to talk and contemplate. This goal is inspired by the point of contact, the 'joint', which unites the materiality and distinct time horizons of the brick building (Electricity Museum) and the stone building (MAAT). Conceived as a quiet place, a private space in the middle of the busy city, the

cork used in 'Conversadeira II' warmly envelops those who sit on it and filters out the surrounding noise, creating a refuge for two people. 'Cork is a remarkable material. It's very pleasant to the touch. This is the second conversational chair I've made, this one out of cork. It allows people to sit and chat. The world gets better when you talk.' In addition to taking advantage of cork's characteristics - softness to the touch, thermal and acoustic insulation - 'Conversadeira II' was designed in detail to create a unique experience: the angle to the river and the two heights of the seats mean that the two people have different visual perspectives, while at the same time enjoying great physical proximity,

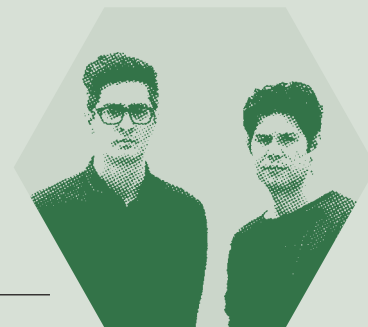


“This is the second conversational chair I've made, this one made of cork. It allows people to sit and chat. The world gets better when you talk, when you converse”.

Leong Leong

Lily Pad

Gardens of MAAT



are fluid and move. It's an individual sculptural element to sit on and play with, but can also be transformed into a larger landscape, depending on the urban space, so the idea of working with different scales facilitates adaptability and flexibility.

For City Cortex, the brothers Dominic and Chris Leong, from the New York studio Leong Leong, created an urban micro-landscape that is as sculptural as it is playful. The starting point was the perception of the city as a recreational space, a playground for all ages. 'Play, experimentation and learning are fundamental collaborative acts that we should prioritise,' says Dominic Leong, adding that the project "tries to reconnect the human body with public space, using cork as an interface". Designed to be walked on with bare feet, Lily Pad is made from expanded cork agglomerate, a method of processing cork at high temperature that gives it a darker colour and a stronger, more characteristic aroma. Dominic Leong explains that these properties of cork are perfectly suited to the goal of exploring the more playful side of cities. He added: 'the fantastic thing about

cork is its tactility and its thermal qualities, so in a setting like this, it's not too hot to sit on (...) and offers a level of comfort that adds something to the public space. There are many possibilities for using cork to make urban spaces more comfortable, inclusively through street furniture and urban landscapes. Cork adds a bit of softness to hard spaces, which inspired us from the start: how can we soften these public spaces, and make them more comfortable?' At the centre of the creative process was the material characteristics of cork and the way that it instantly connects to nature: 'First, we looked at cork in its particle form and thought about how to increase the scale of this pattern to create a flexible and adaptable landscape, that can be moulded into what we call Lily Pads, a kind of playful interpretation, connected to nature. We also thought about how the Lily Pads

“Cork brings a little softness to hard spaces, which inspired us from the outset: how can we soften these public spaces, and make them more comfortable?”

Gabriel Calatrava / Collaborative Architecture Laboratory Onda

Praceta Porto de Lisboa, Trafaria



“Cork is probably one of the world’s most versatile materials (...) As we delve into all its properties, we discover that it really is an amazing material, and that’s a very positive thing.”

Installed on the south bank of the Tejo river, ‘Onda’, by architect Gabriel Calatrava, head of the Collaborative Architecture Laboratory (CAL), is a collective space, created for and with the community, which gives birth to a place where before there was just an empty space. Gabriel Calatrava has used cork to create a contemporary square, with tables and chairs, that activates encounters between the local community and visitors to Trafaria. After getting to know cork, Gabriel Calatrava praises this raw material very highly: ‘One of the things that impressed me most about cork was its enormous versatility (...). If we wanted to present a new material with all the properties that cork has, someone would say no, that’s not possible. Cork has applications ranging from the aerospace industry to the simplest

applications, such as a cork stopper in a bottle. From long historical traditions to the latest technology, it’s probably one of the most versatile materials in the world, as far as I know, from my limited understanding, but delving deep into all its properties, it really is a kind of hero material, and that’s very positive.’

‘Onda’ will be permanently installed in that place, for residents and visitors. In partnership with the local association EDA - Ensaios e Diálogos Associação, the square will be a place of constant co-creation. The local community adds new layers to the installation by bringing unused chairs from their homes, which are renovated by applying a cork membrane (the same one that covers Onda’s

permanent roof), stimulating upcycling, but also strengthening the emotional connection and sense of belonging. The idea is that each person brings two chairs, one to take home and one to keep in the square for the community. ‘When people like things, they tend to look after them more effectively over time and there is more respect for them. That’s why raising awareness among the community was very important,’ summarises Gabriel Calatrava.



Sagmeister & Walsh

Life Expectancy, Humpbacks, Cork Bottles

Praça do Império, Espelho d'Água, Museum of Popular Art



©Ricardo Gonçalves

Communication design duo Sagmeister & Walsh are proposing not one, but three projects for City Cortex. Installed in the Belém area, at various points along the Avenida Brasília, the projects developed by Stefan Sagmeister and Jessica Walsh question contemporary paradigms, based on the intersection between cork and urban contexts.

As Stefan Sagmeister explains, the focus is on 'long-term thinking', the guiding principle of the 'Now is Better' series, which emphasises the great achievements of the human species.

If you think for the long term (and cork, as Sagmeister emphasises, 'is a long-term material', as it takes dozens years before it can be harvested for the first time) you realise that things are better than they may initially seem.

'Life Expectancy', the set of cork panels lining the ceiling of the pedestrian subway to the Discoveries Monument, and "Humpbacks", an ecological floating mattress made from cork spheres, which draws attention to the growth of the Humpback whale population between 2006 and 2022, both pertain to the "Now is Better" series, which emphasises

positive aspects of the world today. After all, as Sagmeister argues, it's a question of our perspective of time. The panels are engraved with the phrase: 'If a newspaper only came out once every fifty years, it would report on the 20-year increase in average life expectancy', which epitomises this perspective. With a very strong communicational component, each of the projects is based on the materiality of cork and its specific characteristics (thermal and acoustic insulation in the case of the panels, buoyancy in the case of the mattress) while emphasising the benefits of a sustainable material in an urban setting.

The third project, 'Cork Bottles', which coexists and dialogues with 16 traditional cork objects in the Museum of Popular Art, was the brainchild of Jessica Walsh, who inverts the natural logic of the materials: the bottles are made of cork (in various textures, colours and shapes) and the seals are made of glass. These new objects make it possible to absorb sound and create acoustic control for indoor public spaces, such as restaurants and bars.

Sagmeister highlighted the relevance of programmes such as City Cortex, which think about cities from a new perspective:

'I live in New York, I chose to live there and it's interesting because everything that surrounds us, my coat, my shoes, my car, the square, this marina, has been designed, everything has been designed by a specialist designer, so you could say that design has an influence on cities equivalent to the influence of nature for someone who lives in the jungle, who is an indigenous person, which means that it is incredibly important. And of course, all of these things can be designed well or badly. As designers we have the desire and possibility to design things that help and delight people, and if we can do both, I think we can consider our design to be meaningful.'

"Cork works brilliantly with long-term thinking because to a large extent it is a long-term material"

Yves Behar

Port_All

Gardens of MAAT



“Cork is, in many ways, the material from the past that is truly made for the future”

But a city has to achieve a balance between the two. You need the activity you want in a dynamic place such as Lisbon, but you also need the ability to retreat for your own peace of mind and benefit. For this reason, I think cork could be used a lot more in this kind of environment.’ summarises Yves Behar. Fascinated by cork’s properties and diverse applications, Yves Behar proposes a bolder vision of the concept of sustainability, intrinsically linked to this raw material: ‘I think the word sustainability doesn’t fully encapsulate future solutions and how promising they are. In many ways, cork is the material from the past that is really made for the future. I think sustainability is too simple a word, it’s not just about ‘sustaining’. I think we

need a word that describes the concept of positive change and a specific material that does more than just ‘sustain’. Since it is a carbon sink, i.e. when you plant a tree, it is also a carbon sink as a whole - cork has a negative carbon footprint. So what is the word that describes a great innovation and a future solution that actually fosters tremendous progress, that doesn’t just sustain us, but leads us to achieve some progress?’

Inspired by a historic building - the Tower of Belém, Lisbon’s entry and exit point - the designer Yves Behar proposes a cork-based portal to the cities of the future. ‘Port_all’ is also a haven in the middle of the city, which reinforces the idea of welcoming people, by creating an almost private space of tranquillity in an urban context.

Yves Behar’s project, a modern tower open to the sky, emphasises the acoustic insulation of cork, its protective role (in the forest, since cork protects the tree, and in the city since it protects people from noise), taking references from Portuguese azulejo tiles, since the entire surface is covered with cork tiles, which replicate the structure of cork molecules.

‘I think that some of the most pressing issues in a city have to do with pollution and noise, and so a material such as cork, which protects us and insulates us from noise, a material that is fantastic in public spaces (...), is the perfect material to introduce urban calm, to make the city more ecological and more sustainable, obviously, but also to protect us, in a sense, to create a relaxing oasis within what makes cities exciting - which is human activity, art, culture and events.



President of the Portuguese Republic visits Corticeira Amorim

As part of the Open Days by COTEC initiative, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa visited Amorim Cork and learnt about the more technological side of the cork stopper production industry.



It was a different day at Amorim Cork, marked by the visit of the President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, as part of the Open Days by COTEC initiative, associated with the 2nd MTalks COTEC Innovation Summit, held in Santa Maria da Feira. During his visit to Amorim Cork's manufacturing facilities, which produce more than 24 million cork stoppers every day, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa returned to a material that he knows well, and discovered the latest and most advanced technologies developed, perfected and implemented in the various stages of cork stopper production, which guarantee the superior quality, technical performance and sustainability of this natural closure. Portugal's Head of State was shown the principal stages of the production of cork stoppers used in the still wine sector and expressed special interest in the disruptive technologies applied and the organisational model adopted. The presidential visit ended with the customary photograph with the factory team. As part of the initiative, which emphasised the importance of the Centre/North region for the Portuguese economy, the President of the Portuguese Republic also visited the Portuguese Cork Association (APCOR), at a meeting that focused on innovation in the cork sector. Several papers were presented on innovation in the cork sector, highlighting this unique, versatile and sustainable raw material, and the unique position and strategic importance of the cork sector for Portugal.



UN Global Compact distinguishes António Rios de Amorim



SDG PIONEERS 2024 - PORTUGAL recognises dedication, innovation and leadership in promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, contributing to the creation of a better future for the company and society.



This is an important recognition of Corticeira Amorim's leading position in the area of sustainability and its leadership role as the world's largest cork processing company. After a rigorous and competitive selection process, António Rios de Amorim, Chairman and CEO of Corticeira Amorim, was distinguished among dozens of Portuguese entrepreneurs as the 'SDG Pioneer 2024 - Portugal' of the United Nations (UN) Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. Every year, the UN Global Compact promotes the selection of 'SDG Pioneers', honouring, at a national and global level, business leaders who promote the implementation of a positive approach based on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, setting ambitious environmental, social and governance targets. After being honoured in Portugal, António Rios Amorim will take part in the global

round, alongside businesspeople from all over the world, which will identify the UN Global Compact Global Pioneers. In Portugal, the independent panel responsible for awarding the distinction was comprised by representatives from the board of the UN Global Compact Network Portugal, United Nations entities, representatives from the IOM - International Organisation for Migration, AdP - Águas de Portugal and Nova SBE - Nova School of Business & Economics. At the helm of Corticeira Amorim since 2001, António Rios de Amorim has dedicated himself to strengthening the company's efforts to promote sustainable development in its multiple dimensions, thereby contributing to a more inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable future. In 2023, Corticeira Amorim reduced its energy consumption by 9.1%, increased

its use of controlled renewable energy to 68.3% and reduced CO2 emissions by 8.8%. The company also reinforced its social commitments, implemented a plan to promote equality, diversity and inclusion and strengthened its practices with younger generations, with emphasis on the launch of the Young@Cork Programme, which fosters the integration of young people, as well as their career development and training. In terms of governance, Corticeira Amorim has increased its independence and transparency, ensuring responsible and ethical management of its business.

World Finance elects Corticeira Amorim as the most sustainable company in the wine products industry

The renowned finance and economics magazine, World of Finance, awarded the prestigious Sustainability 2024 prize to Corticeira Amorim for its sustainable practices.

Corticeira Amorim is among the world's most sustainable companies according to World Finance magazine, which distinguished it as the 'Most Sustainable Company in the Wine Products Industry' in 2024. In its 6th edition, the World Finance Sustainability Awards distinguish companies that make sustainability a top priority, placing it at the forefront of their business operations. For Corticeira Amorim, as the leading company of the cork industry, this distinction underlines the value of the cork stopper in the world of wine, and also represents public recognition of its long-term strategy and evolution in the field of sustainability. In particular, the international jury highlighted the significant efforts to integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) values into this business sector.

António Rios de Amorim, Chairman and CEO of Corticeira Amorim commented: 'Winning this award reinforces the company's commitment and responsibility to the efficient management of resources, sustainable consumption, the circularity of processes, the protection of ecosystems and our people development policies. Combined with the enormous technical and scientific advances fuelled by Amorim Cork's commitment to R&D+i, our products today are the ultimate exponent of the integration of nature and technology, creating a business model where the circular economy is an integral part.' Awarded annually, the Sustainability Awards cover 30 industries in many different sectors, from coffee processing to financial services. The companies distinguished in this context including Corticeira Amorim, all have an unwavering commitment to a sustainable future.



First edition of Capital Markets Day

At the invitation of Corticeira Amorim, national and international investors and analysts gathered at the Herdade de Rio Frio estate and visited various industrial units to learn about Amorim's technological innovation and sustainable practices.



The first edition of the Capital Markets Day, held in June in the Herdade de Rio Frio estate, brought together Portuguese and foreign investors and analysts to learn about the development of the Forestry Intervention Project, launched in 2013, which has involved substantial investments that aim to increase the number of cork oak trees per hectare, optimising cork production and increasing biodiversity levels, inclusively

within the 5100-hectare estate. The initiative coincided with the period of the cork harvest and therefore gave all the participants the opportunity to observe the harvesting process - one of the most specialised and highly skilled forestry activities. The participants also visited several Corticeira Amorim industrial units, including Amorim Top Series' new factories. The Capital Markets Day also

enabled participants to learn about the new technologies developed and implemented at Amorim Cork (Naturity and Xpür) and at Amorim Cork Composites, exploring the potential of using cork in new applications.

New cork-lined auditorium in the Universidade Católica Portuguesa

The new Corticeira Amorim auditorium, lined with cork panels, was the stage for the first lecture on ‘Innovation, Sustainability and Business’, which is being discussed at the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP) in Porto. The session was attended by Isabel Capelo Gil, Rector of the UCP, and António Rios de Amorim, Chairman and CEO of Corticeira Amorim.

With sustainability at its core, and aimed at bringing academia closer to the business community, the inauguration of the new Corticeira Amorim auditorium in the Porto campus of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP) represents another significant step towards solidifying the strategic partnership between both organisations.

In her speech, Isabel Capelo Gil, rector of UCP, addressed the study of Integral Ecology at her academic institution, as a way of seeking an ethical and evidence-based response to global challenges, in terms of environmental sustainability and culture, intergenerational justice, the green economy and combating systemic poverty, economic growth and sustainability, among other topics.

Under the theme of ‘Sustainability and Innovation’, António Rios de Amorim emphasised the company’s role as a driving force behind research and development into a raw material that is 100 per cent natural, highlighting the wide range of applications for cork in a wide and growing range of advanced industries. ‘Corticeira Amorim is proud and committed to supporting and promoting training with a strong sense of social responsibility, thereby reinforcing our commitment to sustainability and innovation, which are fundamental pillars of our organisation’s growth,’ he explained.



Support for the financial literacy programme, ‘No Poupar Está o Ganho’

More than 600 students and teachers who took part in the 14th edition of the António Cupertino de Miranda Foundation’s financial literacy programme took part in the final competition and awards ceremony in June.



The main objective of the António Cupertino de Miranda Foundation’s financial literacy programme, ‘No Poupar Está o Ganho’ (Saving is Winning) is to educate more financially-prepared generations. Corticeira Amorim has supported several editions of this programme, thereby making its contribution to a more solid financial education in Portugal. Financial education is one of the components of the Ministry of Education’s citizenship programme and projects such as ‘No Poupar Está o Ganho’, which combine learning at the Museum of Paper Money, at school and on an e-learning platform, help to bring it to an increasing number of young people, enabling them to handle money in a conscious and prudent manner. Launched by the António Cupertino de Miranda Foundation in 2010, ‘No Poupar Está o Ganho’ covers students from pre-school to secondary and vocational education, providing them with tools and knowledge so that they become aware of the importance of money and can acquire skills in topics such as saving and money management, helping them to become more responsible consumers. The final competition, in which prizes were awarded to students and teachers, closed the 2023/2024 school year with a bang, as the most participated edition ever, bringing valuable knowledge to more than 18,000 students, from 900 classes in around 60 municipalities.

An intimate garden, protected by cork

Returning to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, cork features prominently in the garden of the National Autistic Society, a project by Sophie Parmenter and Dido Milne, with materials and technical support supplied by Amorim Cork Insulation.





The garden as a refuge, but above all as a metaphor for social camouflage or 'masking', a strategy adopted by several people suffering from the autism spectrum disorder. This is the theme of the garden that the artist and botanist Sophie Parmenter and the architect Dido Milne (CSK Architects) designed for the National Autistic Society's representation at the 2024 edition of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, which highlights the everyday experience of an autistic person, using cork walls to create a series of spaces dedicated to different types of social interaction - at work, with friends and family, with partners and by oneself. The garden, which won a Silver-Gilt medal, includes expanded cork agglomerate supplied by Amorim Cork Insulation. This material was chosen because of its sustainability (the entire project was conceived from an ecological perspective) and because it delivers unrivalled thermal and acoustic insulation, due to cork's molecular characteristics, creating peaceful private spaces.

Wooden structures and the cork blocks frame the vibrant gardens, surrounding a plant-covered inner sanctum that symbolises the complexity and beauty of the mind. Cork's soft texture, unique sweet aroma and its temperature close to that of the human body provide a comforting sensory experience, further accentuated by the scents of the flowers and plants chosen and arranged in multiple layers. Moving beyond the cork walls, visitors discover a marvellous interior garden, covered in moss, green textures and colourful flowers, that arouse a sensation of support and safety. The overall ethos of the garden responds to the goal of harmonising a natural ecosystem with human intervention, from a regenerative and circular perspective. With many nooks and crannies where visitors can be alone or have a quiet chat, Sponsored by Project Giving Back, the garden emphasises the role of cork in creating relaxing and secluded environments. After the end of this event, the garden

will be transferred and installed in one of the National Autistic Society's centres in Scotland, to be enjoyed as a socialising space for residents, families and employees.

Our People



AMORIM

Sustainable by nature