FURNITURE AND CABINETMAKING

DEFINITION AND ROLE

Furniture refers to the movable elements of a home, an office or a place of storage. This therefore includes all of the elements linked to the comfort of places where people spend time. Furniture can be both functional and decorative.

Cabinetmaking refers to the furniture obtained by combining a light timber structure or frame with panels (usually made with veneers). Also associated with cabinetmaking is marquetry work, which involves the small-sized objects that embellish human environments.

For marquetry and cabinetmaking work, hard and figured timber species are particularly appreciated.

STRESSES

Furniture may have wearing parts due to friction (ex: drawers). The elements that are most sensitive to deterioration are the feet of furniture, which may be subject to occasional moisture near the floor area. Furniture is also likely to receive shocks; the surfaces must therefore be resistant or reinforced by a hardener in the event of repeated stress (table tops, for example).

REQUIRED PROPERTIES

Stable wood is sought that can easily be shaped and receive a finish. The grain of the wood and the quality of its thread (straight or counter-threaded) play a role in the final visual aspect. It is for this reason that cabinetmaking is sometimes favoured for the making of high-end furniture. Veneering obtained by rotary cutting or slicing, make it possible to produce figurations and patterns that cannot be obtained using solid timber.

PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION

The building and assembly of solid timber furniture,

in whole or in part, requires precise machining tools and proven know-how. The same is true of the cabinetmaking craft, in which the use of veneered or marquetry panels requires solid knowledge. In all cases, craftsmen work with perfectly stabilised timber in controlled climatic environments. Depending on the aspect that is sought, the selected timber species may display different meshes, figurations, colours and grains.

USAGE CLASS

With the exception of structural parts that may be exposed to accidental humidity, all species covering usage classes 1 and above may be suitable depending on the element under consideration.

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