

# SOLID SURFACING

Versatile and durable, resin-based solid surfaces can be shaped into nearly any form. Engineered stone, composites and laminates offer eco- and budget-friendly alternatives

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## PROJECT: CORIAN SUPERSTUDIO IN MILAN

**RIPPLING WHITE STRIPS CASCADE** through the Super-Surfaces exhibit at Corian's Milan showroom, unveiled at last year's Salone Internazionale del Mobile. Designed by Amanda Levette Architects, the sculptural lounge environment consists of an undulating wall with articulated seating, conceptual bathroom and kitchen spaces, and display shelving - all made entirely from DuPont's solid surfacing material. "A drop of water creating a series of ripples became our metaphor for transforming space through movement," says Levette, who took advantage of the material's pliability to create dynamic visual effects. Using individually cut, thermoformed bands of Corian, the team discovered that the pieces formed self-supporting elements that only required fixing at the top and bottom. The architects used this to their advantage, seamlessly merging the bands with the floor. The resulting showroom looks as if it was crafted from a single piece of Corian that surges and twists throughout the dreamlike space.



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↑ **Corian** can be carved, shaped and moulded into custom forms and surfaces. Its recently added metallics line combines earth-toned backdrops with gold and silver flecks. [ww.dupont.com](http://ww.dupont.com)

↑ **3form's** translucent Varia Ecoresin panels are made from a minimum of 40 per cent pre-consumer recycled resin. All of its products will soon be available in prepackaged partitions, doors and tables, thanks to the Ready to Go service, due to launch in 2011. [NA EU 3-form.com](http://na.eu.3-form.com)

↑ **Veritas** lets customers mix and match colours and textures and layer patterns to create one-of-a-kind ResinArt panels. [AF AU EU NA NZ UK veritasideas.com](http://af.au.eu.na.nz.uk.veritasideas.com)

Composed primarily from resin - and sometimes blended with particles derived from aluminum ore - solid surfaces are non-porous, stain resistant and durable.

↓ **Joel Berman Glass Studios** Selections of the studio's signature kiln-cast glass textures are now available as resin panels. Choices range from glacier-like Arrigado to geometric Bastoni. [AS EU ME NA jbermanglass.com](http://as.eu.me.na.jbermanglass.com)



↑ **LG Hausys** Environmentally conscious HI-MACS Eden Plus is made with up to 41 per cent pre-consumer recycled material, and is Greenguard certified for maintaining indoor air quality. [NA lghi-macs.com](http://na.lghi-macs.com)

↑ **Avonite Surfaces** Lending a futuristic look to countertops, sinks and partitions, Cirrus, Neptune and Sirocco feature patterns resembling fractals, in subtle pastel tones. [ww.avonitesurfaces.com](http://ww.avonitesurfaces.com)

## ENGINEERED STONE



↑ **Schock** offers four grades of composite, from basic Cristalite to shockproof Cristastone. Cristaldur features a nanostructure that lends it a delicate shimmer and a soft feel, while Cristalan is specially formulated for seamless installation. [AS EU ME NA SA schock.de](http://as.eu.me.na.sa.schock.de)

↑ **Hanwha L & C** HanStone resembles marble, and comes in soft natural tones like Serengeti tan and Riverwalk grey. The slabs are custom made with a choice of edge profiles. [NA hanwhasurfaces.com](http://na.hanwhasurfaces.com)

↑ **Cambria** uses tonal variation and veining effects to make its slabs look like stone, but with deeply saturated colours. It recently joined with Benjamin Moore to offer pre-selected countertop and paint combinations, making DIY coordination a snap. [NA cambriausa.com](http://na.cambriausa.com)

↑ **Consentino's** trend-setting Silestone collections come in a rainbow of colours, from bright magenta to metallic chrome. Panels are available in large-format, made-to-measure dimensions for wall, floor and furniture applications. [ww.silestone.com](http://ww.silestone.com)

↑ **Technistone's** new exterior tiles for facade systems offer a luxe aesthetic, in various colours and textures, with weather- and moisture-proof properties. [ww.technistone.eu](http://ww.technistone.eu)

Engineered stone is made of natural, hard quartz particles bound together by resins, resulting in surfaces that are more heat resistant than granite and are also sealed against water and bacteria.



↑ **Pietraluce** This manufacturer's solid surfaces mimic the subtle textures of stone. Granito, for example, mirrors the colour variations of its natural counterpart, while Petra looks like fine-grained limestone. [ww.pietraluce.eu](http://ww.pietraluce.eu)

↑ **CaesarStone's** versatile panels are used for countertops, bathroom vanities, walls and furniture. Its latest offering is the Motivo line of custom-embossed textured surfaces. [ww.caesarstone.com](http://ww.caesarstone.com)

↓ **Nicos International** Made from fine particles of aluminium tri-oxide combined with polyester and acrylic polymers, Cristalplant yields a uniform, inert surface that can be custom cast into sinks, counters and furniture. [ww.nicosinternational.it](http://ww.nicosinternational.it)



## RESIN COMPOSITES

↑ **Slate-ish's** wall floor tiles are made of recycled trimmings from paper-based composite boards. Styles include bars, cubes, and strips in random lengths, depending on waste material availability. [NA slate-ish.com](http://na.slate-ish.com)



↑ **Richlite's** recycled paper-based panels are a hardy choice for countertops and panelling. The new multi-layered Cascade line offers a contemporary feel. [NA richlite.com](http://na.richlite.com)

Combining agricultural by-products and recycled paper with resin results in durable, water-resistant boards that function similarly to solid surfaces in many applications.

↑ **TorZo Surfaces** Tiikeri is made from reclaimed sugar cane stalks, pressed and combined with a non-hazardous acrylic polymer. The boards have a distinctive veined texture that lends exotic appeal to countertops, vanities and vertical panelling. [NA torzosurfaces.com](http://na.torzosurfaces.com)

↑ **PaperStone** Recycled paper and petroleum-free resin combine in this manufacturer's stain-resistant panels. Its proprietary resin formula includes raw materials derived from cashew shells. [EU NA paperstoneproducts.com](http://eu.na.paperstoneproducts.com)

## LAMINATES

↑ **Biovation** BioSurf is made entirely from soybean and corn bio-polymers, resulting in a zero-VOC product. Sheets are printed with a choice of high-definition graphics, including end-grain bamboo, cork and walnut. [NA biovationllc.com](http://na.biovationllc.com)

↑ **Dekodur** This company's bark cloth laminates are made from leathery fig tree bark. The cyclically harvested raw material is sewn into large sheets, pressed onto resin-impregnated board, and sealed with a protective coating. [ww.dekodur.com](http://ww.dekodur.com)

↓ **Abet Laminati** The extensive Volume II collection includes high-gloss solids, textured wood grains and whimsical silkscreened designs. [ww.abetlaminati.com](http://ww.abetlaminati.com)



Made from layered paper and resin and cured under high pressure, these hard-wearing and affordable veneers can be applied over standard construction boards.

↑ **Eltec's** high-gloss laminated boards are made using a hot-melt adhesive process. The mirror-like surfaces resist heat, water and solvents. [EU eltec-elemente.de](http://eu.eltec-elemente.de)

↑ **Lamin-Art** Available in a range of tropical colours, Abacá incorporates recycled banana fibres for a naturally textured, earthy finish. The material comes in a standard grade for horizontal surfaces as well as thinner, more economical sheets for vertical applications. [ww.laminart.com](http://ww.laminart.com)

↑ **Formica's** Finish Collections use digital imaging to recreate the texture of high-end wood and granite on budget-friendly laminates. [na.formica.com](http://na.formica.com)