

# Lavish Laminates

High pressure laminates have lots going for them, making them an important choice for myriad uses within an interior space.

By Bindu Gopal Rao



◆ Decowood Veneers' new launch, the Rainbow collection offers you a wide variety of dyed natural veneers in horizontal and vertical grain patterns appropriate to give your living spaces an exquisite look.



**H**igh pressure laminates have low maintenance, resistance, and durability that is making it a popular choice among designers. Compressed paper or fabric, in combination with resin under high pressure and temperature, result in high-pressure laminates that make them durable and resistant to wear and tear. They are safe to use in areas with high movement, and environments with extreme conditions. These surfaces require low maintenance, making them the perfect choice for residential, commercial, and industrial designs.

◆ HPL products are available in a wide range of textures, colours, and finishes.

◆ Span Floors laminate flooring collection, the Atroguard range's USP is its ability to resist moisture.

## NEW LAUNCHES

Greenlam Laminates has recently launched the Greenlam Anti-fingerprint laminates and compacts the finest ultra-matt surfaces that look as elegant as ever. They are anti-bacterial, anti-virus, almost zero reflection surface, hydro, mould and scratch-resistant, making for easy maintenance and a perfect choice for any season. "We also launched the FourXTen range of Greenlam Laminates, which is an exclusive collection that gives superior interior finish, ideal for panelling and usage in large format furniture across residential spaces, healthcare, airports, workspaces, retail, and education. Lastly, we launched the Satin collection, offering the best of both worlds, with beautiful designs in a soothing, matte finish without sacrificing performance. The patterns are curated with textures for High-Touch areas and designs which impart a warm, pleasing effect that enhances the beauty of colour and produces great clarity and depth for any application," says Parul Mittal, Director, Greenlam Industries. Span Floors laminate flooring collection also saw a new launch with the Atroguard range, with its USP being its ability to resist moisture. The unique construction allows for water resistance for up to 72 hours with some preconditions. It can be installed over large areas (up to 400 m<sup>2</sup>) without using expansion profiles in the middle.

## DESIGN THOUGHTS

New solid colours and patterns representing style and panache continue to hit the market, with these products scoring high on longevity and usability. "Some of these new-age-styled products, focussed on their thickness, include cabinet liners, high-wear, fire-rated, electrostatic dissipative, and chemical-resistant laminates that are made with special-purpose high-pressure laminates. Meant for both horizontal and vertical surfaces, these are chemical, fire, and wear-resistant goods that are now widely accessible. They are regarded as one of the most lasting decorative surface materials when it comes to developing mass-produced cabinets, countertops, retail fixtures, and wall panels," says Tushar Mistry, Principal Architect- TMDS (Tushar Mistry Design Studio).

## TREND CHECK

High pressure laminates with curved edges are among the new products being introduced to meet the demand. There have been changes in finish preferences in laminate surfaces wherein along with gloss, matt finish is also gaining popularity due to its low reflection levels which provides a distinctive look to the interiors. "Apart from matt finish, Anti-Fingerprint Laminates is also becoming more acceptable in general usage for residential and commercial spaces due to higher resistance towards fingerprints in high traffic areas like offices, hotels, and living room applications in a house, etc. A variety of design options available in this category makes it a preferred choice of this segment of application. CenturyLaminates were amongst the first ones to envisage and adapt this change by introducing Silk-Tuff soft matt range and the Anti-Fingerprint range of laminates. Whereas, in exterior grade laminates, there is a trend of concrete and rustic designs which were introduced recently in our CenturyExteria range of laminates," says Shankho Chowdhury, President, Decoratives Division, Centu-



Parul Mittal, Director, Greenlam Industries



Tushar Mistry, Principal Architect, TMDS



Shankho Chowdhury, President, Decoratives Division, CenturyPly

ryPly. Long and wide flooring planks, a more textured natural surface finish that looks exactly like real wood, and pastel colour tones are the latest trends emerging in this sector. Vintage furnishings, countryside-inspired décor and styles ranging from French neutral classics to Indian eclecticism will take over the ambience of living rooms and bedrooms alike. High-pressure laminates have endless advantages, possibilities, and a voguish appeal that gives them an edge over other options. “The colour combinations, alongside the patterns and the textures, shall continue to lead the category in 2023 as well, something that has maintained its charm over the last few years as textures and effects continue to remain popular in the HPL category. Moreover, a more universal design philosophy is slowly shaping up with the high-pressure laminates, and it is expected that in 2023, we’ll see a more minimal preference when it comes to the fast-growing SEA (South-east Asian) markets and in countries that are rapidly growing like that of India and the Arab,” says Ajay Khurana, MD, Formica India.

**MYRIAD USES**

High-pressure laminates are

◆ Laminates are known for their durability, resistance to stains, wear, as well as the ability to be formed into a variety of shapes and colours.

◆ One of the unique features of laminates is that it can be produced in a wide range of colours and patterns, making it a popular choice for use in decorative applications



◆ Improved textures and printing techniques that rival the aesthetics of solid wood, natural stone, and other materials, but at a lower cost makes HPL attractive.



◆ Surface options like laminates are now a must-have for decorating the inside and outside of both commercial and residential spaces.



Ar. Hardik Pandit, Director, APICES Studio



Bhavana Bindra, MD, REHAU South Asia



Satinder Chawla, Managing Director, Span Floors

calls, scuffs, hits, fire, and wear. Because of this and other things, they stand out and are often used in offices, where you might see one on a cubicle wall, a cabinet door, a reception desk, or a checkout counter. “In most cases, if you take good care of high-quality high pressure laminate sheets, they can last for more than a decade. The fact that heat moves through high-pressure laminates is also a plus. The summers are not too hot and the winters are not too cold. HPL can be put in a place where the temperature is always high, so it doesn’t get too hot or can’t be used when it’s too cold. To make laminates waterproof, extra sheets of plastic are used to make them. This is also a good thing for people who want to use HPL on surfaces where there is usually a lot of moisture. It has the unique ability to stand up to humidity and moisture, so it can be used in places where these things are common,” says Mistry. Satinder Chawla, Managing Director, Span Floors, New Delhi, adds, “Seventy two hours water resistance is a unique attribute resulting from new technology in the world of laminate flooring. At Span floors, we are converting our entire collection to this technology, offering the market a laminated wooden floor with the unique advantage of water resistance.”

**IN CONCLUSION**

People have spent immense amounts of time locked in their homes over these past few years, which has led to a higher focus towards utilising décor and laminates to represent the personality of any homeowner. “The demand for HPL has grown leaps and bounds over the past decade, and we are witnessing a global trend for a more contemporary and minimalist design philosophy. HPLs would continue to be the favourites when it comes to laminate types, and it is just about time, we would see more players step up with new product lines that would combine design and colours to offer more futuristic and trendy products in the times to come,” says Bhavana Bindra, MD, REHAU South Asia. The decorative laminates market is poised for strong growth due to a variety of factors, including the construction sector’s resurgence, the ease with which consumers can obtain loans, the growing popularity of do-it-yourself home improvement projects, and the rising demand for similar services in commercial and industrial settings. ■

being used in flooring as they are available in vibrant designs that work both in residential and commercial spaces and are also often used in high-traffic areas. As they come in a wide range of colour and design variants, they are in trend when it comes to wall panels that can be used as wall cladding in both interiors and exteriors. As they are durable and low-maintenance surfaces, they can easily be crafted to match the building’s design. Ar. Hardik Pandit, Director, APICES Studio Pvt Ltd., says, “High pressure laminate when used in door design provides durable and low-maintenance surfaces that can be customised to match the design of a building. Being heat-resistant, easy to clean, and durable, it is preferred as kitchen countertops. It is also used as bathroom countertops for the very same reason. It is also widely used as a surface material for cabinets, desks, tables, in residential and commercial spaces.”

**ADVANTAGE FACTOR**

The sustainability of the raw materials used and their impact on indoor air quality are other factors gaining momentum during the selection process. Laminates can stand up to chemi-