



Viale L.C.Farini 62,
48121 Ravenna - Italia

T +39 348 1532 762
T +39 335 8026 662
T +39(0)544 216192

roumateriaal@gmail.com
www.roumateriaal.com

THE UNIQUE PIECES OF ROU MATERIAAL: WHAT MAKES THEM UNIQUE

- THE MATERIALS
- THE COMPLETELY HANDMADE
- THE ORIGINAL TECHNIQUES OF SURFACES
- THE CHOICE OF NON-REPRODUCIBILITY AND THUS OF EXCLUSIVITY FOR THE CUSTOMER
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THE MATERIALS

The art-design works of ROU Materiaal are made on precious solid woods, often centenarians, coming from fallen or dead standing trees, for which a widespread search is done with various suppliers / woodcutters before they are cut into strips for the industrial use.

Among the types of woods that ROU Materiaal likes to use most are:

Ginkgobiloba, a wood imported in 1700 from the East and transplanted to the region where ROU Materiaal is based. Rare to find. It is a wood that grows very slowly and needs between 80 and 100 years to reach sizes between 50 and 60 cm in width. It is a wood with a low specific weight and very soft.

Elm: wood with very interesting veins and colors, very suitable for ROU Materiaal techniques, ductile to shaping for any customization, medium specific weight. It can also be found in

specimens of important dimensions. ROU Materiaal also used oak, iroko, niangon, mahogany, always solid.

The choice of the type of wood depends on the type of project.

COMPLETELY HANDMADE

ROU Materiaal collaborates with local artisans of the highest level and years of tradition and experience. In particular:

- The carpenter has had an artisan workshop for generations and boasts high-level work also in the sector of the restoration of antique furniture and wooden parts of historic buildings.
- The blacksmith: he is an artist / craftsman who makes by hand in his workshop in the Ravenna countryside with still very traditional techniques the feet and pedestals of the works of ROU Materiaal but also his works.

THE ORIGINAL TECHNIQUES OF SURFACES

Marzia and Monica have developed, since the birth of ROU Materiaal, a very personal technique that is constantly evolving.

The technique draws its roots from the restoration technique on the one hand and from the art of Chinese lacquers on the other, reinterpreted in a contemporary key.

Once dried, several layers of acrylics and resins are spread and removed, with the addition, depending on the project, of other materials such as:

sand, cement, mortar, stucco, mosaic tiles, gold leaf, lapis lazuli powder, straw, etc.

ROU Materiaal also uses fire.

The technique of addition and subtraction of the various layers follows the rule of stopping when Marzia and Monica think that that layer and that version is the right one. So much of the result of the technique depends on the emotional state, the sensations and the surprise that the chemical reaction generates in Marzia and Monica.

Chemical reactions are often sought following consciously wrong paths to obtain random effects of one imperfection.

THE CHOICE OF NON-REPRODUCIBILITY AND THEREFORE EXCLUSIVITY FOR THE CUSTOMER

ROU Materiaal has decided to never make a piece identical to another to allow the customer to have a truly special and personal unique piece. Especially in tailor-made works and on large tables, ROU Materiaal wants to write a different and unique story, never the same. This is why it is important for the customer to tell something about himself or the story he wants to represent with the piece he wants. The indications of shape and colors are not enough, a story is needed that ROU will be able to interpret.

Like most of the pieces of ROU Materiaal, the works can be hung on the wall as wooden sculptures or mounted on feet and become tables.

In the case of the tables, the possible customization is high in the shapes, in the materials, ROU Materiaal normally uses wood and iron.

THE MADE TO MEASURE

ROU Materiaal creates both works in the collection to be put up for sale without having a specific request, and custom-made works.

In the "made to measure" ROU Materiaal is able to best express that world made of roots and contemporary, of chance and surprise, of history and future that distinguishes it.

The work is designed after having talked with the customer and collected a whole range of information on the customer's desire, need and history.

Then ROU Materiaal elaborates a project that submits to the customer and there begins the "fine tuning" on all macro aspects (colors, shapes, materials, types of textures). When the project is defined, an estimate is prepared. Upon acceptance of the quotation, ROU Materiaal will begin to create the work based on their creativity and sensitivity in total freedom. In some significant phases, some processing steps can be shown to the customer at work in progress.

THE SOUL OF THE DUO

ROU Materiaal is made up of Marzia and Monica in the true sense of the word. Each piece is designed and made by four hands. Each layer, each chemical reaction, each effect, is the result of their joint and never immediately easy decisions. It happens that the decisions on how to proceed are controversial so they proceed only if both are in agreement. It is a real work of fusion of sensitivity to create an aesthetic of imperfection and the wonder of chance.

Marzia and Monica live and work in Ravenna, the ancient capital of the Roman Empire.

The ancient Byzantine techniques that can be found in the ancient churches and in the many UNESCO monuments that are in Ravenna have certainly marked the culture from which ROU Materiaal comes. For those who know how to read them, the duo often leaves traces of those ancient legacies so that they are like finds that have surfaced in the recovery of ancient works.

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