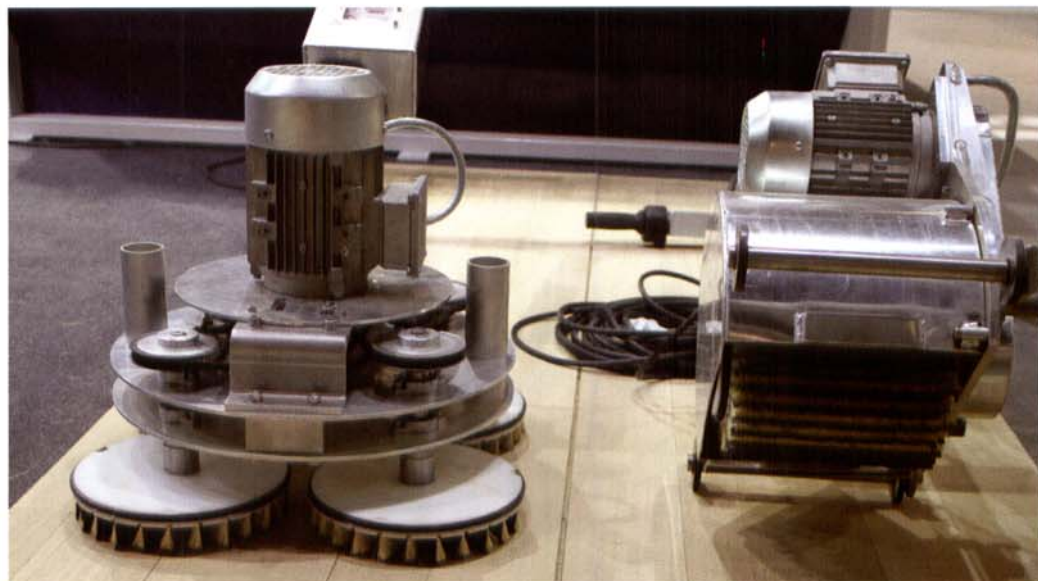


The overall colour trend, according to Panaget, is tending in the direction of light wooden flooring again.

Air-dried, oil coating is on the increase, says the Danish producer of finishes, Woca, who is currently enjoying good growth rates for outdoor coatings. The Swedish competitor, Bona, is excelling in low VOC products, like its Mixer Fill Plus. The Netherlands have notably strict regulations concerning emissions.

Increased efficiency is the goal of the German sanding specialist, Lägler. The company has carried out research with sanding materials during the past years and improved the application cycles of the machines. The result is now being introduced to installers worldwide through marketing and training.

Max Wirth, junior owner of the coating machinery manufacturer, Axel Wirth from Germany had cause for rejoicing at Europarket. His short, semi-industrial coating



The Europarket Award in the technical category was assigned to the Flex Floorsander. The two machines feature a brush system with added strips of sandpaper for gentle sanding of uneven surfaces.

lines "hit the spot" exactly. Individual and small batch production, fast reaction to customer demand, import of untreated parquet from Asia - everything is an argument for the durable Wirth-machines. Big traders and even the industry are among his clients - especially in Belgium and the Netherlands, where many wooden products arrive at the overseas ports. The

price for outsourced coating in Europe ranges between 1.80 and 8.50 euro per sqm. The higher this rate, the more profitable is the installation of a Wirth line.

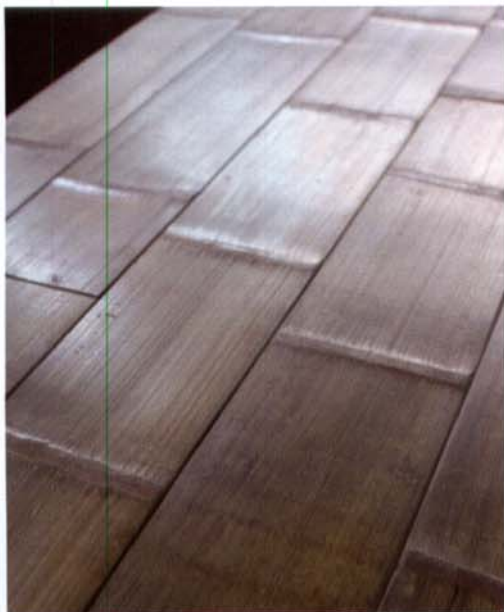
### Revive markets and customers

The Croatian trader, Exportdrvo, is placing its hope in the French

market. There, they say, the tendency to buy is higher than in Central Europe. But this is in itself not sufficient for a real upswing. Exportdrvo is not expecting to return to a turnover plus before 2011. The leading French floor covering fair, Batimat, was indeed a quite disastrous scenario. According to Philippe Louzon, Export Manager of the French surface coater, Blanchon, it was a "zero business" event.

This is not really a comfort to those responsible for Europarket. The fair did not justify its claim of being successful get-together for the European wooden flooring trade in 2010. Quite a few exhibitors announced they would not return in 2012. This attitude may however change when the overall economic situation has improved.

The organisers of Europarket cannot do much. They struggled to offer an interesting fair in 2010, including installation demonstrations and the Europarket product award. In the end each exhibitor makes a cost-benefit-calculation. The future of the Europarket fair has not been decided, yet.



The Europarket Design Award was given to Moso Forest, a bamboo top layer made from the durable outer part of the Asian grass.



Anthony Denoyel, partner of Freddy Huys, represents the Danish Woca oil coatings in the Benelux market.

TARKETT

## Special Salsa surfaces

Floor covering producer, Tarkett has three, special surfaces in its Art Wood range. Salsa Oak Silver Star is a black-silver metallic design. Salsa Ash White Pearl presents a maritime pearl gloss on a white coloured wooden top. And finally Salsa Ash Cognac Purple Rain is a real world premiere offering a thermo treated top layer which changes colour from brown to green and purple according to the fall of the light.

Salsa is basically an engineered, 14 mm thick parquet with a 3-strip design. The wear layer of 3.6 mm is coated using Proteco lacquer, Proteco Natura, or Proteco oil. The parquet elements can be installed with a glueless locking system. Tarkett offers a guarantee of 30 years for residential use.



The changing colours of Salsa Ash Cognac Purple Rain cannot be displayed in a picture but the metallic effect of Salsa Oak Silver Star is obvious.

ALI PARQUETS, SAN MARINO

## Herringbone or cube pattern

Al Parquets manufactures pre-finished, solid wood slats. Both the Trend and Living lines from the PreMass and SuperPreMass collections can be installed either in a herringbone or in a cube pattern. Of course, shipdeck, ladder and English patterns are also possible.



Light natural Ali PreMass slats could be combined with the darker, 190 degrees heat-treated Living Thermo Ash.

PreMass slats are 10 mm thick; the Super-PreMass range features 14 mm slats. Both collections offer 20 different wood species. The products are sanded and pre-finished. PreMass Trend and Living are 420 x 70 mm; a cube installation would result in 420 x 420 mm patterns. The combination of natural and thermo-treated ash slats enables colourful and creative laying options.

MOSO, NETHERLANDS

## The bark of bamboo

The Dutch bamboo specialist, Moso, has developed and patented a special process to press the outer part of a bamboo cane into a flat 6 mm panel –making this very hard surface available for floor covering use. The bamboo bark is then glued to a 3-ply slat with a total thickness of 18 mm.



Moso Forest is the real outer bark of the bamboo cane used for a parquet wear layer.

The final product is called Forest and has the appearance and colour of real bamboo, including the nodules which extend across the whole slat. Even the marks which local farmers sometimes paint on the bark can occasionally be seen. The very hard, outer bamboo surface does not need any finish. Wax treatment is recommended to protect the joints. The Forest flooring element has a size of 1,210 x 125 x 18 mm and is equipped with both tongue and groove and a bevelled edge all around. It can be installed either floating or by glue down application.

FETIM, NETHERLANDS

## Pure Design displays new size and style



The Pure Design flooring element carries tile-like patterns of 600 x 300 mm.

The Dutch wooden flooring importer, Fetim has pursued its creative propensity from the Black & White collection launched in 2009 to this year's Pure Design line. The 2010 Solid-floor invention excels with stylish colours and an unconventional shape. The purist yet natural colouring of the brushed surface corresponds to the tile-like plank size of 600 x 300 with four-sided bevelled edges. These tiles are part of a multilayer flooring element of 2,400 x 300 x 15 mm.

The Pure Design wear layer is 4 mm thick. The five available surface colours range from light to dark which is mirrored in their specific names – Pearl White, Almond, Folkstone, Graphite, and Charcoal.