

ARCHITECT and INTERIORS INDIA

Inspiration and insight for architects and interior designers

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**Luxury
HOMES
DEFINED**

Come explore the world of luxury homes as we take you on a journey of discovery with six renowned designers from across the country.

THE VERSATILITY OF VENEERS

Veneers are taking giant strides as they look beyond floors to be used in wall panels, cabinetry, furniture and even ceiling applications.

By Bindu Gopal Rao





Every sheet of natural wood veneer is a unique masterpiece which cannot be exactly replicated again.



New designs can be made and now even flooring colours can be matched to the decor theme colours with veneer flooring



Apama Kaushik, Founder & Architect, Apama Kaushik Design Group



Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director, CenturyPly

Veneers are more than just a surface material; they embody craftsmanship and sustainability. As consumer awareness about environmental impact grows, the demand for eco-friendly materials continues to rise.

VENEER WISE

Veneer flooring refers to a type of engineered wood flooring that consists of a thin layer of real hardwood on top of a core material, which is often plywood or high-density fibreboard (HDF). Veneers are thin slices of high-quality wood adhered to core panels, allowing for diverse aesthetics without sacrificing durability. Recent innovations in wood veneers, particularly in sourcing and technology, have enabled architects to incorporate a wider array of exotic species. Apama Kaushik, Founder & Architect, Apama Kaushik Design Group, says, "Newer veneers made of several materials, such as stone, wood, metal, bamboo, even paper are available in the market. The use of dyed veneers and unique grain patterns allows for innovative design elements that add personality to spaces. Their aesthetic flexibility allows for intricate and all types of design solutions which could be impractical with solid wood. Utilising bigger veneer sheets reduces seams, resulting in a more cohesive look that's perfect for contemporary spaces."

VIBRANT CUES

Veneer flooring, which was used earlier only for high-end projects, is replacing solid wood flooring. The veneer flooring concept is more eco-friendly, offering a wider variety of designs. Unlike traditional solid wood flooring, veneer allows for greater customisation, including the ability to match flooring colours with the overall decor theme, which wasn't possible before. Overall, wooden laminated veneer flooring is a versatile option for those seeking an attractive, practical, and more modern aesthetic solution. Keshav Bhajanka, Executive Director, CenturyPly, says, "Every sheet of natural wood veneer is a unique masterpiece which cannot be exactly replicated. Hence, the use of natural veneers is an expression of the architects' desire to create unique biophilic spaces which bear their creative signature. Custom veneer options allow designers to create unique pieces tailored to specific projects. Veneers provide the look of expensive hardwood at a fraction of the price, making high-end designs more accessible to a broader audience."

SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

The vast spectrum of natural veneers produced from rare and costly wood species, native to different forests and countries, can be made available as eco-friendly and commercially viable options. Veneer

FOCUSSTORY | VENEER



Sarveshaa SB, Chairman & MD, BHADRA Group, avers

manufacturing is done using Low-emission Glue adhering to E1 and E2 grade emission norms. Water-based surface finishes are being used for polishing, which decreases fumes and emissions. Sarveshaa SB, Chairman & MD, BHADRA Group, avers, "Aligning with India's growing focus on sustainability, veneer flooring is gaining traction. Today, the veneer is an elegant option that combines the beauty of natural wood with eco-friendly practices. The process involves slicing thin layers from high-quality Indian hardwoods like teak or sheesham, thereby maximising resource use. This flooring type offers the luxurious look of solid wood and is well-suited to India's diverse climate, offering better stability in varying humidity levels compared to solid wood. By using native wood species, it also supports local industries and contributes to the country's economy, making it a responsible choice for those seeking both beauty and sustainability in their interiors."

APPLICATIONS GALORE

The use of veneer is growing in both modern and



Dattatraya Sarjerao, Vice President - Head of Design & Development, Century Real Estate Holdings

traditional interiors, providing design flexibility. Whether it's for residential, commercial, or large-scale architectural projects, veneers provide a sustainable solution without compromising on aesthetics, helping architects create beautiful, responsible spaces. Dattatraya Sarjerao, Vice President - Head of Design & Development, Century Real Estate Holdings, says, "Veneers create striking feature walls, adding texture and warmth to spaces like living rooms, lobbies, or offices. We can use veneers to create visually interesting ceilings, adding depth and character to rooms. Veneers allow for intricate inlays and decorative patterns, adding artistic flair to walls, furniture, and cabinetry. Veneers can be bent and shaped, enabling innovative design elements like curved walls or custom furniture pieces. By leveraging the aesthetic and functional benefits of veneers, architects create beautiful, practical, and sustainable interiors that enhance the overall user experience."



Veneers help making high-quality aesthetics more accessible.



Custom veneer options, allowing designers to create unique pieces tailored to specific projects can be made



Rudraksh Charan & Priyanka Khanna - Founders and Architects, 42MM Architecture.

TREND CHECK

One of the most significant trends in the veneer market is the movement towards natural and reclaimed materials. Designers are increasingly opting for sustainably sourced veneers that reflect a commitment to ecological responsibility. "Additionally, we are witnessing an increase in the use of bold colours and patterns, where innovative printing techniques allow for intricate designs that mimic more expensive materials. Products like pre-finished veneer panels and digitally printed veneers are gaining popularity, offering both convenience and customisation for projects," say Rudraksh Charan & Priyanka Khanna - Founders and Architects, 42MM Architecture. In high-end projects, veneers are used to create bespoke furniture pieces and unique design features, allowing architects to craft distinctive interiors that are both luxurious and environmentally conscious. The lightweight nature of veneers also makes them suitable for modern construction techniques, enhancing overall design versatility. Veneer flooring has seen several exciting trends emerge; reflecting shifts in design preferences, technology, and sustainability concerns. Wide plank and longboards, designer flooring with different shapes, sustainable and eco-friendly veneers, matte and low-gloss finishes, and natural and unfinished looks, with minimal stains or treatment, are becoming popular. These trends reflect a balance between aesthetics, practicality, and a growing emphasis on sustainability, making veneer flooring an increasingly popular choice for modern interiors.

ARCHITECT ANGLE

Architects are increasingly embracing veneers for their ability to provide aesthetic value while maintaining sustainability. They often incorporate veneers into multifunctional spaces to add texture and warmth, making environments feel more inviting. Veneers are also popular in the manufacturing of doors and window frames, and as a finish for various architectural features, lending a unique character to both residential and commercial interiors. Architects are also using veneers in interior design for their aesthetic appeal, versatility, and sustainability. The versatility of veneers not only allows for creative expression but also aligns with the principles of sustainable architecture, making them an ideal choice for modern design. ■



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