Wood has always been an essential component of recreational vehicle cabins - not just a fanciful designer whim, but an indispensable element. Experiments have been conducted to go beyond wood panelling, but in the end tradition has always won out, as wood has proven to be an age-old material that like no other provides the necessary warmth and ambiance sought by camper and caravan users everywhere. However, this doesn’t mean things aren’t progressing: many changes have been implemented over the years, from both a technical and cabin design perspective. At Filippi Legnami, the latest innovation developments have occurred specifically to create products using state-of-the-art technology, heralding new trends that not only accommodate changes, but also pre-empt new ideas, while imagining new scenarios. For over forty years, Filippi Legnami’s core business has always been woodworking, and the camper and caravanning sector has provided a new challenge. In just a few years, our broad product range in this segment has allowed us to become an industry leader. Since 2013, the newly formed partnership between Filippi Legnami and Giorgio Levoni, a managing partner and entrepreneur from the renowned family operating in the food industry, has resulted in an even stronger presence in the sector, creating new synergies for innovation and the development of processes and products.

Consolidated production and digital printing
Filippi Legnami specializes in the finishing of wood based panels. This is a well-known, consolidated process in which decorative paper is applied onto the surface of a panel used for cabinets, wall units, doors, etc., built in wood in a recreational vehicle. Various types of decorative film are used, such as finish paper, PVC, PP, CPL or Alkorcell. The finishing material is applied onto plywood or multi-layer panels, ranging in thickness from 1.8 to 4 mm, by a pressing and cementing process, using a latest generation calendar press. Since 2013, Filippi Legnami has offered its customers digital printing on decorative paper used to finish wood panels. Two hi-tech plotters are used to print any pattern or texture, either from Filippi Legnami’s vast catalogue or from unique solutions created by the customer’s own designers, faithfully reproducing any motif provided by the customer. This allows for an extremely high level of personalization, available not just for high-volume orders, but also for limited productions from small upholsterers or the increasingly popular limited series of large manufacturers. The scale can also be
Established over forty years ago and specializing in the processing of wood products, Filippi Legnami decisively entered the recreational vehicle sector in 2000, introducing a line of finishing products. Finished panels created by Filippi Legnami have been used for an endless array of applications in the cabins of campers, caravans and mobile homes, adopted by manufacturers worldwide. In 2013, the partnership with entrepreneur Giorgio Levoni opened up a fresh phase of consolidation and expansion. Initiatives have included the launch of a new product range employing digital printing for personalized panel decoration. Recently, a new department was introduced with a panel pressing line using melamine paper: making use of sophisticated advanced technology, Filippi Legnami provides 3D effect surface linings that combine an innovative tactile experience with high resistance to abrasion, scratches, wear and light.

The new frontier: melamine
Investments in research and development are ongoing, with the recent introduction of a special press for finishing panels with melamine paper.

“We’re currently the only suppliers in the camper sector to have applied melamine technology to plywood,” explains Salvatore Filippi. “Melamine is a system used for home furnishings, where it is combined with chipboard. Applying this technology to multilayer panels today places us at the forefront of our industry. Using our new melamine press, we need to find the right balance between heat and pressure, but once an optimal balance has been found the possibilities are truly endless. Today, we’re capable of offering our customers an infinite range of finishes and customizations.” Applying home furnishing technology to the camper sector has allowed Filippi Legnami to meet the most diverse needs of customers, creating effects that were unthinkable until now. Just how does this system work? Very thin sheets of decorative paper, impregnated in melamine resin, are heat pressed onto wooden panels, in this case plywood. The addition of special overlays, special additional sheets placed onto the paper, can confer an unlimited array of characteristics to the surface: e.g. scratch-proof or fingerprint-proof overlays, soft touch overlays, glossy effect overlays – the range is truly endless. However, the most innovative characteristic of this technology is the three-dimensional finish plating. A steel mould is inserted in the press which contains an embossed pattern. The end result is thus no longer just a smooth two-dimensional panel, but can feature embossed or raised motifs, for instance creating a real wood effect, complete with an embossed grain, knots and imperfections. There are essentially no limits to a designer’s creativity, so that the level of customization is really endless.

“Various types of applications are possible,” says Salvatore Filippi, “and we’re not just thinking about cabinet doors and wall units. Indeed, we can create more resistant wall panels, with extremely wear-proof characteristics. At the customer’s specific request, we can even create water-proof or fire-proof wall panels, providing various degrees of protection. And we can also work on floors, using melamine to create wear and scratch resistant wood flooring with special embossed or raised motifs. We can achieve a very high level of customization, and it isn’t difficult to produce at a sustainable price for a manufacturer a ‘special edition’ for a unique customized furnishing, even with personalized lettering. Digital printing and melamine open up new frontiers for the customization of furniture. Customers can choose from an infinite range of ‘bespoke’ products, a combination of greater freedom of expression on the part of designers, and the use of the most sophisticated technologies. End users can now rely on furnishings created with originality and craftsmanship that are also more durable.

Company Profile

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