



*On the left: lightweight composite benchtop. On the right: lightweight table with VittEr® insert*

# Mastering the challenge of lightweight design furniture components

VittEr® Lite: composite materials matched with the digital-printed laminates are Filippi 1971's top products, result of a relentless R&D activity to bring innovation, design and lightweight in the RV furniture... and beyond.

*Words Andrea Cattaneo*

**A**mazingly true: thanks to Filippi 1971, composite materials, including carbon fiber, are now used in the RV industry. This Italian company, which until a few years ago has been mainly known as a supplier of laminated plywood panels, has now become a point of reference for innovative furniture solutions. As 2020 is fast approaching with its restrictive measures on polluting emissions, many RV manufacturers will be facing dramatic changes in their building techniques. Filippi 1971 can now offer advanced technical, structural and design solutions combining the digital printing both on VittEr®, and officially introducing VittEr® Lite at the Düsseldorf Caravan Salon 2019. "We opened our composites department in January this year – says Francesca Filippi, Export Sales and Marketing Manager at Filippi

1971 – with the clear intention of making it work closely with our Research & Development office, where we teamed up the most skilled technicians and engineers with aerospace and automotive backgrounds. Our composites department is equipped with a 4,00x1,60 m autoclave which allows us to manufacture products with different kinds of fiber materials. It is thanks to this new department that we have managed to reduce the weight and curve the VittEr®, creating a new product line called VittEr® Lite. What we exhibited for the furniture industry at interzum 2019 in Köln was an innovative VittEr® Lite project of a fully integrated kitchen top and sink with an appealing digital printing and a sinuously curved shape. And what just a few months ago was a concept has now become part of an actual series of vehicles manufac-



*Rounded edge of the lightweight composite kitchen top*



## Aesthetic & lightweight

*“Among what leads our R&D – states Francesca Filippi – there is the intention of mixing and matching the different technologies we have invested in, to get to attractive design effects combined with efficient materials. We want to master this challenge of bringing beautiful, lightweight and technologically advanced solutions to the RV industry: the goal is to help our customers build light RVs within the European limit of 3500 kg without having to compromise on comfort. The weight reduction has become an absolute priority and each saved kg has enormous benefits. Our composites department is working hard with our R&D team to deliver*



*tested lightweight and resistant materials which are manufactured under certified processes. We create a future made of multiple applications”.*

*ured by a brand of the Trigano group. At the Caravan Salon this year not only will we be glad to explain the great advantages of design options, lightness and sturdiness that the VittEr® Lite brings to the market, but we are also proud to introduce further usages of the original VittEr® that our customers enthusiastically welcomed. We have achieved interesting aesthetic results with our digitally-printed VittEr® used as a shower board with a coordinated shower board, which provides the bathroom area a cozy, intimate atmosphere.*

*We can boast to be the only company in a wide array of sectors that is able to propose digitally-printed composite components: the combination of VittEr®, VittEr® Lite and the customization offered by our technologies and joinery department do open up to new design frontiers” - affirms Francesca Filippi. Filippi 1971’s design activity in the furniture*

*world is supported by Architects Basaglia Rota Nodari. Thanks also to important jobs in the ship-building sector, the company can move its fresh take on trends and production techniques onto the RV industry, always dialoguing with the customers to ensure personalized, exclusive results.*

*“Our company is changing radically – asserts Ivo Bolis, Sales Manager at Filippi 1971 – and two are the revolutionary roads that we have started: the design and the advanced technologies that are both brought to the great benefit of the RV world. Maybe it has never got so close to solutions that are already known and used in the railway, aerospace and ship building industries but are still new here. We want these pioneering solutions to be introduced in the RV standard production process, which is, if you think of it, what happens in the automotive business, where first innovations are experimented on F1 cars, and then they are transferred to everyday automobiles. Our goal is clear: to increase the structural resistance while dramatically reducing the weight”.*

*It is for sure an ambitious aim, yet year after year Filippi 1971 in partnership with Giorgio Levoni srl has shown to be able to keep up to the task of proposing cutting-edge solutions and to continue delivering quality products at a very competitive service level.*



2 mm shower column in digitally printed VittEr®



Detail of the shower roof in a matching digitally printed VittEr®

## 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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Thanks to composites materials there is the possibility to work on more than just furniture components: structural parts of the recreational vehicles can also be rethought, reaching higher results that have been simply unimaginable without Filippi 1971’s dynamism and entrepreneurship.

Ivo Bolis and Francesca Filippi

