



# Full throttle at the US plant

The Italian company is bolstering its presence in North America, where the Vetoresina LLC branch has been operating for several years. Production has surged following the installation of a new automated line and innovative products, like Vetroprint, have also been created

Words Renato Antonini

**A**fter having expanded its plant in Italy, Vetoresina S.p.A. is now operating at several levels in the U.S.A. The Italian company began exporting fibreglass sheets to North America at the end of the 1990s and an office was set up to serve that

market directly in 2008. The American branch, called Vetoresina LLC, is located in Greenville, South Carolina. The production site covers an area of almost 18,000 square metres and employs around forty people. Vetoresina LLC works 70% in the RV sector, with

the remaining 30% in constructions, marine and transport vehicles.

*"We started building our Greenville plant in 2005 and production was kicked off in 2008",* explained Elena Colombarini, general manager of Vetoresina LLC. *"We worked hard*



The 120-meter plant in Greenville



throughout the dark years of the recession and more and more positive results came our way. Today, the market situation is optimal and we are supplying leading RV manufacturers, like the REV Group and the Forest River Group”.

The degree of automation in production has increased considerably since 2008. Fewer and fewer processes are carried out manually also to the benefit of thorough quality control. All machinery is designed directly by the company’s engineers to best suit production requirements. The development of Vetroresina LLC has speeded up greatly in recent months and a production plant, similar to the one recently set up in the Vetroresina S.p.A. plant in Italy, has been built in the American factory. This is a highly automated production line for the discontinuous cycle production of fibreglass sheets of up to 120 metres in size. They are wound in coils to provide considerable advantages in terms of shipping.

“The new production line started in November 2021”, Elena Colombarini explained. “The installation of the new automated machinery, which required a major expansion of the shop floor, has allowed us to bolster our market presence. Our production capacity can now touch 4 million square metres per year. We can now offer our customers a variety of products, either in coils or large sheets.

Our core business for the RV sector is the supply of thick (5 mm) resin and fibreglass composite sheets. They are 60 metres in length and can be cut to any customer request to build an

entire wall of a large RV”. Vetroresina LLC is the only company to offer a product like this that does not need to be glued to a wood or other plastic substrate and can be easily painted. Interestingly, the thick gelcoat can be sanded. The advantage of these sheets is that they conceal the underlying metal frame structure. Furthermore, unlike laminated wooden panels, they do not show the joints and possible deterioration of the wood (due to water infiltration) is avoided. The

new thinner, lightweight sheets, on the other hand, are around 1.5 mm thick (similar to European production) and can be wound up into coils.

“We can supply our customers with a wide

range of products with remarkable production flexibility”, concluded Elena Colombarini. “We can handle large orders and small batches alike. We believe that talking with our customers is important. We want to be more and



Elena Colombarini

more of a solution provider.”

Vetroresina LLC has recently been developing a project to recycle fibreglass, in synergy with the Italian branch, through the subsidiary Gees Recycling Srl. The waste material resulting from the production process is used to make composite materials used in the furniture, building and RV sectors.

**“Our production capacity can now touch 4 million square metres per year”**



Vetroprint 3 mm  
Insulation 40 mm  
FRP 1,5 mm

## Vetroprint

Vetroresina LLC has just launched an innovative product called Vetroprint. It is a new fibreglass sheet with special patterns, textures and finishes. It costs less than a painted panel and guarantees a longer life than decals applied to the panel. Vetroprint is available in any custom design, either matte, high-gloss or textured. Fibreglass can reproduce any colour and texture, including wood, stone, special patterns, carbon effect, etc. Vetroprint

is durable, waterproof, washable and UV-resistant. Importantly, it is also self-extinguishing. It can be used for floors, exterior cladding, furniture and interior cladding. It is a solution that can lead to a reduction in costs while providing excellent aesthetic results. It is also appreciable for the fact that it is lightweight and easy to repair.

“The American leisure market is increasingly looking to alternative materials to wood. Our Vetroprint sheets

can be used in the RV sector for caravans and motorhomes but we are also receiving a lot of requests from builders of small hunting and fishing huts”, explained Elena Colombarini, General Manager of Vetroresina LLC. “We are also receiving positive feedback from the shipbuilding and construction sectors.”