

alcarol

Catalogue _2016



alcarol is conceived by Andrea Forti & Eleonora Dal Farra, an experimental design duo that researches and focuses on the story and intrinsic features of the environment and physical substances, combining handed-down experience of raw materials processing with avant-garde and innovative techniques.

All environmental traces on the materials are thoroughly studied to discover a specific Genius Loci.

In classical mythology, the Latin term Genius Loci refers to a protective spirit attached to a place, a guardian who watches over its part of the world and imbues it with a special character.

In a modern context, alcarol seek to identify the spirit and the essence of a space to obtain an unordinary understanding.

alcarol is located halfway between the Venice Lagoon and the nearby Dolomite Unesco World Heritage mountains, and its pieces aim to capture some unusual atmospheres of these unique places, often by freezing time at the end of the material's life cycle, thereby giving it a new life.

To this end, alcarol employs experimental processes with invisible or transparent substances to preserve natural materials exactly as they appear in their original habitat, and making them functional as unique design pieces.

The subsequent sectioning of the physical substances allows for an appreciation of their intimate and profound natures, introducing the fundamental idea of environmental cross-section.

The section planes – through touch, sight and olfaction of different materials – allow to transcend the ordinary perception of a place.



BRICOLA

COLLECTION

"An object, after all, is what
makes infinity private."

Iosif Brodskij, Watermark

Adopting the concept of re-utilisation, the Bricola Collection is created with a view to the aesthetic value of the timber of the historic Venetian poles that have endured decades of weathering in this unique worldwide Lagoon. During their stay in the water, these oak logs are deeply sculpted by *Teredo Navalis*, shipworms that leaves traces of their passing on the wooden surface producing striking patterns of circular holes, whilst avoiding the inner core of the log, allowing it to maintain its health and strength. This creates a beautiful contrast between outer decay and inner robustness. The assiduous labour of the elements necessitates the replacement and scrapping of the poles, providing an organic material that has traversed by life.

For the making of, alcarol dove into the waters of the Venetian canals and studied the characteristic environment in which these poles were forged. The project engages with the idea of submerged cross-section of this extraordinary setting. alcarol has patented an elaborate and patient craftsmanship capable of filling only the empty spaces of the wood with an innovative transparent resin and capturing the underwater air bubbles that bring the wood back to the original look and conditions. By filling the gaps left by shipworms with resin, alcarol achieves a new functionality with the poetic choice to bring the material beneath the water's surface, freezing time at the end of its cycle and giving it a new life before it goes to waste.

In spite of everything, Venice continues its fight against the muddy ground and ever increasing water levels. The foundations of Venice consist of thousands of timber poles, driven into the lagoon's *caranto* layer - a mixture of solid clay and sand situated at great depths. These unique design pieces - which are sculpted by water, salt, shipworms and time - are a tribute to this epic submarine struggle that has transcended millennia.

The *Bricole's* external surface is left intentionally intact, as reminder of the Venetian sojourn of this characteristic recovered timber. All parts sawn from bricola poles undergo accurate and painstaking washing, cleaning, drying and disinfection procedures.

This collection is the result of a long experimentation period on the coupling of Bricola solid wood and transparent resin. This long process has allowed alcarol to propose pieces with natural solid oak not covered by resin on the section plane. Natural solid wood and transparent polished resin differ from one another at touch and sight and together they give essential characteristics: warmth and porosity from natural wood, elegance and transparency from the resin.



CHIMENTI_table



In Venetian seafaring language, the '*chimenti*' are the gaps between the boards forming a ship's planking. Waterproofing of the ship's structure take place at the hand of master caulkers who, using a mallet, stuff the gaps with oakum soaked in tar and colofonia, a transparent vegetable resin. Not unlike the work of master caulkers, who seal the *chimenti* in order to render the ship's structure functional, the manufacture of this table entails a modern sealing process to make the table-top functional.



The old craft is rendered - through a modern key - into the elaborate and patient craftsmanship of filling the empty spaces with a present-day resin which looks like water and has glass consistency, able among other things to bring the edge of the planks back to the original look and conditions of the submerged *bricola*, washed by the Laguna's water, and thus transforming the table top in a kind of subaqueous section of Venetian *bricolas*, suitably functional and highly poetic.

The Chimenti table is made of three Venetian *Bricola* planks with natural edges, obtained by plainsawn and then submerged in a special mould filled with resin.

An elaborate and patient craftsmanship is used to ensure that, by the time the resin has completely set, it has been pushed into all air pockets and all slots between planks.

Chimenti intends to maximise the value of such interstitial spaces which bear the history of this exclusive timber, corroded by salt on its surface and sculpted by *Teredo Navalis*.

Dimensions:

100 x 220 h. 75 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:

Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin, burnished steel.





The Chimenti base, simple and respectful of its historical baggage, is made of two steel sheet tapes, the same as those used in the Lagoon to join the *bricolos* together. This geometry also allows the eye and the light to travel through every single chimento without being hindered by structural interruptions, thus preserving the pure poetic feeling of threshold, passage and glimmer.

CHIMENTI _round table



The round Chimenti table is a variation of Chimenti, it's made of five Venetian bricola planks with natural edges, obtained by plainsawn and then submerged in a special mould filled with resin. An elaborate and patient craftsmanship is used to ensure that, by the time the resin has completely set, it has been pushed into all air pockets and all slots between planks. Chimenti intends to maximise the value of such interstitial spaces which bear the history of this exclusive timber, corroded by salt on its surface and sculpted by *Teredo Navalis*.





Dimensions:
Ø 165 h. 75 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin, burnished steel.

BENT_bench



The Bent Bench is made from a single resined wood plank cut into three parts with a very thin blade.

In the corners the wood matches perfectly and looks like a single bent piece, also the resin in the corners - through a special process - is a single piece and not seen separations between the horizontal and the vertical resin edges:

the three wood/resin pieces are inseparably welded in a single piece. This technical solution is also suitable for consoles, small / medium tables and other similar types.



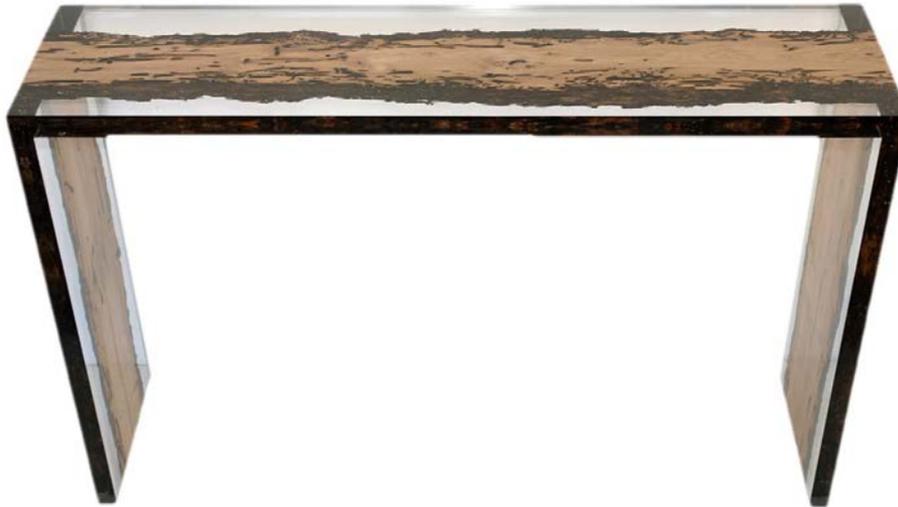
Dimensions:
160 x 35 h. 45 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Bricola solid oak wood,
epoxy resin.



BENT_console



Dimensions:
135 x 35 h. 85 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin.

CANAL_console

In Venice, each canal has unique characteristics, over the centuries, man and elements have defined its aspect. Walking through the alleys, changing perspective or waiting for a change in the rays of the sun, this millennial environment takes different expressions.

Canal want to reproduce this experience: an integrated sensor detects the passage of people and activates a light source hidden inside the structure, so the light reaches the aquamarine resin and gives us the thrill of a ray of sunlight filtered through the lagoon waters.



Dimensions:

135 x 40 h. 95 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:

Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin, burnished steel, proximity sensor switch, Integrated LED system.

FOGGY _coffee table

"At break of day stars fade with envy seeing the charms of Venice emerge from the fog"

*Mieczyslaw Kozlowski,
Le Maschere di Venezia.*

The wood of Venice, immersed in a transparent volume with a satin whitish backdrop, seems to emerge from the fog of the canal revealing his intimate and secret beauty.



*Dimensions:
50 x 100 h. 40 cm*

Wide customization opportunities

*Materials and finishes:
Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin, burnished steel.*

JETTY _coffee table



Jetty is a meeting place, it is a surface area of transition between liquid and solid. A floating space where wood and water are spoken, whispering incessantly, like waves raised by the boats that dock.

Dimensions:
75 x 75 h. 40 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin, burnished steel.



ANCHOR _stool/side table

Venice foundations consist of thousands of timber poles, driven into the lagoon till they reach the 'caranto' layer (a mixture of solid clay and sand situated at great depths). Being surrounded by salty mud, the wood has turned to stone.

In spite of everything Venice is still fighting against the muddy ground and the ever increasing water level. Anchor is a tribute to this millennial struggle, to the memory of these epic underwater atlases. It is a stool obtained from a slice of Venetian palina, dried and cemented using a transparent glass-like resin that incorporates and protects the preciously jagged natural edge.



Dimensions:
30 x 30 h. 45 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin,
swivel castors.

FISHEYE _stool/side table



Adopting the concept of re-utilisation, FishEye is created with a view to the aesthetic value of the timber of the historical poles that have endured decades of weathering in the canals of Venice. During their stay in the Laguna, these oak logs are deeply sculpted by *Teredo Navalis*, shipworms that leaves traces of their passing on the wooden surface producing striking patterns of circular holes, whilst avoiding the inner core of the log, allowing it to maintain its health and strength. This creates a beautiful contrast between outer decay and inner robustness.

Dimensions:
Ø 37 h. 45 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin, swivel castors.



The assiduous labour of the elements necessitates the replacement and scrapping of the poles, providing an organic material that has traversed by life. For the making of FishEye, alcarol dove into the waters of the canals of Venice and studied the characteristic environment in which these poles were forged. The project engages with the idea of submerged cross-section of this extraordinary setting. alcarol has patented an elaborate and patient craftsmanship capable of filling only the empty spaces of the wood with a transparent resin and capturing the underwater air bubbles that bring the wood back to the original look and conditions. By filling the gaps left by shipworms with resin, alcarol achieves a new functionality with the poetic choice to bring the material beneath the water's surface, freezing time at the end of its cycle and giving it a new life before it goes to waste.



MAREALE _stool



Dimensions:

Ø 37 h. 50 - 70 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:

Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin, burnished steel.

Mareale is a stool with adjustable height made from a slice of Venetian pole surrounded by a special transparent resin that encompasses and protects the precious and jagged edge carved from natural lagoon shipworm. As the excursion of the tide rises and lowers so the stool has a tidal height variable to suit all needs. This movement is guaranteed by a base with a massive oxidized steel screw.



BURANO _plate



Burano is an island in the Lagoon of Venice, famous for its lace.

In this plate is used a section of "bricola", the traditional timber pole planted in the Lagoon seabed, characterized by the tunnels carved by the molluscs that create a pattern of solids and voids like a lace. This wooden crochet is surrounded by a sheet of transparent aquamarine resin liven up by a constellation of air bubbles that returns a fragment of submerged Venice.

Dimensions:

Ø 32 - 36 - 40 cm

Materials and finishes:

Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin.

SUSANNA _lazy susan



Susanna is an imaginary island created with a section of "Bricola" immersed into a volume of aquamarine resin.

The surface of that island is modulated by full and empty and its jagged edges are animated by a myriad of bubbles, froth flow from the sea.

Pressing invisible rotating mechanism is possible to circumnavigate the coast of Susanna moving just one finger.

Dimensions:

Ø 55 - 45 - 40 cm

Materials and finishes:

Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin, swivel mechanism made of transparent polycarbonate and steel balls.

AABYSS _lamp

Dimensions:

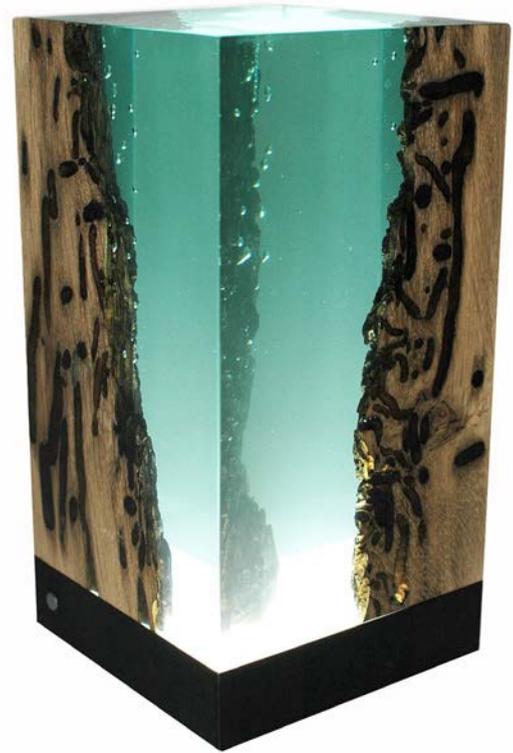
12 x 12 h. 25 cm

15 x 15 h. 30 cm

19 x 19 h. 37 cm

Materials and finishes:

Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin, burnished steel, Dimmer metal touch switch, Integrated LED system.



Abyss is a real immersion in a Venetian canal. Touching the base you can see the scene with different light intensities, variables such as the weather and the sun in the historic lagoon city.

WATER BRIGHT _lamp



Dimensions:
11 x 4 h. 25 cm

Materials and finishes:
Bricola solid oak wood, epoxy resin, burnished steel, Dimmer metal touch switch, Integrated LED system.

Water Bright is a fragment, a synthesis of the millennial relationship between wood and water. It 's the story of the profound and romantic rapport that develops between these two elements in Venice. The light of variable intensity reveals the poetry of this union and refers to the lagoon atmosphere.



FUNGI

COLLECTION

"In Nature nothing is lost, nothing is created, everything is transformed"

Antoine-Laurent de Lavoisier

Forests are the dominant terrestrial ecosystem. Their biomass is the oldest source of renewable energy used since our ancestors learned the secret of fire. Much of this biomass occurs below ground as partially decomposed plant detritus. Its decay is a clear example of the transformative energy of Nature, and it's all around us. The final stages in the life cycle of a forest tree attracts specialised fungi organisms which attack the wood breaking down the tough lignin layer that protects it.

Fungi are in the air. They just await the opportunity to take advantage of the right conditions to grow and transform the organic matter. Fungi doesn't always grow when a tree dies and neither does it always strike all specie of tree equally either, any chance during the winter months fungi become inactive until the next spring. With the ice melting they begin to operate again using the water and the humidity of the undergrowth.

alcarol walks in the Italian Dolomite forests selecting dead trees and abandoned logs with their native populations of fungi, and cut planks preserving their natural live edges. One of the outstanding effects of the early stages of wood decay is the fungi texture inside the matter of the tree: the fungal growth can create some of the most dramatic and beautiful wood color changes with regions of discoloration and intricate patterns of amazing dark lines, adding a new dimension to the woodgrain.

Maybe the most fascinating creations of the fungi are the mapping dark lines, that look like free-form art drawn with a calligraphy pen. These zone lines are pigment demarcations constructed by the fungal colonies to protect their territories from potential competitor fungi.

alcarol main action is sectioning, and when the saw has finished his work our eyes can see the hidden world of Nature, sometimes simply amazing. The section planes – through touch, sight and olfaction – allow you to transcend the ordinary perception of a place, discovering the intimate transformative wonder of Nature.

With an aim to capture the fungal metamorphic instant by freezing time at the end of the tree's life cycle, alcarol employs experimental processes to preserve the raw material exactly as it appear in his original habitat. And the innovative operations are combined with traditional woodworking techniques.

The natural wood live edges are frozen in a special extraclear resin resembling the winter ice that blocked the fungal activity. The transient beauty of Nature becomes eternal.



FUNGI _dining table



The Fungi Table is made of a single wood plank obtained from a very large Beech log with its populations of fungi, recovered in the Italian Dolomite forest. The plank is cut into two parts with a very thin blade and then joined so that in the corners the fungal woodgrain matches perfectly like a single bent piece, and also the resin – through a special process – is a single piece and not seen separations between horizontal and vertical resin edges. The invisible corner joining by alcarol is also suitable for low tables, benches, consoles and other similar types on request. The natural wood live edges are frozen in a special extraclear resin resembling the winter ice that blocked the fungal activity. The transient beauty of Nature becomes eternal.



Dimensions:

Custom Sizes Available

Materials and finishes:

Beech WOOD with FUNGI texture, extraclear polished RESIN, burnished STEEL leg.

Natural Wood surface not covered by resin on the section planes. alcarol's patented process with selective wood coating, waterborne matt finish with natural wood effect.

FUNGI _console

The Fungi Console is made of a single wood plank obtained from an abandoned Beech log with its native populations of fungi, recovered in the Italian Dolomite forest.

The plank is cut into two parts with a very thin blade and then joined so that in the corners the fungal woodgrain matches perfectly like a single bent piece, and also the resin – through a special process – is a single piece and not seen separations between horizontal and vertical resin edges.

The console shows the most fascinating creations of the fungi: wood discolorations and intricate dark lines that look like free-form art drawn with a calligraphy pen, pigment demarcations constructed by the fungal colonies to protect their territories from potential competitor fungi.

The natural wood live edges are frozen in a special extraclear resin resembling the winter ice that blocked the fungal activity, giving it a new life before it goes to waste.



The natural wood live edges are frozen in a special extraclear resin resembling the winter ice that blocked the fungal activity, giving it a new life before it goes to waste.



Dimensions:

Custom Sizes Available

Materials and finishes:

Beech WOOD with FUNGI texture,
extraclear polished RESIN,
burnished STEEL leg.

*Natural Wood surface not covered
by resin on the section planes.
alcarol's patented process with se-
lective wood coating, waterborne
matt finish with natural wood ef-
fect.*



FUNGI _stool/side table



Dimensions:

Custom Sizes Available

Materials and finishes:

Beech WOOD with FUNGI texture, extraclear polished RESIN, burnished STEEL leg.

Natural Wood surface not covered by resin on the section planes. alcarol's patented process with selective wood coating, waterborne matt finish with natural wood effect.

The Fungi Stool is a block of wood obtained from a dead Apple tree with its native populations of fungi, inside and outside the log. The final stages in the life cycle of a tree attracts specialised fungi organisms which attack the wood breaking down the tough lignin layer that protects it.

The section planes – through touch, sight and olfaction – allow you to transcend the ordinary perception of a place, discovering the intimate transformative wonder of Nature.

FUNGI _screen



The Fungi Screen is made of four wood boards obtained by sawing dead Beech trees with their native populations of fungal colonies, recovered in the Italian Dolomite forest. The vertical arrangement seems to evoke the original forest trees, according to the idea of environmental cross-section of this extraordinary setting, and with the aim to transcend its ordinary perception.

The screen shows one of the outstanding effects of the early stages of wood decay: the fungal growth can create some of the most dramatic and beautiful wood color changes with regions of discoloration and intricate patterns of amazing dark lines, adding a new dimension to the woodgrain.

Dimensions:

Custom Sizes Available

Materials and finishes:

Beech WOOD with FUNGI texture, extraclear polished RESIN, burnished STEEL leg.



DOLOMYTH
COLLECTION

Dolomyth aims to capture the complex relief of the Dolomites, which is rich in forms and the result of a successful and harmonious combination of structural shapes and climatic conditions. This unique and dynamic landscape is in constant geomorphological evolution, starting from the Miocene period, when rock layers began to emerge from the sea in which they had sedimented.

alcarol retrieved blocks of local stone from an abandoned quarry. This stone is partially covered with native mosses and lichens giving it a surface that captures the geographical maps of the Dolomite's mountains. In the vertical section planes are clearly visible the different layers of geological sedimentation, with shades ranging from antique pink to gray. The top surface of the blocks is the rough and wrinkled natural surface of the rock, unsanded and not worked by man. alcarol has preserved this "skin" marked by time using a resin resembling the water in which these stones lay submerged through various geological eras, freezing the present instant and endowing the blocks with new functionality and new design.



Dimensions:

30 x 30 h. 45 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:

Natural stone, mosses and lichens, transparent resin, swivel castors.



UNDERGROWTH
COLLECTION

TRAIL_console

Mosses and lichens are very primitive organisms that form the lowest layer of forest vegetation and are equipped with chlorophyll giving them a green colour of varying degrees of intensity.

alcarol recovered some logs from the undergrowth of the Italian Dolomite mountains and cut planks that preserve the natural edges with their native populations of mosses, which are embedded in a resin resembling the water that generated their life. The Trail Console is made from a single wood plank, cut into three parts with a very thin blade.

In the corners, the wood matches perfectly and looks like a single bent piece, and also the resin – through a special process – is a single piece and not seen separations between horizontal and vertical resin edges. Trail Console is a walk through the forest, it's a path to immerse in the fresh sensations of the greenery that animate the woods.



Dimensions:
150 x 40 h. 90 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Solid wood, mosses, transparent resin.

STUMP _stool/side

Some parts of the tree – dense with knots and defects – are not suitable for sawmills and then are discarded or left to rot in the woods. These pieces are very organic, full of life, and authentically reflect the real nature of their habitat. The project engages with the alcarol concept of the environmental cross-section. By filling the gaps with resin, alcarol achieves a new functionality with the poetic choice to freeze time at the end of the material cycle and giving it a new life before it goes to waste.



Dimensions:
30 x 30 h. 45 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Solid wood, mosses,
transparent resin, swivel
castors.

WOODPILE _shelving

Mosses and lichens are very primitive organisms that grow in damp places, including rocks and trees. They form the lowest layer of forest vegetation and are equipped with chlorophyll giving them a green colour of varying degrees of intensity. alcarol recovered some logs from the undergrowth of the Italian Dolomite mountains and cut planks that preserve the natural edges with their native populations of plants, which are embedded in a resin resembling the water that generated their life.





Dimensions:
190 x 40 h. 90 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Oak solid wood, mosses,
transparent resin, burnished
steel.

This bookshelf is a self-supporting structure looking for utmost essentiality, giving the sections of the mossy log the effect of being suspended in the air. With its apparently precarious balance, it is a refined dispute between visual instability and actual stability. It is a dizzying challenge to the force of gravity, the expression of a profound aspiration to a transparent, metaphysical lightness, as trees blowing in the breeze. The structure is reduced to a minimum: three slender steel rods passing through and supporting the shelves. Embedded in the wood is a hidden mechanism that locks into place the pieces of the vertical metal rod – giving them the appearance of a single rod – and providing stability to the structure. The assembly is incredibly simple and without use of tools, according to the minimalist nature of this piece.

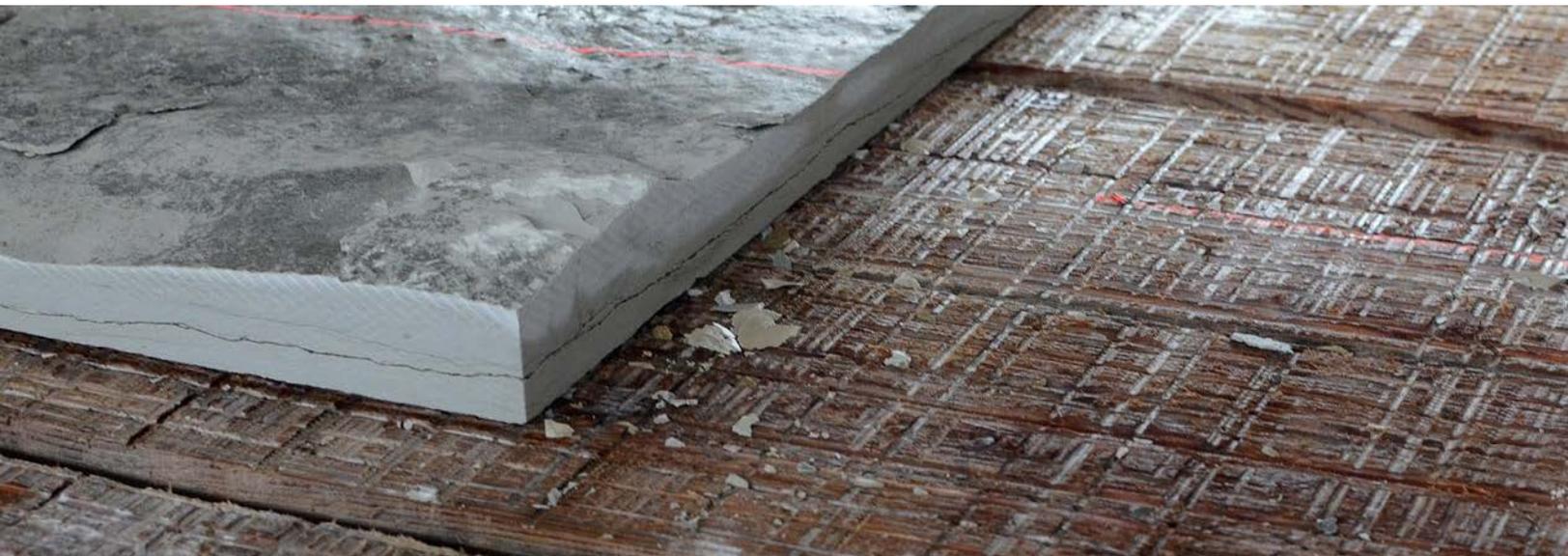


MARBLE WAYS
COLLECTION

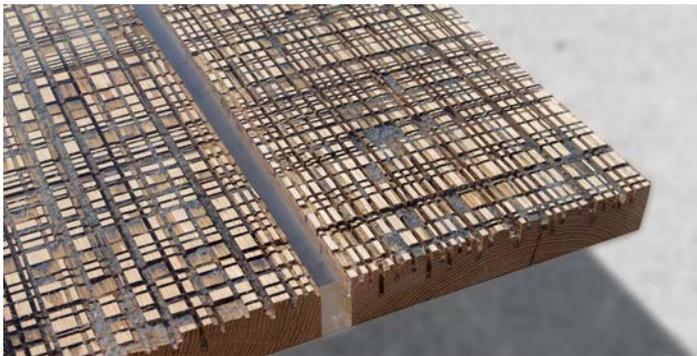
The worktops of Italian quarries and marble processing labs consist of wood planks which are continuously scratched by huge circular blades used to cut blocks of stone. Repeated cuts produce also powdered and granulated marble that – through the water used to cool the steel blades – is deposited between the myriad slits on the wood, creating a kind of unusual and irregular checkerboard similar to an urban planning model of a future metropolis, with crossroads, squares, buildings and uncountable ways.

Once consumed by the blades, these wooden planks are replaced and become waste. The collection draws inspiration from this timber so rich in history and wants to give it a second life. Each piece is unique and characterized by the type of marble that was worked on it during the last cuts, in fact the sedimentary powder unites colours of natural stone with those of wood.

Like the water flow of the cutting operations, a transparent resin is poured on the uneven wood surface to encapsulate marble residues and level all the roughness, freezing time preserving the materials from degrading agents. A poetic license which also allows us to obtain an excellent and durable functionality. In line with the history of the materials used, the metal basis of these pieces are inspired by the blades used for cutting stones, made of laser cut sheet steel and assembled by simple joints. alcarol always seeks to identify the spirit and the essence of a place to obtain an unordinary understanding: in this new collection, the result of the various processes is a flat and functional surface that allows the preservation and the appreciation of the history of this characteristic pattern, result of countless human workings. The pattern of this collection transcend the ordinary perception of these workplaces: the surfaced old wood wants to be touched, and the transparency of the resin in the grooves invites to explore and lead through the marble ways.



MARBLE WAYS _dining table



Dimensions:
240 x 100 h. 75 cm

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Solid wood, marble powder, epoxy resin,
sheet steel base.

MARBLE WAYS _coffee table



Dimensions:
100 x 70 x h. 42 cm.

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Solid wood, marble powder, epoxy resin,
sheet steel base.

MARBLE WAYS _low table



Dimensions:
120 x 55 x h. 25 cm.

Wide customization opportunities

Materials and finishes:
Solid wood, marble powder, epoxy resin,
sheet steel base.

alcarol

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