



## VittEr® Lite: more than innovative, revolutionary

VittEr® Lite is born, and it is a real revolution: a composite material able to offer high quality and extremely low weight (-70%) for the manufacture of curved furnishing elements. A solution for the kitchen top has already been presented.

*Words Andrea Cattaneo*

After an intense and exciting experimentation stage, FILIPPI 1971 is ready to introduce truly innovative products into the RV sector: composite materials. It has been long understood that the Italian company was on the right path to open up to new scenarios: cooperating with Giorgio Levoni srl, the investments in the joinery department, those in digital printing and then the introduction of VittEr® compact laminate totally changed the company, making it come out of the limited production area of traditional laminated plywood panels. It is now clear that FILIPPI 1971 is trying to bring new solutions to the RV world, thanks also to the experience acquired in other sectors where the company is active, from the design furniture to the naval sector, for example.

With VittEr® Lite FILIPPI 1971 can make true innovation in the RV industry. The official presentation took place at the end of May at Interzum in Cologne, the world's leading trade fair for the subcontracting sector for the furniture industry and interior design, where also the new standard VittEr® color range was introduced.

"Through the use of composite materials, we have created a new type of VittEr®", explains Francesca Filippi, Export Sales and Market-

ing Manager of Filippi 1971. "Maintaining the same characteristics of scratch-, fire- and water-resistance and digital printing customization, we have managed to create a much lighter version of our



*The new autoclave for composite materials*



## Company Profile

Founded almost 50 years ago and active in the furniture industry ever since, FILIPPI 1971 firmly fits into the recreational vehicle world in 2000, starting to supply laminated lightweight panels to motorhome and caravan manufacturers around the world. In 2013, the partnership with the entrepreneur Giorgio Levoni opens to a new phase of consolidation and expansion that sees, among other initiatives, the launch of a new production line using the digital printing for the customization of the panel surface. At the end of 2016, the relentless activity of FILIPPI 1971 R&D delivers VittEr®, the new generation compact laminate which is highly customizable in the design and texture, is scratch-, fire-, and water-resistant and 100% formaldehyde-free. At the beginning of 2017 a new building is set up exclusively for the manufacturing of complete furniture kits; the cabinet making has then been completed with the production of curved doors and any kind of special components, taking the range of action even broader than ever. The RV industry is the core business for FILIPPI 1971 but its activity is extended also to alternative niche markets which always push them to innovate, thanks also to the "FILIPPI Lab" R&D department recently enlarged and equipped with an autoclave featured in the composite products area. Today FILIPPI 1971 delivers to more than 20 countries worldwide.

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VittEr® Lite focuses on lightness



The new VittEr® color range

original VittEr® that can also be curved". VittEr® Lite was born within FILIPPI LAB, a division of FILIPPI 1971 which, working closely with the R&D department, deals with the research and production of composite materials, including carbon fiber. When FILIPPI LAB opened in January 2019, specialized personnel with over twenty years of experience in this specific field were teamed up and an autoclave of 4.00 x 1.60 meters was installed.

### Light, resistant, curved

"VittEr® is a high-quality product with excellent characteristics but we wanted to go further" – says Ivo Bolis, Sales Manager at Filippi 1971 – "so VittEr® Lite was introduced with the aim of creating curved elements, thus giving life to refined furnishing components, with unusual shapes but also with unexpected possibilities of use. Just take a look at our proposal presented at Interzum 2019: we used VittEr® Lite to create a kitchen countertop with an integrated stove and sink, which we presented "in suspension", thanks to a balloon inflated with helium keeping the application raised from the ground by a few centimeters. It should not be overlooked that in addition to being very resistant, the material is also flame retardant, heat resistant, does not absorb water and is non-toxic, without formaldehyde, therefore suitable for food-contact use. We have already started a collaboration with a European leader company active in the kitchen appliances sector: at FILIPPI 1971 we believe that some kinds of synergies can bring a real renewal into the RV sector, at least as far as the interior design is concerned. VittEr®, which we will continue to use for many purposes, is an outstanding material, but its hardness does not allow any bending, while VittEr® Lite has been developed in order to be curved

into a mold. Despite its reduced thicknesses, the composition with special fibers ensure VittEr® Lite high mechanical resistance". VittEr® Lite, unlike VittEr®, does not have the "full-color core" effect, but FILIPPI 1971 can supply it with 3D edge-banding.

At a first glance the price of the material and the components may be seem as a limit, but it must be compared to the benefits (70% less weight than a standard kitchen top; strength; aesthetics) and also to the saving of materials and other furnishing elements. Let's take an example: with VittEr® Lite it is possible to create a kitchen top that integrates the sink or even the base of the cooking unit, not only skipping the purchase of these elements, but also of the screws and other fixing systems, without mentioning that in the final cost balance the assembly times are reduced.

"The bending molds with customized radius are a cost that will need to be amortized," explains Ivo Bolis, "but assembly times are strongly reduced, just as you can save on screws and other fastening components".

The sturdiness of VittEr® Lite allows screws to be inserted at any desired point, with obvious advantages in the assembly line which is so significantly accelerated. FILIPPI 1971 can supply the RV manufacturers with the finished product, flat or with the curved part. To date, radius 25 is already available and radius 18 is being tested.

"I am convinced that innovation, the real one – concludes Francesca Filippi – is possible thanks to the mix of different factors: our experience, our technologies, our entrepreneurship. The different sectors where we have been diversifying our business over the last few years, mainly interior design, contracting and boating, have become a daily source of inspiration that helps us create useful mixes, reminiscent hybridizations, bringing the quality and technical level we successfully employ in other areas also, and above all, to the RV sector. We do research, and we do it on solid foundations".



Francesca Filippi

