



Inspired by Nature

DERAKO
Solid Wood Systems

FOR ALL YOUR APPLICATIONS
WITH **SOLID WOOD**

- Environmentally responsible
- Great design freedom
- Technical support
- Invisible mounting

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Bring nature inside

As designers focus on sustainability and providing calmer, safer and more people-centric environments, wood shows its versatility and hardiness. Sita Vleer, marketing and strategy manager at **Derako**, explains why nature's raw material is the product of choice for greener living spaces.

How do you account for wood's special appeal in design?

Sita Vleer: People connect with its natural touch and familiar aesthetic. Besides tropical hardwood, which is often associated with deforestation, it is renewable and sustainable. When designing buildings, wood plays many roles, such as controlling indoor climates and optimising acoustics. However, it also impacts the way people experience spaces. It offers comfort by bringing nature into our homes, work spaces and public places. When designers use wood, they're choosing flexibility, character and minimal environmental impact.

What are the ecological benefits of incorporating wooden elements in design?

If sustainably grown, wood is an endlessly renewable building material that can lock enormous amounts of CO₂ in the forests in which it grows and in building products made from it.

Derako's products are FSC, PEFC and cradle-to-cradle (C2C) certified, which means its wood comes from sustainable, fast-growing, abundantly available sources. It has also launched innovative alternatives to tropical hardwood such as modified wood and bamboo.

Compared with commonly used building materials such as minerals, metals and plastics, wood has no restrictions at its end-of-life phase. It can be upcycled, recycled into fibreboard, burned for green energy production, or even biodegrade to become nutrients for microorganisms nurturing the earth for new trees to grow.

What does acquiring C2C certification involve?

C2C is one of the most stringent green product certifications available, and is focused on design for good, rather than simply doing less harm. It is based on the principles of the circular economy where upcycling, reusability and healthy materials are key elements. Renewable energy, clean water and social responsibility are intimately tied to this certification.

Due to the high amount of wood components and the smart design of the Derako systems, all material streams can be demounted at end of life, returning to the respective technological (aluminium rails) and biological cycles (wood), in compliance with the C2C principles.

The municipal office in Venlo in the Netherlands used 4,500m² of Derako ceiling systems and obtained C2C certification. It was recently given an American Architizer A+ Award.

Please talk us through Derako's ceiling, wall and facade designs.

The company has more than 15 wood species, a wide range of colour possibilities, open and closed systems, for which it can combine dimensions, organic products and invisibly mounted special suspension systems.

Derako offers tailor-made designs for ceilings, walls or facades within different price categories that can be used for indoor and outdoor, horizontal and vertical, and straight and curved applications. Creativity is the starting point, from which full support is given



Sustainable and versatile, wood offers comfort by creating a natural aesthetic.

throughout the process, from engineering to installation. Derako works closely with all parties involved to reach an optimal product.

This contributes to improved efficiency and increases the user experience. For all its systems, Derako guarantees its carrier systems, wood finishes and fire retardation – it really is a one-stop shop. The systems are suitable for public buildings and have been used in many countries by leading architects.

How can Derako's products add value to clients' projects?

Its system designs obtain sustainability credits, such as LEED and BRE Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), which are globally respected green-building certification systems used to assess buildings according to nine sustainability categories. Each category is divided into criteria for which credits can be earned, weighed and valued for a final score. The Central Library in Birmingham and headquarters of

VanderLande scored excellent ratings, thanks to Derako systems.

What's next for Derako?

It will continue to develop new ideas, products and manufacturing methods to increase its integrated solid-wood designs across Europe. Different markets require varied approaches, and Derako wants to work with all involved parties to realise the best custom-made fit.

This will improve efficiency and enhance user experience. Derako wants to continue doing business that shows respect to people and the environment. Using one of the oldest and most remarkable raw materials nature has provided, the company can create greener buildings that grow the bioeconomy, bringing nature closer to the people's living environment. ●

Further information
Derako
www.derako.com