



# Vibrant Veneers

Luxury homes are seeing an infusion of veneers in various forms as they can match aesthetics and practicality while ensuring the home has a sophisticated feel.

By Bindu Gopal Rao

Sliced wood or veneers are finding application in a variety of interior solutions and it is this versatility that is making them increasingly popular, especially in luxury interiors. Read on as we decode this trend for you.

### THE CONCEPT

Veneers are basically sliced wood and to create a warm, natural interior design nothing works better than wood. They come in various wood-like synthetic materials and are available in vinyl and WPC forms but are essentially plastic-based petrochemical derivatives. When we talk about luxury, we are talking about the real thing. Real wood evokes a sense of nature and wellbeing besides of course looking stunningly beautiful. Span Floors stocks a big range of veneered wood flooring, and wall and ceiling panels. The latest collection includes square format flooring panels in XL sizes - 600 x 600 mm. They can be used as wall panels, ceiling lining, furniture cladding and of course, wood flooring. In the wood flooring industry, they are commonly known as engineered wooden flooring. Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director, CenturyPly, explains, "Natural veneer is one such product which needs continual innovation and product engineering to suit the ever-changing trends of the market. Our latest introduction to the veneer space is the smoothly stained

1. Veneers by CenturyPly not just add to the aesthetics of the space but are a great option for cladding table tops, furniture and door panelling in luxury homes.

2. The colour tone and the grain pattern of the veneers plays an important role in determining the aesthetic look and feel of the space. Courtesy CenturyPly.



Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director, CenturyPly



Satin series of products, the bold-looking Brush series for the 3D look, the Netflix series for the criss-cross design, the Tweed series capturing the beauty of the herringbone pattern and last but not the least the modern and trendy Trendz series, which gives a classy look to your luxury interiors. Also, going ahead, we are coming up with 10 feet size veneer for joint-less panelling, special big-sized groups of 80 sheets to up to 400 sheets for certain products typically suited for large commercial and hospitality projects and Ribbed veneers a class product for louvres.”

**VENEER VIBE**

Veneers do not need any special maintenance. You can take care of them just as you do for other materials. Depending on the product application and finishing, there may be a specific care procedure one needs to follow but these are generally nothing complicated. Modern finishing techniques are generally strong enough to handle day-to-day usage. “The biggest advantage is the look and feel of real wood. The next thing is the ease of application and in our case, since we are providing pre-finished panels, the homeowner and the designer really see the exact colour and finish they are going to get. Being pre-finished also means quick work at the site, saving a considerable amount in construction or renovation time,” says Satinder Chawla, Managing Director, Span Floors. Before buying veneers, one should be aware of the grade of veneer which influences its quality to a large extent in terms of natural defects like knots, mineral streaks, decay, and cracks.

3. Veneers are used in panelling as well as furniture thereby rendering the variety of a natural product and uniformity of colour tone. Courtesy CenturyPly.

4. Brushed veneer in open-grain oak, finished in matt pastel tones is the hottest trend in wood floors, and wall and ceiling panels. Courtesy Span Floors.

**CHOICES GALORE**

Greenply has 10\*4 veneers which is ideal for high ceilings and doors and has recently launched 12\*4 (12 ft height) which further enhances the aesthetic appeal of interiors. “Apart from these, Woodcrest has launched a wide range of Dyed, Solitaire and Creative Art veneers. Greenply has been the pioneer in offering E0 back ply in veneers which does not have any toxic emissions and is perfect for occupants of all ages. Veneers can be polished to make it look dazzling new. When buying veneers, especially for luxury homes, make sure to choose a trusted brand with their own manufacturing plants, who are into the sourcing of veneers from FSC plantations, and have a proper customer service to redress any grievances,” says Shivaji Mohinta, Lead - Decorative Business, Greenply Industries Ltd. There are many factors for choosing veneers but the main ones are aesthetics, durability, health, sustainability, and pricing. “One can objectively rate the options on these criteria and then come out with a score that helps in decision-making. At Span Floors, we help our clients do this evaluation on a regular basis so they can decide quickly and correctly,” adds Satinder Chawla.

**VARIETY HUES**

Veneers are an ideal choice for luxury homes as they are timeless - never out of fashion and deliver the warmth and richness which no other surfacing material can provide. Veneers find applications in various areas like doors, wall panelling, bed headboards, ceilings, wardrobes, tables and more. “The first thing about natural veneer is its uniqueness. A veneer used once can never be repeated anywhere else. This gives a



distinguishing look to the interiors. Secondly, there is a wide range of veneers to choose from which fits all the taste and requirements in a home. Veneers once polished are long lasting and very easy to maintain. Lastly, they are a far more economical option compared to solid wood and they are environmentally friendly,” opines Bhajanka. Apart from being used as cladding material on various surfaces, veneers also act as a very good highlighter product in the domestic space. The main advantage of choosing veneers is to add something unique and exquisite to your interiors. The variety of veneer that is available in the market caters to all the applications and tastes of the clients. Thus, it is a very flexible material to use when it comes to design.



Shivaji Mohinta, Lead - Decorative Business, Greenply Industries



Satinder Chawla, Managing Director, Span Floors

Interior designers advise that choosing the right veneers and the right type of polish is critical. The outcome of veneers is dependent on the quality of the polish. Another aspect often ignored is the quality of the backply used in the veneers. It should be of proper thickness, durable and strong. Greenply uses 100 per cent BWP (Boiling Water Proof) backply of Zero Emission (E0) standards which is indoor air friendly and healthy. The weight of the veneers is 8 kg which is a testament to the quality standards compared to any other brands,” says Mohinta. Ready for some veneer magic?

**TREND CHECK**

Brushed, open-grain oak finished in matt pastel tones is the hottest trend in veneered wood floors, and wall and ceiling panels. Depending on the desired outcome, a suitable grading could be chosen that works with the given aesthetic. Since wood veneers are natural products, the beauty lies in the variations and inconsistencies. “The true character of wood reflects in sap, knots, and the wildness of grains. These should not be misconstrued as defects as they enhance the mystique of the interiors. The other important thing to note is the choice of polish.

**TIPS**

- Choose a veneer which comes from a good brand.
- It is recommended to choose a veneer with Gurjan backply for longevity and protection from moisture.
- Store the veneer in a cool dry place.
- It is recommended to polish veneers for aesthetic looks and longevity.
- Never expose veneers to high levels of moisture.
- Never expose the veneer to running water or leaking walls.
- Do not expose the veneer to direct sunlight. ☒