



NEWS

JAN / MAR 2013, YEAR 30, No. 1

CORTICEIRA AMORIM LAUNCHES THE MOST SOPHISTICATED CORK STOPPER FACTORY IN THE US



CORK STOPPER

THE CLOSURE OF CHOICE



94%

of US wine consumers prefer natural cork stoppers and, of these, 93% consider that this solution means quality wine

Source: Tragon Corporation

89,3%

of French wine lovers prefer the cork stopper over any other type of closure and, of these, 89.8% state that cork stoppers preserve the full aromas of the drink

Source: Ipsos

92%

of Spanish consumers prefer cork stoppers for wine and Cava bottles and 86% consider that cork stoppers preserve the properties of the wine better

Source: Projet Cork

90%

of Italian wine lovers consider that the ritual of opening a wine bottle and smelling the cork makes the wine more pleasant to drink and, of these, 74% associate cork stoppers with wine quality

Source: Demoskopiea

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EDITORIAL

Cosmetics and pharmaceuticals using cork, components for Mars-bound spacecraft, completely revolutionary applications or stoppers which help combat wine counterfeiting are just a few examples of the Research, Development and Innovation (R&D+I) projects pursued by Corticeira Amorim, a company with 143 years of history. It is a history which brings to life an activity based on a natural resource – cork – the harvesting of which not only respects, but actually fosters the equilibrium and viability of a unique ecosystem, the cork oak forest. A history made possible by the capacity for anticipation, adaptation and innovation displayed by the Company over the years.

A vivid picture of the Company's commitment to R&D+I in recent years is painted by the following figures:

21 patent applications submitted in the last five years;

43 R&D projects in 2012, involving 100 employees;

Over **53000** hours devoted to research activities in 2012;

1200 ideas submitted by employees as part of the CORK.IN innovation programme.

This commitment has led to growing public recognition of Corticeira Amorim for its R&D+I activities, illustrated by the following examples:

COTEC Innovation Award given to the CORKsorb product range;

Kaizen Lean Award, awarded by the Kaizen Institute to the Cork Stoppers BU in the "Excellence in productivity" category, rewarding a culture rooted in constant improvement and increased efficiency;

HolzLand Award given to FastConnect®, a new quick and easy installation technology for Wicanders® flooring;

Participation in the "**12th European Forum on Eco-innovation – Scaling-up Sustainable Construction through Value Chain Innovation 2012**", an event held by the European Commission in Amsterdam, at which Corticeira Amorim was presented as a case study for sustainable construction;

Crystal Cabin Award given to the LIFE (Lighter, Integrated, Friendly and Eco-Efficient aircraft cabin) project, in the "Visionary Concepts" category, in which the thermal and acoustic comfort provided by CORECORK sandwich panels is among the innovative design elements for the aircraft interior; Nomination of Corticeira Amorim for the **final stage of the 2012/13 edition of the European Business Awards**. The company was selected for the TOP10 in the Innovation category, a recognition which rewards excellence associated with Innovation, always in strict compliance with rigorous ethical principles.

Our employees constitute an integral part of this success. The next chapters of the already centenary tradition of Corticeira Amorim and cork will continue to be largely based on their performance, which we are certain will continue to result in the creation of value for the various stakeholders, and the economic, social and environmental well-being of future generations.

Sincerely,

Nuno Barroca
Vice Chairman of Corticeira Amorim



Credits Headquarters: Rua de Meladas n.º 380, 4536-902 Mozelos VFR; Property of: Grupo Amorim; Director: Eduardo Correia; Co-ordination: Joana Martins; Editorial: Inforpress; Publishing: Grupo Amorim; Design and desktop publishing: Inforpress; Printing and Binding: Lidergraf – Artes Gráficas, S.A.; Translation: Expressão, Lda; Distribution: Iberomail Correio Internacional, Lda.; Packaging: Porenvel Distribuição, Comércio e Serviços, S.A. Periodicity: quarterly; Issue: 22 000 copies; Legal Deposit: VG - 914 - 2001



NEW CORPORATE IDENTITY FOR KORKO SELECTION AND KORKO

In a strategy of consolidation in the mass consumption market, Amorim Cork Composites has published new catalogues for its Korko Selection and Korko brands to reflect the makeover given to its product range and brands, defining a new identity for each of the collections.

Korko products, designed for the Home & Organizer sector and available from mass consumption outlets, combine function, contemporary design and quality with eco-friendly credentials. The Korko Selection, targeting the Home sector and available from selected retail channels, is the result of a careful selection of design items for the home. Inspired by a contemporary style in which elegance is combined with function, and aesthetics take on a practical dimension, the collection fits right in with the everyday items of any home. From kitchen utensils and tools to routine simplifiers, each Korko Selection product is the result of a meticulous quest for the perfect item.

AMORIM CORK COMPOSITES AND AMORIM ISOLAMENTOS AT ECOBUILD

Ecobuild is an annual construction fair – held this year from 5 to 7 March, in London – devoted to promoting sustainable products to a highly specialised target audience, mostly from the UK. Given the affinity with Corticeira Amorim's activities, the second largest share of which corresponds to the construction sector, the company was represented at the event by two of its Business Units.

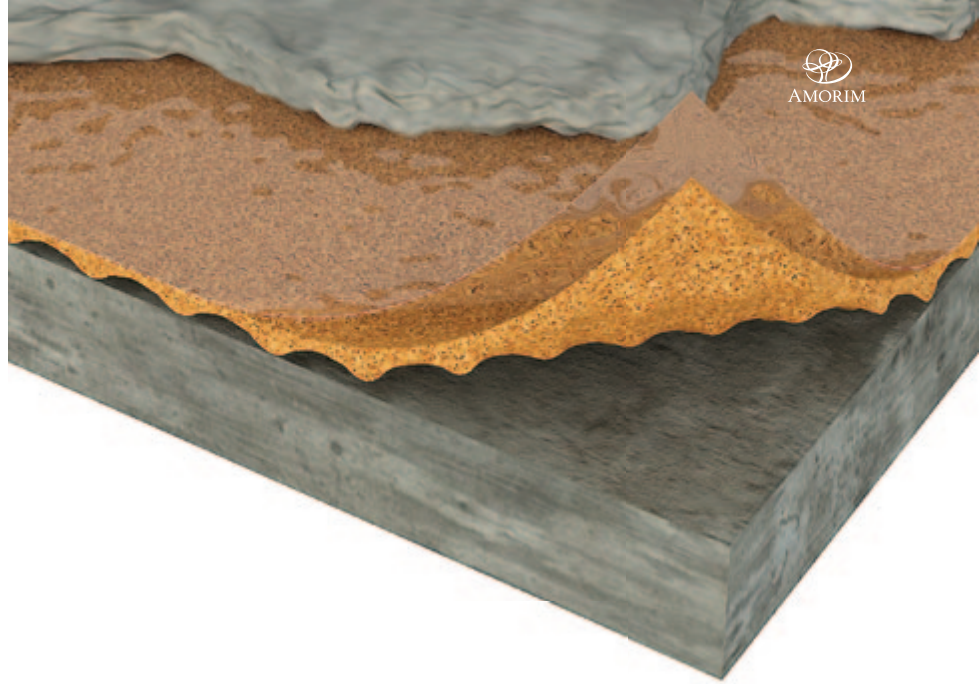
Amorim Cork Composites (ACC) attended the event in order to boost promotion of its ACOUSTICORK acoustic insulation solutions and CORKWALL façade covering emulsion. Notably, ACC was among the five organisations which aroused the most interest among a VIP group of architects invited to the event. Amorim Isolamentos was present in the form of a partnership with cement producer Secil Argamassas, and the event served as a platform to present its construction solutions for exterior insulation (ETICS) with Expanded Cork Agglomerate (AISOL), and mortar products Secilvit Cork and ecoCork hydraulic lime, using cork granules from Amorim Isolamentos, a system providing thermal efficiency by recourse to natural materials. The company's various thermal and acoustic insulation solutions using cork agglomerate were also presented, with a special focus on exterior insulation solution MDfachada.



AMORIM CORK COMPOSITES PROMOTES BRANDS IN FRANKFURT

Early this year, Amorim Cork Composites (ACC) attended two of the sector's foremost events: the Ambiente Trend Forum and Paperworld, in Frankfurt. Ambiente is considered to be the world's largest fair in the field, and Amorim Cork Composites grasped the initiative as an opportunity to promote its brands MATERIA, Korko Selection and Korko. During the five days of the event, over 300 people from 39 countries came into contact with the three brands' products and collections.

At Paperworld, the company presented its new Neon and Taylor collections, belonging to the Korko brand, as well as its new Cork4u product, WallCork Paper. The CORKFabrics solutions were also on display, attracting considerable interest and drawing numerous visitors to the ACC stand. CORKFabrics is an innovative line of cork products resulting from the introduction of new printing techniques to the sector and the use of laminating/gluing technologies for products which complement cork, expanding its field of use to include new applications which traditionally use textiles and leathers.



AMORIM CORK COMPOSITES INVESTS IN DIGITAL

The Corticeira Amorim company Amorim Cork Composites is reinforcing its commitment to online positioning by means of a new website concept revolving around the idea "Reinventing how cork engages the world".

At www.amorimcorkcomposites.com, visitors can access a diverse portfolio of products and the corresponding brands (18 in total) which capitalise on the potential uses of cork and the company's leadership in developing pioneering solutions which provide genuine added value to the market. As well as bringing together an extensive portfolio of brands until now scattered across various different web platforms, the new website serves to reinforce Amorim Cork Composites' positioning. Sustainable and innovative, the company stands out for its focus on technology and constant enhancement of the value of cork by combining it with other materials.

TOP MARKS FOR ACOUSTICORK

Amorim Cork Composites' products ACOUSTICORK U32 and U68 for insulation of screeds were awarded an A+ rating by London's BRE (Building Research Establishment) in an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) assessment. The recognition follows the previous achievement, by the same products, of an identical rating for their underfloor ranges.

The products were successfully subjected to a BRE Life Cycle Analysis, which determined the environmental impact associated with their use, from the raw material stage and production to the end of the product's useful lifespan. The highest possible score, A+, awarded to ACOUSTICORK screed insulation, provides evidence in accordance with international standards of its superior environmental performance, and paves the way for recognition and assessment by systems such as BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method). It is worth noting that all public buildings in the UK are assessed on the basis of the BREEAM regulatory framework.

NEW WORLD WINE PRODUCERS RETURN TO NATURAL CORK STOPPERS

Australia, the US, New Zealand and South Africa are just some of the wine markets in which producers have recently announced their intention to return to natural cork stoppers.

Haselgrove, an Australian premium wine producer, is one of the latest wineries to make public its decision to go back to using cork stoppers after a period of experimentation with screwcaps. It justified the decision with the need for a closure which contributes to the proper ageing of its wines, some of which command prices of around 90 euros per bottle.

Besides, the change will enable it to profit from the widely acknowledged status associated with cork stoppers in China, one of the world markets with highest potential for growth in terms of wine consumption. According to Ryan Kinghorn, CEO of Haselgrove, **“Cork is the only closure which enables me to market my wine as a premium product in this market. (...) For us, Corticeira Amorim is a market leader in terms of innovation in product quality, so we have great confidence in cork stoppers for our wine bottles, whether they are intended for export or domestic consumption”.**

Back in 2011, South African producer Klein Constantia chose to return to cork for its Perdeblokke Sauvignon Blanc 2010 after using screwcaps for three years. An oenologist for the brand at the time, Adam Mason, summed up the decision as follows: **“By bottling our wine under screwcaps, we were lowering the wine’s quality”.**

In Australia, after a five-year stint with screwcaps, Rusden Wines is also returning to cork. **“It became clear that cork is best for our wines”**, explains oenologist Christian Canute, adding that it is the only way to deal with the reduced aroma problems experienced with screwcaps.

In New Zealand, historically a bastion of artificial closures, similar movements can be observed. According to Tony Bish, oenologist at Sacred Hill, one of the main advantages of cork compared to alternative closures is the security it offers for wines requiring long ageing periods. Bish acknowledges that enormous progress has been made in recent years with regard to the quality of cork stoppers, motivating many brands to consider a return to this natural solution.

*Unmatched
technical and
sustainability
credentials of
natural closures
recognised*





*"It became
clear that
cork is best
for our wines"*

Christian Canute, oenologist



THE DOURO LIKE YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE...

Quinta Nova excels in innovation and finding creative ways to surprise its customers. This is reflected in a new range of services which allow visitors to expand their knowledge of the region with a trip on a classic boat, a sailboat or even a helicopter. With basic and comprehensive packages to choose from, as well as food and wine experiences, the region has a new layer of charm when seen from the river or the sky.

"CONCEITUS", A BRAND NEW RESTAURANT CONCEPT

Quinta Nova's new restaurant *Conceitus* uses local flavours and seasonal produce to attract clients with a concept that has drawn crowds of food enthusiasts to the establishment, which has enjoyed growing popularity since opening in May.

Anyone can bring their own wine to enjoy in harmony with the menus - no corkage is charged -, taste the season's latest wines at winery prices, pick a bottle from the historical wine cellar or even order a magnum.

A leading role in the increase in end quality of cork stoppers, recognised and valued by producers and consumers alike, has been played by Corticeira Amorim since the late '90s, when it began setting up internal research and development (R&D) teams and investing in state-of-the-art technology to ensure the quality of its product. In figures: Corticeira Amorim possesses 16 chromatographs which enable it to conduct the most sophisticated chemical analyses in the world. In the last ten years, the company has invested over 50 million euros in R&D and Innovation.

Cork stoppers are currently recognised by the world's leading wine critics as a benchmark of quality. **In China, surveys show that the overwhelming majority of wine consumers associate screwcaps with low quality wines, and according to a study by Tragon Corporation 93% of US consumers believe that cork stoppers give wine a quality status.**

Also in the US, according to consultants AC Nielsen, among the 100 highest selling wines in the US, the average price of bottles closed with cork is 1.10 dollars higher than those using artificial sealants, demonstrating the value, acknowledged by consumers, which cork adds to wine.



AWARD FOR WSET WINNERS

Under the auspices of the partnership entered into with the Wine & Spirit Education Trust, Corticeira Amorim has sponsored two scholarships at this prestigious UK institution specialising in technical training in the field of wine and spirits.

After the end of the course, Carlos de Jesus, Marketing and Advertising Director for Corticeira Amorim, attended the award ceremony at Guildhall in London to award the certificate to Pierre Brunelli of the London Greenhouse restaurant, together with wine expert Jancis Robinson.

Brunelli will be joined by Sebastien Nickel, the other winner of the scholarship, for a trip to Portugal, where they will have the opportunity to discover the cork oak forest, the cork industry and all of the features which contribute to the status of cork as closure par excellence.

The WSET is the world's largest body for training and qualifications in the field of wine and spirits. It has links with over 500 training partners in 60 countries. In the last academic year, the organisation certified over 43 thousand students.



CORTICEIRA AMORIM BOOSTS INVESTMENT IN THE US

In February, Amorim Cork America launched its new sales and distribution unit in the centre of Napa Valley. The project, with a total area of over 13,500 m² and a built area of 5,000 m², is the most innovative in the world.

"Building this facility is part of our strategy of investment in the U.S. wine industry and, of course, in the cork stopper industry. In recent years we have enjoyed double-digit growth as a result of the preference for cork stoppers shown by local wine producers and, of course, millions of consumers", explains Pedro Fernandes, Amorim Cork America's general manager.

Environmental sustainability was one of the cornerstones of the new facility, in which natural light is favoured and eco-friendly construction materials were used wherever possible. Investments were also made in recycling solutions.

The US is currently the world's largest consumer of wine, ahead of historically more significant markets such as Italy or France. Corticeira Amorim's presence in this market dates back to 1991, when it started working with US group GTS (Global Technologies System), for the production, sale and distribution of cork rubber products.

AMORIM STOPPERS USED IN A SPECIAL EDITION OF CHÂTEAUNEUF- DU-PAPE

To mark the third edition of wine fair "Les Printemps du Châteauneuf-du-Pape", a group of young wine producers from this French region joined forces to create a special edition.

Comprising 51 great wines from the 2010 vintage, the special edition is now on sale, with prices as high as 1,680€ in the case of the exceptional Nabuchodonosor 15 litre bottles.

In order to ensure maximum quality for their product, the producers chose Amorim cork stoppers to seal the bottles which make up this special edition.

In a much-lauded philanthropic gesture, the producers resolved to donate the proceeds of the sale to the ICM (Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle épinière) foundation, devoted to research in the field of neuroscience, to which French comedian Patrick Timsit acts as godfather. In this way, by purchasing a bottle from this prestigious Châteauneuf-du-Pape vintage, collectors are not just making a valuable addition to their wine cellar, but also supporting medical and scientific research in the field of neurological disorders.



"An excellent initiative to promote the values and principles that we believe in in Europe: freedom, democracy, the right to free expression, competitive markets and open societies".
José Maria Aznar,
former Spanish
prime minister

CORTICEIRA AMORIM AMONG EUROPE'S TEN MOST INNOVATIVE COMPANIES

At the 2012/2013 edition of the European Business Awards, Corticeira Amorim was among the 100 companies distinguished with the "Ruban d'Honneur". The company was selected for the TOP 10 in the Innovation category, a distinction which rewards excellence in the field of innovation, always in strict compliance with exacting ethical standards. R&D + Innovation has always been one of Corticeira Amorim's strategic pillars, but it has played an especially important role since the late 90s. Thanks to this strategy, the company now boasts a wide-ranging portfolio of cork products which it supplies to the world's most demanding organisations.

The multinationals Iberdrola, IKEA, Volkswagen and DHL and the Portuguese companies Delta, Jerónimo Martins and Portucel were also distinguished with this status. Together, the companies that applied for the European Business Awards 2012/13 represent a business turnover of more than one trillion euros, and 28 countries. Of particular note are some emerging economies such as Turkey, Armenia, Georgia and Kazakhstan. In all, these organisations are responsible for 2.7 million jobs on the European continent. The winners will be announced in late April, at a ceremony to be held in Istanbul.

GIERLINGS VELPOR SETS ITS SIGHTS ON LATIN AMERICA

In pursuit of one of its strategic goals for 2013 – geographical expansion of its business – Gierlings Velpor attended 'Colombiatex de las Américas', Latin America's foremost platform for the fashion sector. The event, held in Medellín's Plaza Mayor, served to boost the company's image by means of direct involvement and personal contact with potential clients, sales representatives and strategic partners.

LANDMARK AMORIM FLOORING PROJECTS

Wald-Hotel Heppe, Germany
900 m² of Wicanders Corkcomfort Originals in the hotel's suites and bedrooms

Aura Nova Conference Centre, Poland
320 m² of Wicanders Vinylcomfort

AMORIM BENELUX NAMED "SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR"

For the third time, Benelux BV has been nominated supplier of the year by the Parket Tree Cooperation. The organisation had previously received the award in 2002 and 2009.

AMORIM FLOORING PRESENTS NEW WICANDERS PRODUCTS AT BAU...



In January, Amorim Flooring attended Bau in Munich, where it presented the latest products of the Wicanders brand, with a special focus on the overhauled Vinylcomfort and Parquet collections.

The Vinylcomfort residential product line now offers eight new looks to match the latest trends in interior design. It favours light colours and greys, perfect for more minimalistic and sophisticated environments, alongside more rustic looks using mid-tones, ideal for spaces aiming to convey charm and elegance. The company also expanded the range of stone looks, with two options using shades of white and beige, perfect for inclusion in Mediterranean-inspired decors while retaining all the features of a warm, comfortable floor.



Also worthy of note is the introduction of the Registered Embossing line, with eight new looks characterised by perfect harmonisation between the design of the surface texture and the optical effect of the wood look, resulting in an enhanced perception of depth.

Meanwhile, the Parquet range has focused on reinforcing looks with a more elaborate surface for the Kentucky collection, with a finish featuring faux cracks hand-sculpted by professional craftsmen, recreating the worn, aged look of centuries-old floors which confer a perfect touch of charm and distinction on contemporary spaces. New European looks have been added to the Parquet Classics collection, highlighting the beauty and character of a genuine wooden floor. This collection is available in the lock&fold installation system.

BAU is Europe's leading fair for architecture and construction materials and systems. The latest edition was attended by 2060 exhibitors.



...AND ATTENDS SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL FAIRS

After its success at BAU, in the following month, February, Amorim Flooring headed to France to take part in Salon SAMSE, which was attended by over 3000 visitors comprising both professionals and end consumers.

Also in January, AFNA (Amorim Flooring North America) attended Surfaces 2013 in Las Vegas to promote the four leading Wicanders collections: Artcomfort, Vinylcomfort, Corkcomfort and Woodcomfort. The first two ranges were particularly well received by participants in the event, partly as a result of featuring in the brand's stand.

Another highlight of the event was the launch of AFNA's mobile app for iPhone, Blackberry and Android. The app, which provides a direct link to the website and relevant information on the various product ranges constitutes another step in the company's strategy of direct contact with consumers, and highlights its focus on innovation.



FRANCE REGULATES VOCS, AND AMORIM FLOORING ACHIEVES HIGHEST POSSIBLE SCORE

On 1 January 2012, legislation came into force in France requiring construction products for interiors to include a guarantee of quality concerning the emission of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and formaldehyde. Based on a European directive intended to eliminate building products which present a hazard to human health, the requirement applies to all products sold on the market.

Accordingly, Amorim Flooring conducted tests on all of its products, obtaining an overall score of A+, the highest possible, demonstrating their impeccable quality with regard to emission of organic chemicals and formaldehyde.

AMORIM FLOORING GIVES LIFE TO "SAUNA LUSA"

It is called "Sauna Lusa" (Lusitanian Sauna) and uses cork as a covering. According to José Carlos Tinoco, the designer responsible for the product, it is the only sauna of its kind in the world.

While building the prototype, the designer teamed up with Amorim Flooring to obtain the necessary know-how for the lab tests, specifically cork's resistance to heat, as there was no prior data on the use of cork as a covering for saunas. *"Besides the differences in terms of appearance and texture, there are energetic benefits as well. Cork is a poor thermal conductor, which means less energy is required to achieve an appropriate temperature",* explains the designer.

The cork boards were exposed to a temperature of 104° for around 700 hours, and in José Tinoco's words, *"its behaviour was exemplary as regards possible dilations, contractions, emission of odours or toxicity"*. The tests were repeated, this time with the boards installed in the prototype, with positive results.

The "Sauna Lusa" project ultimately sparked a line of products made of cork, one example of which is "Simbiosis", a unit combining a cork sauna, Turkish bath and shower. José Carlos Tinoco is also designing furniture and lighting made from cork to, in his own words, "complete the sauna's insertion" in a given environment.



ECORKHOTEL IN ÉVORA USES CORK AGGLOMERATE FROM AMORIM ISOLAMENTOS

Scheduled to open in the second quarter of this year, Ecorkhotel, Évora Suites & SPA is a superior four-star hotel born of a 7 million euro investment. Comprising 56 private suites, spa, gym, indoor and outdoor pool, restaurant and meeting rooms, the hotel will be marketed primarily to international clients, as an eco-resort.

The hotel's exterior is covered with MD Fachada expanded cork agglomerate supplied by Amorim Isolamentos, over a total area of 1200 m².

The choice of expanded cork agglomerate as the central element of the building's look is in complete harmony with the hotel's setting, a magnificent Alentejo landscape surrounded by cork oak forests. The use of the material will result in a number of exceptional benefits in terms of energy savings, a major asset for a hotel designed with eco-efficiency in mind.

DESIGN AWARD IN POLAND

The Wicanders Flock Moonlight range of coverings won the *"Dobry Design 2013 – Good Design"* prize, awarded by Polish decor magazine *Dobrze Miesz* and judged by a jury comprising 100 architects and interior designers. The award ceremony took place during a gala held at Warsaw's Intercontinental Hotel in December.

SOU FUJIMOTO ARCHITECT OF THE SERPENTINE PAVILION 2013

As of 2013, the list of architects responsible for the amazing constructions enlivening the gardens of the Serpentine Gallery includes Japanese architect Sou Fujimoto. Sou Fujimoto was a participant in the Cork Competition @ Boisbuchet, and his remarkable Cork Chair was awarded an honourable mention.



MIGUEL VIEIRA BAPTISTA AUDI MENTOR PRIZE

Miguel Vieira Baptista has been awarded the "Audi Mentor Prize", chosen by the Bouroullec brothers themselves. Miguel Vieira Baptista is the designer behind ARO, an item for the collection MATERIA, cork by Amorim, curated by experimentadesign. A retrospective of Miguel Vieira Baptista's work - including ARO - was recently on display in Cologne.

BOUROULLEC DESIGNERS OF THE YEAR 2013

Prominent German magazine A&W (Architektur & Wohnen) has named brothers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec "Designers of the Year 2013". This is a recognition of the magnificent work of this young pair of French designers, and a validation of the high expectations surrounding their future projects. Amorim cork was used in their innovative Vitra Cork Table, adding it to the list of materials which make up the remarkable Bouroullec world.

RONAN & ERWAN BOUROULLEC FOR BMW I

Quite Motion is the result of the special collaborative work between the French designers Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec and BMW i. An installation which interprets the idea of sustainable mobility, providing a smooth experience which invites the viewers to sit down and have a rest, to walk away or stay, either together or by themselves. Amorim cork is the basic material of this installation which will be displayed within the Salone del Mobile, from 9 to 14 April, at the Facoltà Teologica, Via dei Cavalieri del Santo Sepolcro, in Milan.





UNCORK
MARIE BLAISSE
@ DOMAINE DE
BOISBUCHET

This workshop, to be held between 7 and 13 July, will focus on a genuine, meticulous process, from the raw material to the shape, introducing cork as a material with fascinating properties and challenging applications. Participants will be invited to follow Nature's creative process, to explore its own sources of inspiration and to create a personal way of working with cork. The workshop is organised in cooperation with Corticeira Amorim.

PEDRITA
ORGANISE A
NEW WORKSHOP
ON CORK

Heart of the Matter is the title of the workshop to be held at the Domaine de Boisbuchet, between 25 and 31 August 2013. Under the motto "For true fans of cork and creativity buffs", this third creative workshop, run by Pedrita, challenges you to develop new products where cork appears not only as a substitute for other materials or for decorative purposes, but as the solution itself.



As part of a new study module, a group of talented students from the Royal College of Art's Design Products programme have produced a number of innovative designs using cork. The initiative is the result of a partnership between the Royal College of Art and Corticeira Amorim. The most recent collaboration with leading international institutions, it forms part of Amorim's ongoing strategy to make cork a featured material in leading design and architectural projects.

Carlos de Jesus, Corticeira Amorim's Head of Marketing & Communication, stresses the importance of this initiative for the development of new applications and new markets for natural cork: "The Royal College of Art offers a highly regarded, internationally-focused design education. This cooperation is an opportunity to bring a competent and promising community of students into contact with cork, giving them the chance to discover the material's properties, capabilities and features."



The Design Products Master programme is structured in thematic units or “Platforms”. The unit participating in the new collaboration is Platform 15, which challenged students to directly explore materials by way of process and to design for production. Its focus is on the subtle essence of objects and an understanding of contexts, requiring a strong interest in visual culture and aesthetics, so as to create design of relevance, worth and beauty.

Under the motto “I am 7 billion”, students are to be challenged to design a cork-based product or application that is useful, relevant, with refined aesthetics and that can be mass produced and marketed anywhere in the world. As a premise, it highlights the dialectical relationship between the material (cork) and its proposed use.

According to Harry Richardson and Max Lamb, both tutors in the Design Products programme and coordinators of Platform 15: “Amorim’s sponsorship has allowed us to undertake a challenging and stimulating period of research to consider the use of a remarkable material for product design. In many ways, cork is a perfect starting place for considering products of the future, having such a wide range of desirable properties that allow for so many imaginative solutions. Excitingly, much of the research produced ideas and products that are not only innovative and well suited to their function but which offer a vision of sustainable production too.”

The inclusion of a dedicated module on cork represents the first phase of the project developed in cooperation with the Royal College of Art. Two months after the launch date of the project, the first prototypes have already been presented and they clearly reflect the students’ high level of technical and theoretical knowledge and enthusiasm for cork. Having seen the initial results, Carlos de Jesus says that “a distinctive approach of using cork and a number of interesting solutions for industries as varied as automotive, aquaculture, construction and interior design have been proposed.”

In parallel with the work being carried out with the Royal College of Art, Corticeira Amorim has been implementing a number of additional partnerships and initiatives aimed at improving natural cork’s profile around the world, including cooperations with the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion by Herzog & de Meuron and Ai Weiwei, as well as with the Domaine de Boisbucchet (France), Middlesex University (UK) and Rhode Island School of Design (USA).

ACOUSTICORK

**ACOUSTICORK
BROADENS
PRODUCT
RANGE WITH
A+ GUARANTEE**



**THESE SUB-FLOORS AND FLOOR
SCREED INSULATORS BEAR
THE A+ CLASSIFICATION**